English Language and Grammar
Litt-2412-01
MWF 12:45-2:00 -- F-245

Thomas Kinsella
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Office Hours: MWF 12:00-12:30 PM; MW 3:35-5:00 PM;
and by appointment. I'm on campus most days.

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This is a W2 Writing-Across-The-Curriculum-Course.

Required Texts
HarperCollins College Outline: English Grammar, by David Daniels
and Barbara Daniels

Suggested Texts
A Writer’s Reference, by Diana Hacker

An excellent, comprehensive dictionary of the English Language

The Course Blog
http://wp.stockton.edu/grammar/

Expectations
Members of this class have enrolled in a rigorous study of the
English language. We will carefully review and practice rule-based
grammar. We will analyze the way words, phrases, and clauses
work within sentences. We will study the way words mean and
ways that meanings shift over time. This is not a remedial course,
and this is not a course that discusses methodologies of teaching
grammar. We will learn to describe and discuss the function of English at the level of syntax.

The key to this class is practice -- in class and out. In order to successfully complete the course, assignments must be done on time. Perfect attendance is expected. If attendance is poor, you will be marked down. I will not give incompletes without exceptional reasons.

Prepare thoroughly for the grammar examinations. None will be easy, and each will be progressively more difficult; the final grammar examination requires excellent, thorough knowledge of rule-based grammar.

Essays should be handed to me in paper form on the assigned date. Papers should be well structured and make use of an effective and efficient prose style; essays must be mechanically perfect. If for some reason you need to send essays as attachments to e-mails, it is your duty to verify that I have received said essay on time.

When the difficulty of the grammar intensifies, you are welcome to attend extra sessions that will be scheduled. You are also encouraged to review video supplements available on YouTube (see the course blog).

Plagiarism is, of course, strictly forbidden. Plagiarists will be reported to the office of Academic Affairs.

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Note: Assignment dates for handouts are approximate. You are always welcome to begin them before the dates given (and sometimes should).
WEEK 1

M 9/5 Labor Day -- College closed.
T 9/6 Drop / Add begins and runs through 9/13.
W 9/7 Introduction to the course.
F 9/9 Daniels, chap 1, 2. Begin Handouts 1-2.

WEEK 2

M 9/12 Daniels, chap 2, 3.
T 9/13. End of Drop / Add. Deadline to drop a course with a 100% refund.
W 9/14 Daniels, chap 2, 3. Begin Handout 3.

WEEK 3

M 9/19 Daniels, chap 4. Begin Handout 4.5. Complete 10-sentence homework assignment listed on the course blog.
F 9/23 Daniels, chap 4, 8.

WEEK 4

W 9/28 Pre-test of First Examination administered.
F 9/30 Pre-test of First Examination corrected in class.
S 10/1 October 1st is the Deadline to file for Fall 2011 graduation application without financial penalty.

WEEK 5

M 10/3 Outline of first essay due in class with draft of opening paragraph. Daniels, chap 8, 6.
W 10/5 First Examination.
F 10/7 Daniels, chap 5. Begin Handout 7 & 8. October 7 is the Deadline to withdraw from a full-term course with a 50% refund (part-time students only).

WEEK 6

W 10/12 First Essay Due. Daniels, chap 5.
F 10/14 Daniels, chap 5. Begin Second Test Prep.

WEEK 7

M 10/17 Bring to class two versions of a 7- to 8-sentence story of your creation: the first using active voice for all sentences; the second using passive voice for all sentences. Daniels, chap 5.
W 10/19 Daniels, chap 5.

WEEK 8

M 10/24 Daniels, chap 5.
T 10/25 Preceptorial Advising - no classes.
W 10/26 Second Examination.
F 10/28 Second Examination, pt. 2.

WEEK 9

W 11/2 Preceptorial Advising - no classes until 3:35PM.
WEEK 10

M 11/7 Bring to class three versions of a 7- to 8-sentence story of your creation: the first making use of a preponderance of introductory prepositional phrases; the second making use of a preponderance of introductory participial phrases; and the third making use of a preponderance of introductory subordinate clauses.
W 11/9 Review.
F 11/11 Review.

WEEK 11

M 11/14 Review.
W 11/16 Third Examination.
F 11/18 Third Examination, pt. 2.

WEEK 12

M 11/21 Mechanics, Rhetoric, & Grammar.
W 11/23 Classes end at 3:25.
11/24-25 Thanksgiving.

WEEK 13

M 11/28 Mechanics, Rhetoric, & Grammar.
W 11/30 Mechanics, Rhetoric, & Grammar.
F 12/2 Mechanics, Rhetoric, & Grammar.

WEEK 14

M 12/5 Optional Fourth Examination.
W 12/7 Optional Fourth Examination.
F 12/9 11:30 am - 2:00 PM. Last Day Post-mortem; Second Essay Due.
WEEK 15

M 12/12 Class does not meet.
W 12/14 Fall term graduating student grades due in the Office of the Registrar 10PM.
Sun 12/18 Summer and Fall term commencement ceremony.
F12/23 Fall term grades due in the Office of the Registrar.

Evaluation
First Grammar Examination 15%
Second Grammar Examination 25%
Final Grammar Examination 35%
First Essay 10%
Second Essay 15%

The First Examination covers all points of grammar and mechanics learned to date.

The Second Examination covers all points of grammar and mechanics learned to date.

The Third Examination covers all points of grammar and mechanics.

The Optional Fourth Examination covers all points of grammar and mechanics. This is not a substitute for students who missed the Third Examination. This is a chance to take a final examination, equally or more difficult than the third, in order to supersede the results of the third examination. This is a suggestion from past students who argued that it provides a chance demonstrate mastery, even if gained late in the course. There will be time constraints.
The First Essay (8-10 pages). This essay describes your personal experiences with the English language. Potential topics include, but are not limited to, early language acquisition, including reading experiences (your own or those of your children or siblings); classroom experiences; thoughts on the relationship between grammar and writing, grammar and speech, grammar and social perceptions; regional language variants; family language backgrounds; theoretical implications of language.

The Second Essay (8-10 pages). This essay is a careful analysis of shifting word meanings based on primary research using the OED; it is expected that you will analyze the meanings of as many words as necessary to get to the appropriate essay length -- probably 10 - 20 words.

The Alternative Second Essay (8-10 pages). As an alternate assignment to the 8-10 page essay on word sketches, you may write an 8-10 page essay that presents your understanding of the grammatical relationships of verbs. See my brief write up on Transitive and Intransitive Verbs on the blog. Write a similar piece that discusses your understanding of action verbs, state of being verbs, transitive vs. intransitive, active and passive voice, etc. You will need to develop your own illustrative examples. This is your personal manifesto on the grammatical qualities of verbs.