English 4361: Modern English Syntax

Instructor: Dr. John Foreman
Office: ELABS 231
Hours: T 9:30-12, F 8:30-10:30; additional times by appt.
Contact: john.foreman@utrgv.edu, 665-3427

Classroom: ELABS 177
Class Time: F 10:45-1:15
Final Exam: T 5/1/2020 10:45-12:30

Required Texts & Materials (other reading may be given in class, on Blackboard, or on library reserve):
Should be available in the bookstore and as a Kindle book for $10-$35 or as a new paperback for $38.15 on Amazon (the list price is $44.99). (Don't confuse with the author's other textbook called Syntax: A Generative Introduction):

TITLE: Modern Syntax: a Coursebook
by Carnie, Andrew
Publisher: Cambridge University Press
Publish Date: 2011-01-31
Binding: Paperback

An iPad Pro (or similar) and software for drawing trees. For this class we will be able to borrow an iPad Pro along with an Apple Pen from the Department of Writing and Language Studies (ELABS 329). To effectively use the iPad, you will need to purchase the latest version of Good Notes, which is approximately $8.00. You are encouraged to explore other software as well that may also be useful for tree drawing and to let me know about that as well.

NOTE: The iPads and all equipment associated with them must be returned to the departmental office by the Final Exam (Tuesday May 1) or 100 points will be deducted from exam score average.

Recommended:
Additionally, the following book, although not a syntax book, provides an excellent grammatical analysis of English, which can help us in understanding various terms (like preposition, adjunct, direct object, relative clause) that we will use in the class. I use the book as a required text for my English 3362 course, so it is available in the bookstore for purchase or rental as well as being available online. A Kindle version is also available for under $20:

TITLE: Student's Introduction To English Grammar
by Rodney Huddleston and Geoffrey K. Pullum
ISBN: 05216-1288-8
Publisher: Cambridge Univ Pr
Publish Date: 14 March, 2005
Course Description:
English 4361 is an advanced study in modern English syntax with attention given to investigative methods and findings of contemporary linguistic analysis.

Student Learning Outcomes and Instructional Goals for Advanced English Courses:
1. Students will analyze and interpret a variety of texts and patterns of language, using a range of theoretical approaches and disciplinary modes of inquiry.
2. Students will demonstrate a broad and foundational knowledge of the traditions of American, British, Ethnic and/or World literatures by critically situating specific works of literature within these traditions.
3. Students will write coherently and demonstrate a consistent use of the conventions of a variety of genres, including, but not limited to, the academic essay.
4. Students will apply appropriate research methodologies, including appropriate use of electronic media, to understand and/or illuminate specific research questions about language and literature.
5. Students in certification tracks will demonstrate knowledge and skills in the areas of writing, literature, reading, oral communication, media literacy, and English language arts pedagogy.

Goals for the Course
- Learn/practice how to make arguments, supporting them with relevant data.
- Practice critical thinking skills.
- Learn how to marshal language data in support of (or against) particular hypotheses about how language works.
- Learn how to generate syntactic hypotheses.
- Learn about various structural properties of English.
- Learn/practice how to think about formal linguistic properties.
- Explore Universal Grammar and the common properties of languages.

Course Requirements:  Grading Scale (to nearest whole number):
| Homework/Classwork | 30% | 90-100 A |
| Exam | 70% | 60-69 D |
| | | 80-89 B |
| | | < 60 F |
| | | 70-79 C |

Homework/Classwork: There will be frequent homework assignments, typically for every class day. Since this is a weekly course, it will be important that homework be worked on throughout the week between classes. To ensure this, there will be assignments due along the way. Most commonly, something will be due at the midway point between class sessions (so by the end of the day on Mondays) and by the beginning of the following class period, but there might be some other due dates as well. These will be posted on Blackboard. To make sure you are keeping up with the work, due dates will be strictly enforced (typically Blackboard will simply make the assignment inaccessible after the time has passed).

Unless otherwise noted, homework assignments will be due in two parts, and both must be completed. Each part will receive a grade (100 for completed, less for not completed). The two parts occur as follows:
1. Type up your homework in a computer file or write it out, take a picture/scan it (The Camscanner app works great for this), and convert it into a pdf file, which you then upload to Blackboard.

2. Once you have uploaded a copy to Blackboard, an answer key will appear. Use the answer key to correct your homework. Again, you can write out the corrections on the original and then scan the corrections to upload or you can type in the corrections into a Word document, but make sure the Track Changes feature is turned on, so that the corrections are visible. However, it is done, CORRECTIONS MUST BE VISIBLE IN THE DOCUMENT. DO NOT SIMPLY UPLOAD THE ANSWER KEY.

For work from the textbook, you may simply turn in the copy of the work with visible corrections. The book comes with answer keys at the end of each chapter.

Note the following:

- When submitting work to Blackboard, you may only submit one file once per assignment, and only certain file formats are allowed. So make sure your all of your homework responses are in a single file of the correct format, preferably in a single Word file or pdf.
- Occasionally Blackboard may be offline for maintenance or because of technical difficulties. Do NOT wait until the last minute to submit homework. Allow yourself time to overcome technical glitches.
- Do NOT merely upload a copy of the answer key to turn in. Make sure the corrections are visible and obvious, either because they are written in by hand or because they use the Track Changes features of Word. If you got everything right the first time, give yourself a check or smiley face or something.
- I will be checking both for completeness. Late homework will NOT be accepted, but a low homework grade will be dropped to cover any unforeseeable circumstances.
- **Homework and corrections must be submitted to Blackboard by the posted due date to receive credit.**
- Take the homework process seriously. It is there to help you learn. If you rush through the corrections without understanding them, you will get a point toward your grade but then you will not understand the material for the exams, which count a lot more than does your homework. If you go through the steps I have outlined and come to class prepared to ask questions on anything you don't understand, you will be in good shape for the quizzes and exams.
- Some homework may take the form of online quizzes. They may be timed or untimed (it will be announced with the quiz). In some cases, you may also be able to retake the quiz multiple times until the end of the semester. If that is the case, your highest grade will be recorded as your grade. **NOTE: Blackboard calls these quizzes “Tests,” but they will count as part of your homework/classwork grade, not as part of your exam grade.**

Any work collected in class will also be factored into this grade. This may take the form of in-class quizzes or activities. Missed work cannot be made up.

**Exams:** Minimally, there will be a midterm and final exam. If it seems that students would benefit from more practice and another opportunity to improve their grades, a second test may be given during the course of the semester. The final exam date is on Friday, May 1 from 10:45 to 12:30. Tests will be cumulative and will cover both material covered in class and outside reading. If you
have some documented emergency which prevents you from the midterm, the percentage of the grade that would have been assigned to that test will be added to the final exam. This will only be allowed for one test.

**Attendance:** Every class period we will do something which allows you to practice and learn, so attendance will be important. Parts of the class may be “flipped” where you will learn the material outside of class (through reading or videos) and we will practice the concepts in class. As a result, both being in class and being prepared for class will be important.

**Extra Credit Opportunity:** The Cross Linguistic Undergraduate Board (CLUB) hosts a weekly Linguistic Seminar Series on Tuesdays from 12:30-1:45 in EACSB 1.104 starting on January 28. Attending and signing in will give you extra credit. The more you attend, the more extra credit you can receive. If you are unable to attend, when speakers allow, we also broadcast the talks on Facebook Live. You can then view these and write up something indicating you’ve watched the presentation. Videos can be viewed at the Cross Linguistic Undergraduate Board’s Facebook page.

**Writing:** This is an English course, and any writing will be evaluated not only for content but for form (clarity, organization, and correctness). Points will be deducted for significant issues in this area, and if significant issues persist, could lead to failure in the class.

**UTRGV Policy Statements**

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**
Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact **Student Accessibility Services (SAS)** for additional information. In order for accommodation requests to be considered for approval, the student is responsible for providing sufficient documentation of the disability to SAS and participating in an interactive discussion with SAS staff. Accommodations may be requested at any time but are not retroactive. Please contact SAS early in the semester/module for guidance. Students who experience a broken bone, severe injury, or undergo surgery may also be eligible for temporary accommodations.

**Pregnancy, Pregnancy-related, and Parenting Accommodations**
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination, which includes discrimination based on pregnancy, marital status, or parental status. Students seeking accommodations related to pregnancy, pregnancy-related condition, or parenting (reasonably immediate postpartum period) are encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services for additional information and to request accommodations.

**Student Accessibility Services:**

**Brownsville Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 1.107 in the Music and Learning Center building (BMSLC) and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

**Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center (EUCTR) and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.
MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:
Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available on or about:

Module 1       Feb 19-25, 2020
Module 2       April 15-21, 2020
Full Spring Semester April 10-29, 2020

ATTENDANCE:
Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:
As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations, STU 02-100, and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to Student Rights and Responsibilities.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT and MANDATORY REPORTING:
In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report to the Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity (pie@utrgv.edu) any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, and sexual harassment, about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct, discrimination, and all forms of violence. If students, faculty, or staff would like confidential assistance, or have questions, they can contact OVAVP (Office for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention) at (956) 665-8287, (956) 882-8282, or OVAVP@utrgv.edu.

COURSE DROPS:
According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success.
The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

**STUDENT SERVICES:**
Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Students Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email (ucentral@utrgv.edu) or telephone: (888) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor’s office hours. University Resources include the Advising Center, Career Center, Counseling Center, Learning Center, and Writing Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, counseling services, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. In addition, services such as the Food Pantry are also provided. Locations are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Center Name</th>
<th>Brownsville Campus</th>
<th>Edinburg Campus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advising Center</td>
<td>BMAIN 1.400</td>
<td>ESWKH 101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:AcademicAdvising@utrgv.edu">AcademicAdvising@utrgv.edu</a></td>
<td>(956) 665-7120</td>
<td>(956) 665-7120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Center</td>
<td>BCRTZ 129</td>
<td>ESSBL 2.101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:CareerCenter@utrgv.edu">CareerCenter@utrgv.edu</a></td>
<td>(956) 882-5627</td>
<td>(956) 665-2243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counseling Center</td>
<td>BSTUN 2.10</td>
<td>EUCTR 109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:Counseling@utrgv.edu">Counseling@utrgv.edu</a></td>
<td>(956) 882-3897</td>
<td>(956) 665-2574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counseling and Related Services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Pantry</td>
<td>BCAVL 101 &amp; 102</td>
<td>EUCTR 114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:FoodPantry@utrgv.edu">FoodPantry@utrgv.edu</a></td>
<td>(956) 882-7126</td>
<td>(956) 665-3663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Center</td>
<td>BMSLC 2.118</td>
<td>ELCTR 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:LearningCenter@utrgv.edu">LearningCenter@utrgv.edu</a></td>
<td>(956) 882-8208</td>
<td>(956) 665-2585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Center</td>
<td>BUBLB 3.206</td>
<td>ESTAC 3.119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:WC@utrgv.edu">WC@utrgv.edu</a></td>
<td>(956) 882-7065</td>
<td>(956) 665-2538</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY DATES FOR SPRING 2020**

- **January 13**  First day of classes
- **January 16**  Last day to add a course or register for Spring 2020
- **January 20**  Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday – NO classes
- **March 9-14**  Spring Break – NO classes
- **April 9**  Last day to drop a course; will count toward the 6-drop rule
- **April 10-11**  Easter Holiday – NO classes
- **April 30**  Study Day – NO classes
- **May 1-7**  Final Exams (Our is May 1st, 10:45-12:30)
- **May 7**  Spring classes end; Official last day of the term
- **May 8-9**  Commencement Exercises
**Tentative Schedule of Course Topics**
Dates are subject to change (with warning)—students are responsible for keeping abreast of schedule changes via regular class attendance, email, and Blackboard.

Week 1—Introduction  
Week 2—Parts of Speech  
Week 3—Constituency tests and Phrase Structure Rules  
Week 4—Constituency tests and arguments/complements and adjuncts  
Week 5—Bar Levels and Small Clauses  
Week 6—X-Bar Theory & DPs  
Week 7—Another problem: the S-node  
Week 8—HAVE and BE and Lexical Verbs; **Midterm**  
Spring Break  
Week 9—Yet another problem: Long-distance dependencies AKA movement  
Week 10—Wh-movement  
Week 11—Relative Clauses; islands  
Week 12—**No in-person class!—Easter Break**  
Week 13—Raising, passives  
Week 14—Control  
**M 5/1 10:45-12:30 Final Exam**