English 4361: Modern English Syntax

Instructor: Dr. John Foreman
Office: ELABS 231
Office Hours: MW 8:30-9:20am, MW 7:10-8:00, R 9:20am-11am; additional times by appt.
Contact: john.foreman@utrgv.edu, 665-3441

Classroom: ELABS 185 & BSABH 2.110A
Class Time: TR 5:55-7:10pm
Final Exam: R 5/9 5:45-7:30pm

Recommended Texts (any required readings will be given in class or placed on Blackboard):
Available as an eTextbook for $32 or in paperback.

TITLE: Syntax: A Generative Introduction, 3rd Ed.
by Andrew Carnie
ISBN: 0470-65531-3
Publisher: Wiley-Blackwell
Publish Date: 2012-08-28
Binding: Paperback
List Price: USD 53.95

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.
- Learn about syntax across languages and how to do comparisons between them.
- Explore Universal Grammar and the common properties of languages.

Course Requirements:

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework/Classwork</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance/Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>70%</td>
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Grading Scale (to nearest whole number):
- 90-100 A
- 80-89 B
- 70-79 C
- 60-69 D
- < 60 F

Homework/Classwork: There will be frequent homework assignments. There will usually be something due by the beginning of the following class. Additional due dates may also be utilized.

Unless otherwise noted, homework assignments will be due in two parts, and both must be completed in order to receive full credit for the homework assignment:
1. Type up your homework in a computer file or write it out, take a picture/scan it and convert it into a SINGLE Word 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.

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.
- 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.
• Both parts of the homework must be completed to receive full credit for the homework. Both your original answers and the corrections must be uploaded.
• I will be checking both for completeness. Late homework will generally NOT be accepted, but a low homework grade will be dropped to cover any unforeseeable absences.
• **Homework and corrections must be submitted to Blackboard before the next class period (or other announced 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 quizzes and tests, 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 tests.

**In addition, there will be in-class exercises, which may take the form of (pop) quizzes, activities, group work, etc.**

**Attendance:** Every class period we will do something which allows you to practice and learn, so attendance will be important. Parts of the class will 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.

**Exams:** There will be two to three tests given throughout the course of the semester. Minimally, there will be a midterm and a final. The final exam date is on R May 9 from 5:45 to 7:30 pm. Tests will be cumulative. They will cover both material covered in class and outside reading. If you have some documented emergency which prevents you from taking a test, 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. Tests may be either in class or take home (or some combination thereof). **Midterm exam date(s) to be determined.**

**Extra Credit Opportunity:** The Cross Linguistic Undergraduate Board (CLUB) hosts a weekly Linguistic Seminar Series on Tuesdays from 12:15-1:30 in EACSB 1.104 & BMAIN 1.220 starting on January 29. Attending and signing in will give you extra credit. The more you attend, the more extra credit you will receive. Be sure to note you are in this class (ENGL 4361).

**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.

**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) as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate
services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time, but are not retroactive. Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services.

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 Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu. Edinburg Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), 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: April 10 – May 1

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 INTEGRITY:
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 and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE:
In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or 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 and discrimination. If students, faculty, or staff would like confidential assistance, or have questions, they can contact OVAVP (Office for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention) at 665-8287, 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 Learning Center, Writing Center, Advising Center and Career Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. Locations are:
* Learning center: BSTUN 2.10 (Brownsville) or ELCTR 100 (Edinburg)
* Writing center: BLIBR 3.206 (Brownsville) or ESTAC 3.119 (Edinburg)
* Advising center: BMAIN 1.400 (Brownsville) or ESWKH 101 (Edinburg)
* Career center: BCRTZ 129 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 2.101 (Edinburg)

There is a tutor associated with linguistics classes: Alyssa Alvarado (alyssa.alvarado01@utrgv.edu). Hours: MW 12-5 in ELCTR 106.

IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY DATES FOR SPRING 2019
January 14 First day of classes
January 17 Last day to add a course or register for Spring 2019
January 21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day – NO classes
March 11-March 16 Spring Break – NO classes
April 10 Last day to drop a course; will count toward the 6-drop rule
April 19-20 Easter Holiday – NO classes (does not affect this course)
May 1  Last regular day of class
December 2  Study Day – NO class
May 3-9  Final Exams (ours is **Thursday, May 9, 5:45-7:30 pm**)
May 10-11  Commencement Ceremonies

**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**—Generalizing phrase structure rules: X-Bar Theory
- **Week 6**—A problem: NPs
- **Week 7**—Another problem: the S-node
- **Week 8**—Theta Theory & Binding
- **Spring Break**
- **Week 9**—Yet another problem: Long-distance dependencies AKA movement
- **Week 10**—Wh-movement
- **Week 11**—Relative Clauses; islands
- **Week 12**—Another challenge: Subjects
- **Week 13**—Raising, passives
- **Week 14**—Control
- **Week 15**—Review

**T 5/9 5:45-7:30 Final Exam**