ENGE 1520 Grammatical Structure of English

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Course description

This course is designed to provide students with the terminology and analytical skills necessary to describe the grammatical structure of English sentences and their parts.

Learning outcomes:

After completing this course, students should be able to:

- identify English grammatical structures
- describe those structures accurately and concisely
- write about and discuss issues relating to the grammar of English

Scope:

The course deals with **contemporary** English, that is, English as it is currently used in both writing and speech. Topics covered will include (subject to minor modification):

- Form & function in grammatical analysis
- The major sentence constituents
- Adverbials
- Adjectives, adverbs & their phrases
- Prepositions & prepositional phrases
- Determiners & noun phrases
- Verb phrases & clauses
- Coordination & subordination
- Information structure

Assessment:

Tutorial participation   10%

1 essay assignment   30%

1 mid-term quiz	20%
Final examination	40%

- Students taking this course are expected to attend **all** lectures and tutorials. 5% will be deducted from the tutorial marks for each tutorial absence without good reason. Absence on medical grounds must be supported by a medical certificate signed by a registered doctor.

- The mid-term essay must be submitted in hard copy **and** in electronic form via the University's VeriGuide system.

Main texts:

Nelson, Gerald (1998) *The Internet Grammar of English.* London: Survey of English Usage, University College London.

This is available online at

http://www.ucl.ac.uk/internet-grammar (English version),
http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/eng/IGE_chn/home.htm (simplified Chinese version)

I also recommend the following:

Ballard, K. (2007) *The Frameworks of English.* 2nd edn. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Biber, D., S. Conrad, & G. Leech (2002) *The Longman Student's Grammar of Spoken and Written English.* London: Longman.

Börjars, K. & K. Burridge (2001) *Introducing English Grammar.* London: Edward Arnold.

Carter, R. & M. McCarthy (2006) *Cambridge Grammar of English.* Cambridge.

Chalker, S. (1994) *The Oxford Dictionary of English Grammar.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Collins, P. (1999) *English Grammar.* London: Longman.

Crystal, D. (1992) *A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics.* Oxford: Blackwell.

Crystal, D. (2004) *Rediscover Grammar.* London: Longman.

Eppler, E. D. & G. Ozon. (2012) *English Words and Sentences: An Introduction.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Greenbaum, S. (1996) *Oxford English Grammar.* Clarendon Press.

Huddleston, R. and G. K. Pullum (2005) *A Student's Introduction to English Grammar.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Hurford, J. (1994) *Grammar: A Student's Guide.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Kroeger, P. R. (2005) *Analyzing Grammar: An Introduction.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Leech, G. (1989) *An A-Z of English Grammar and Usage*. London: Edward Arnold.

Nelson, G. (2010) *English: An Essential Grammar*. Routledge.

Nelson, G. & S. Greenbaum (2015) *An Introduction to English Grammar*. 4th edn. Routledge.

- **Please note**: This course does **NOT** cover "Functional Grammar" or "Systemic Functional Grammar," which are very different approaches to grammar. Books on these topics will not help you in this course. This course deals with **traditional descriptive grammar**.

- If you have forgotten the basics of traditional grammar (e.g. you've heard about prepositions but are not quite sure what they are), a very useful refresher course is:

  Crystal, D. (2004) *Rediscover Grammar*. London: Longman.

- The following websites were designed for beginners and intermediate learners. They are **NOT** suitable at University level:

  englishgrammar.org

  englishpage.com

  englishtown.com

  learnenglish.britishcouncil.org

  ego4u.com

  Wikipedia grammar pages