

## **B.A. (Honours) in Contemporary English Studies**

<b>Course Title</b>	:	Introduction to English Grammar
<b>Course Code</b>	:	ENG103
<b>Recommended Study Year</b>	:	1 <sup>st</sup> Year
<b>No. of Credits/Term</b>	:	3
<b>Mode of Tuition</b>	:	Lecture and Tutorial
<b>Class Contact Hours</b>	:	2 hours Lecture/week 1 hour Tutorial/week
<b>Category in Major Programme</b>	:	Required Course
<b>Prerequisite(s)</b>	:	N/A
<b>Co-requisite(s)</b>	:	N/A
<b>Exclusion(s)</b>	:	N/A
<b>Exemption Requirement(s)</b>	:	N/A

### **Brief Course Description**

This course is a systematic introduction to English grammar from a scientific viewpoint. It deals with the central features of English grammar, such as verb and noun phrase construction, clause construction and verb complementation, paying particular attention to areas that are relevant and of interest to Cantonese-speaking learners of English.

### **Aims**

This course aims to promote awareness of the grammar of English at an introductory level. It assumes that most learners will have been exposed to English Grammar, but in an informal, piecemeal way, involving rules of thumb which may be misleading, and tries to remedy this. It recognises that English Grammar is far too extensive a subject to cover thoroughly and seeks to address this by training students to become their own grammarians.

### **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course students will:

1. Possess an extended knowledge of English grammar in certain key areas, especially ones that are problematic for Chinese-speaking learners;
2. Be aware of the underlying system of English grammar, of the systematic nature of phenomena that superficially seem to be random;
3. Be equipped with strategies to deal with areas of English grammar that are not dealt with on the course;
4. Be able to reflect on and talk about English grammar, in other words, to begin to approach the language as an object of intellectual endeavour;
5. To counteract simplified and mistaken notions that are common among learners of English in Hong Kong;

6. Be able to understand and explain why certain forms are unacceptable;
7. Be able to construct and manipulate the basic grammatical structures of English;
8. Be familiar with the grammatical concepts and metalanguage that will prepare them for later courses.

### **Indicative Content**

1. Approaches to grammar;
2. Word classes (and sub-classes): nouns, verbs, adjectives adverbs, determiners, pronouns, conjunctions;
3. Noun phrase construction: determiner, modification and heads;
4. Article usage;
5. Formal and functional features of adjectives, adverbs and prepositions
  - Verb phrase construction:
  - Finite and non-finite verb forms
  - Tense, aspect and voice;
6. Modal and auxiliary verbs;
  1. Clause elements: subject, verb, object, complement and adverbial;
  2. Verb patterns: intransitive and ergative, transitive;
  3. Complex and compound sentence structure; subordinate clauses;
  4. Form and function of sentence patterns;
  5. Information structure; movement rules.

### **Teaching Method**

The course will be mostly teacher-centred but with a significant proportion of small group and student-centred activities. It will consist of three class hours per week: two in plenary mode and one in tutorial mode. The plenaries will be used for lectures and workshops based on these, while tutorials will offer the opportunity for small-group activities, such as questions, discussion, exercises and, later in the term, student presentations. Outside of class students will be assigned reading and exercises for completion, as well assessed activities.

### **Measurement of Learning Outcomes**

This will consist of tests (of the content of the first half of the course and of students' ability to manipulate basic structures), a presentation on one small area of English and a final exam covering the whole of the course.

### **Assessment**

Continuous Assessment: 50%

Final Examination: 50%

## **Recommended Readings**

Greenbaum, S. and G. Nelson, *An Introduction to English Grammar*, Harlow: Longman, 2002.

*Collins Cobuild English Grammar*, London: Collins, 1990.

*Collins Cobuild Grammar Patterns 1: Verbs*, London: HarperCollins, 1996.

Crystal, D., *Rediscover Grammar*, Longman: Harlow, 1988.

Greenbaum, S., *The Oxford English Grammar*, Oxford: OUP, 1996.

Huddleston, R., *English Grammar: an Outline*, Cambridge: CUP, 1988.

Quirk, R.S. Greenbaum, G. Leech and J. Svartvik, *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language*, Harlow: Longman, 1985.

Swan, M., *Practical English Usage*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Oxford: OUP, 1995.