

B.A. (Honours) in Contemporary English Studies

Course Title	: Analyzing English Grammar
Course Code	: ENG3103
Recommended Study Year	: 3 rd or 4 th Year
No. of Credits/Term	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Lecture-tutorial mode
Class Contact Hours	: 2-hour lecture per week 1-hour tutorial per week
Category	: Discipline Elective (Contemporary Language Studies Strand)
Prerequisite(s)	: Nil
Co-requisite(s)	: Nil
Exclusion(s)	: ENG2103 Introduction to English Grammar
Exemption Requirement(s)	: Nil

Brief Course Description

This course introduces English grammar from a scientific viewpoint. It comprises advanced analysis of grammatical constructions at three different levels: phrase, clause, and sentence. It deals with the central features of English grammar, such as ergative verbs, phrasal prepositions, clause construction and verb complementation, paying particular attention to areas that are relevant and of interest to Cantonese speaking learners of English. It equips students with useful grammar knowledge and skills to analyse English texts, helping them to build solid research skills in applied linguistics.

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 this course, students will be able to:

1. possess an extended knowledge of English grammar in certain key areas, especially ones that are problematic for Chinese-speaking learners (LO1);
2. be aware of the underlying system of English grammar, of the systematic nature of phenomena that superficially seem to be random (LO2);
3. be able to define, describe, and categorise various types of usage problems (LO3);
4. to counteract simplified and mistaken notions that are common among learners of English in Hong Kong (LO4).

The course does **not** aim to ‘teach’ English grammar to students, in the sense of improving their proficiency, although there may be some transfer of the knowledge and awareness gained to students’ productive and receptive skills. **It is not a ‘practical’ grammar class. It is assumed that students have mastered the basics of English grammar.**

Indicative Contents

- Nouns and noun phrases
- Verbs and verb phrases
- Pronouns
- Adjectives and adverbs
- Prepositions
- Negation and Voice
- Discourse function
- Sentences

Teaching Method

The course will consist of a lecture in which the key concepts and skills are introduced (LO1, LO2) and a one-hour tutorial in which the students will identify various grammatical forms and functions (LO2, LO3, LO4).

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

Group poster presentation: Students will be asked to compile a poster based on a particular topic and present the content. This assessment will measure the extent to which students can consolidate their knowledge and communicate the concepts acquired. (LO1, LO2).

Individual presentation: Students will be asked to examine a particular topic and present their findings. This assessment will measure the extent to which students can demonstrate their knowledge and analytical abilities. (LO3, LO4).

Grammatical analysis: Students will be asked to complete a written analysis of the linguistic features of a text. This assessment will measure the extent to which students understand and can apply the concepts learnt. (LO3, LO4).

Test: This assessment will measure the extent to which students understand concepts (LO1, LO2, LO3, LO4).

Assessment

Continuous assessment: 100%

- Class attendance and participation (10%)
- Group poster presentation (15%)
- Individual project (35%)
 - Individual presentation (20%)
 - Grammatical analysis (15%)
- Test (40%)

Recommended/Supplementary Readings

The handouts will supply most of the materials you need. If you wish to consult further

(e.g. for your own interest or for the presentation) the books below may help.

Berry, R. 2018. *English Grammar: a resource book for students* (2nd Edition). London: Routledge.

Nelson, G., and Greenbaum, S. 2016(4th edition). *An Introduction to English Grammar*. Longman: Routledge.

Hung, T. 2005. *Understanding English Grammar*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.

Collins Cobuild English Grammar. 2005 (2nd edition). London: Collins.

Swan, M. 2005 (3rd edition). *Practical English Usage*. Oxford: OUP. (3rd edition 2005)

Carter and McCarthy 2006. *Cambridge Grammar of English*. Cambridge: CUP.

Biber et al. 1999. *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English*. Harlow: Longman

Important Notes:

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.