



Source: United Nations English Language Day

English 4993: Independent Study

(to fulfill the requirement of English 3513 Advanced Grammar)

2026 Spring | Section 201

Discussion and practice of techniques for the grammatical analysis of English language structures. Particularly, we will exam the micro-units of language, syntax, and the problems of modern English grammar. While you do not need to be an ELAR major to take this class, we will cover grammatical pedagogy. General English majors may find this useful if they ever decide to teach ESL/EFL, edit, or pursue graduate degrees in English.

Course Objectives

The emphasis will be on language use. The course will also allow you to apply grammatical analyses in ways that are most meaningful for you – e.g., teaching situations, analysis of discourse, your workplace, etc. Specifically, the course is designed to:

- develop your understanding of English structures and functions;
- give you practice with analytical techniques used in grammatical studies and with applying those techniques to authentic language;
- help you become acquainted topics that cover particular areas of grammar and with the challenges presented to ESL/EFL learners and ESL/EFL teachers by those particular grammar topics.
- help you form an understanding of the general issues related to English grammar and grammar errors, and help you learn to provide error feedback.

Contact Information

Instructor: Meng Yu, PhD.
Email: meng.yu@msutexas.edu
Phone: 940-397-4086

I will check the email from Monday to Friday 8 am to 5 pm. Messages sent outside this time span will not be check until the next business day. Students are also welcomed to visit the instructor during the office hours or request an appointment at a mutually convenient time. Students are strongly encouraged to “cc” themselves on all email correspondence to ensure delivery. Please note: There is a chance that I will not see the email on the same day that you send it. Therefore, please anticipate waiting at least 24 hours for a response to emails.

Office: BW201
Office Hours: Monday to Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.-noon. or by appointment

Textbooks

Sullivan, Nancy. *Essential Grammar for Today's Writers, Students, & Teachers*. Taylor & Francis.
ISBN: 9780367148683

Recommended Readings

I will select some chapters from the following books. All the books are available on MSU library.

Crawford, W. J. (2020). *Teaching Grammar*, Revised. TESOL Press.
Lobeck, A. (2013). *Navigating English Grammar: A Guide to Analyzing Real Language*. John Wiley & Sons, Incorporated.

Assessment

Quizzes x 5	25%
Final Exam	10%
Participation: Weekly Exercises & Discissions& Homework	30%
Short Paper/ Lesson Plan	20%
Multimodal Teaching Demo	15%

All the exams and quizzes are open book.

Quizzes:

You will have five quizzes throughout the semester that tests what we have covered in class. All material will be drawn from grammatical instruction, textbooks, and readings throughout the week. Quizzes will be between 10-15 questions to test knowledge and help identify any issues you will need to work on.

Final Exam:

It's what it sounds like: a final exam that tests your acquisition of class material.

Weekly Exercises & Participation & Homework:

You're expected to read all the teaching materials and participate in class. Each week, you will need to finish one to two exercises, discussions, or homework. These assignments reflect the readings of the week and help you reach the learning objectives of each week.

Short Paper or Pedagogical exercise:

This course will require one short paper (4-5 pages, double-spaced, MLA format) that asks you to read the debates concerning grammar and writing instruction in the field of writing studies. Or you can design a lesson plan (2-3 pages, single-spaced) to teach a certain grammar knowledge to your chosen audience, such as passive voice, verb tense, and relative clause, etc.

To do the short paper, you will find 4-5 articles on JSTOR from either *College English*, *College Composition and Communication*, or the *English Journal*. These articles must be different from the weekly readings we cover in class, although you can refer to them in your paper. However, you must pick new readings. An assignment sheet will be posted on D2L a few weeks before it is due.

Your final grade will be converted to a letter grade as follows:

A 89.5-100	B 79.5-89.4	C 69.5-79.4	D 59.5-69.4	D< 59.4
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Course Structure

This course will be taught online in D2L. Some in-person/ zoom meetings will be scheduled with the progress of the semester.

This course will be structured into weekly lessons beginning on Mondays. The length of time spent on each week will vary depending on the complexity of the assignment. All work within each lesson must be completed by the close of that lesson and before the start of the next lesson.

You need to read the weekly instructions and the reading materials before working on your weekly exercises, participation activities, or homework. Every three to four weeks, you will have a quiz that will include both old material from previous quizzes and new material covered since the last quiz.

Participation

Participants in this course should expect to spend about **3.5-4.5 hours** per week involved in the activities and completion of assignments over the semester. This is similar to the time one would invest in a course in a traditional classroom setting.

This time invested is an average, with some weeks requiring more and some less time to complete all assignments and activities. Participation will be evaluated as the completion of all activities within the unit or week period.

Absences

Granted, it is difficult to take roll in an online course that has no set meeting times. However, it is somewhat common to get overwhelmed, particularly if you are taking more than one online course. Sometimes, students even disappear (so to speak) from online classes. And that's truly what being absent means in a class that meets virtually: to go missing.

Don't disappear and expect to make up missed work (daily work or major assignments). If you do disappear, expect that you will have to go to your dean (in person or via email) to provide me with an excuse before I will accept any missed work. If you cannot provide me with a legit excuse via your dean, the missed work will be entered as a zero (or zeroes).

In the end, you will get the grade you get. If you decide to skip three major assignments and all homework, that's okay with me, as long as you realize you will not be permitted to make it up without documentation.

If circumstances prevent participation or timely completion of assignments, you must contact me in advance of due dates.

Technology

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into D2L through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Online Computer Requirements

Students in this course will need a working and reliable computer and internet access that will allow the use of D2L course site tools, Google Drive, and any online resources provided. No special software is required but students will need access to MS Office products or Office 365.

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. *Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings. Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. *Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline. There are many places to access your class. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations; however, they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into D2L.

Professionalism

Members of this class are expected to treat one another with courtesy, professionalism, and respect. Repeated unprofessional, rude, or inappropriate behavior can result in points being deducted from a student's final grade for the course per instance of such behavior.

Accommodations

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the [Disability Support Services](#) in the Student Wellness Center, 940-397-4140.

Writing Center & Tutoring

[Tutoring and Academic Support Programs](#) (TASP) provides free drop-in tutoring for MSU students. Located on the first floor of Moffett Library, writing tutors are available Monday through Thursday from 11:00am to 6:00pm and Sunday 2:00pm to 9:00pm. You don't need an appointment to use these services. Writing tutors will not edit your papers for you, but they provide support and feedback at all stages of writing, from brainstorming to drafting, revising to proofreading.

Academic Dishonesty

All students are expected to adhere to the Midwestern State University Student Honor Creed when completing any work for this course. When using the content or ideas of others, both

published and unpublished sources, students must use accepted documentation conventions (e.g., APA or MLA). See the MSU Student Handbook (attached to course website) to read the Student Honor Creed and the university's policy on academic dishonesty.

- All work submitted to D2L will be scanned by the Turnitin® program, which flags text that has been quoted from other sources and/or generated by AI tools such as ChatGPT.
- AI/ChatGPT: In this course, you are welcome and encouraged to use artificial intelligence platforms such as ChatGPT ***ONLY** for ***pre-writing tasks and brainstorming**. That said, you ***should not be using AI to produce your assignments or otherwise perform the “brain-work”** that you are expected to be able to do (or learn to do) on your own. Doing so will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. If this happens twice, you will receive a grade of "F" for the course.
- ***Important!** I will use Turnitin to check the AI score on all major homework and assignments, including group assignments. If your AI score is over 30%, I will ask you to explain your AI use, such as sharing a full transcript of your chats with AI and your draft version history. You also need to submit a statement describing how you used AI in your assignment(s). Failing to provide such evidence may result in a grade of zero for your assignment. Ethical AI use will be evaluated by the instructor on a case-by-case basis. Please act responsibly when working with your classmates and disclose how you used AI in your group work to your group members before submitting any group assignments to me.
- When using the ideas of other published and unpublished sources, students must use accepted documentation conventions (i.e., MLA or APA). If you submit an assignment in which quoted content is not placed in "quotation marks" and/or you have not cited the correct source, you will receive a grade of zero for that assignment. If this occurs twice in the course, you will receive a grade of “F” for the course. There are no exceptions to this policy.

University Closure Practices

In the event of university closure because of inclement weather conditions or emergency situations, students will be notified through official campus channels (MSU Alert, MSU Safety app, Postmaster emails, and website headers) and through communication with the local news networks. Students should refer to their course syllabi, course D2L News announcements, and/or their university email for expectations related to assignments due during the closure. For this course, unless a change is posted to the course D2L News, assignments due to be uploaded or posted to D2L during the closure will remain due as scheduled. Students who are unable to complete assignments due during a closure (for example, due to a power outage) will not be penalized but will be expected to notify the professor of their situation.

Campus Carry Statement

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry

are appropriately marked in accordance with state law. For more information, please refer to the MSU Texas website.

Advanced Grammar Spring 2026 Schedule

This tentative schedule reflects a plan for the course, but deviations from this plan **will** become necessary as the semester progresses. Students are responsible for taking note of changes announced during class time **when** they occur.

Week	Date	In-Class Activities	Homework & Readings (Read the assigned text before the class)
Week 1	1/20 to 1/25	Intro to class & syllabus Grammar Basics	N/A Read: Textbook Ch1
Week 2	1/26 to 2/1	Parts of speech	Read: Textbook Ch2
Week 3	2/2 to 2/8	Nouns, NP	Read: Textbook Ch5
Week 4	2/9 to 2/15	Pronouns Meeting with your instructor	Quiz One due on 2/15 Short Paper/ Lesson Plan Assigned
Week 5	2/16 to 2/22	Verbs-VP	
Week 6	2/23 to 3/1	Verbs- Auxiliaries, modals, tense, and aspect	Quiz Two due on 3/1
Week 7	3/2 to 3/8	Determiners, Adjectives, and Adverbs	
Week 8	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break
Week 9	3/16 to 3/22	Prepositions and Conjunctions	Quiz Three due on 3/22
Week 10	3/23 to 3/29	Intro to Syntax	
Week 11 & 12	3/30 to 4/12 (holiday break)	Verbals Meeting with your instructor	Short Paper/ Lesson Plan due on 4/6 Quiz Four due on 4/12
Week 13	4/13 to 4/19	Sentence structures I	
Week 14	4/20 to 4/26	Sentence structures II Teaching Grammar	
Week 15	4/27 to 5/3	Punctuations Review Week	Multimodal teaching demo assignment due date: 5/3 Quiz Five due on 5/3 Last day of "W" 4/29 at 4 p.m.
Week 16	5/4 to 5/8	Preparing your final exam Meeting with your instructor	Preparing your final exam Final Exam due on 5/11

Week	Date	In-Class Activities	Homework & Readings (Read the assigned text before the class)
Exam week	Exam week	Exam week	Exam week