English 320: English Grammar
Syllabus, Fall 2013

Instructor: Dr. Gerald Stacy
408 C Language and Literature Building
Office Hours: 10:00—12:00 M&Th and by appointment.
Phone: 963-1533, E-Mail: stacyg@cwu.edu

Texts:

Overview: After a brief introduction to the history of the English language to help us understand how and why languages change, we will undertake a review of the concepts, terminology, and historical development of traditional grammar, the parts of speech, and their functions in sentences. The elements of the sentence and its various patterns will also be studied. We will also review various grammatical and mechanical errors as exemplified in college student essays and in (sadly) professional writing.

Outcomes:
1. Students will master the basic terminology necessary to discuss and/or teach language, language change, and traditional grammar.

2. Students will learn to recognize and employ effectively the various conventions of grammar, mechanics, and punctuation.

3. Students will achieve a basic understanding of how the English language has developed from Old English through Modern English and how our so called modern English still contains oft confusing elements of the original Old English.

4. Students will master the grading symbols necessary to edit written work effectively.

Grades: The final grade will be averaged from three examinations, several announced and unannounced quizzes, and a final examination.

Exams: There will be three hour long exams during the quarter: Friday, October 11th, Monday, November 4th, and Friday, November 22nd. The two hour final examination will be held from 8:00 until 10:00 on Tuesday, December 10th. The Final will count double.
Quizzes: It is important in learning any language, including English, to study daily not just the night before exams. In order to encourage daily studying, I’m going to give several announced or unannounced quizzes on material recently covered. The quiz scores taken together will equal one grade to be averaged with exams for a final grade. I will drop the one lowest quiz grade. Any quiz which is missed will be counted as a zero.

Participation: You will be expected to attend and participate in every class. From time to time you will be sent to the board to analyze sentences for points of grammar and explain those points to your classmates. At other times I will be calling on you at random and individually in class to participate in grammatical exercises. Continued failure to respond correctly during these opportunities or failure to respond at all could result in your losing up to five points off your final grade.

Attendance: I allow four absences without penalty. However, we will be dealing with difficult material, so class participation along with daily studying will help you master it. That said, I will deduct one grade level from your final grade (ex. B to B-) for every absence exceeding four. I make no provision for absences for sickness, car problems, family problems, whatever. All absences must fit within the four which I allow, so use absences wisely. Finally, if you are not in class when I take attendance, I may mark you absent, so be on time.

Readings and Lectures

Sept. 25 Prolegomena


Sept. 27 *The Inner History: Indo European to Old English* Coursepack pages 12-14, up to #6.

Sept. 30 Old English Inflection Coursepack: Section #6, pages 14-18 up to #7 and *Essentials of Old English*, pp. 23-26.

Oct. 1 Old English Literature: Caedmon and Beowulf Coursepack, pp. 27-29.
Oct. 2  Introduction to Middle English
Coursepack: Section #3, pp. 7-10 and Section #6, pp. 15-18. Note especially the Dialect Area Map on page 9.

Oct. 3  Middle English: Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales
General Prologue, Coursepack, page 31.

Oct. 4  Middle English to Early Modern English
Coursepack: Chapters 4 and 7, pp. 10-12, 18-20
Caxton’s Preface.

Oct. 7  Early Modern English
Shakespeare and the English Language
Read through the survey on pp. 33 and 34.

Oct. 8  Dr. Johnson’s English Dictionary
Coursepack, pp. 35-38.

Oct. 9  America Seeks Its Own Language
Noah Webster and his Dictionary

Oct. 10  Review and Catch up Day

Oct. 11  Exam #1: History of English

Oct. 14  Read for Discussion, Write the Right Way
Parts of Speech and Function Words
Handbook: Chapter 8, pp. 75-83.

Oct. 15  Sentence Parts
Sentence Identification Exercise
Coursepack: pp. 41 and 42.

Oct. 16  Editing Sentence Errors
Handbook: Chapters 11 and 12, pp. 91-103
Coursepack: Sentence Fragments…. pp. 43 and 44.

Oct. 17  Continuing Discussion of Sentence Errors
Quiz on Function Words

Oct. 18  Pronoun Case Errors
Coursepack: pp. 45-46.
Oct. 21  Pronoun Agreement and Reference Errors
*Quiz on Function Words*

Oct. 22  Choosing Correct Verb Forms
Handbook: Chapter 13, pp. 103-114 also
Chapter 20, (voice) pp. 145-146.

Oct. 23  Making Subjects and Verbs Agree

Oct. 24  Participles, Gerunds and Infinitives
Coursepack: pp. 47-52
Prepare the Exercises in each section.

Oct. 25  Sentence Parsing:
Identifying Parts of Speech and Grammatical
Function of Words in a Sentence, “Toilet Seat History”

Oct. 28  Sentence Types and Sentence Parsing
“Mary had a Little Lamb” and “Dr. Foster Went to Gloucester”

Oct. 29  More Sentence Parsing
“I’m sick of Sentence Parsing” and “Poor Pru at School”
For practice begin to work through the sentences on pp. 53 and 54
of your coursepack. You can check how well you’re doing by
looking at the answers on pp. 55-59.

Oct. 30  Sentence Parsing, Yet Again
“Molly at the Diner” and “Jack and Jill Get Divorced”

Oct. 31  Sentence Parsing Ad Nausiam

Nov. 1   Review and Catch up Day

Nov. 4   **Exam #2: Pronoun Case, Sentence Parsing, Sentence Types**
**Participles, Gerunds, and Infinitives.**

Nov. 5   Grammatical Errors from Student Papers
Coursepack: pp. 61-63.

Nov. 7   Choosing Adjectives and Adverbs
Handbook: Chapter 18, pp. 136-140.
Subordination: Handbook: Chapter 20b, pp. 147-152.
Nov. 8  Misplaced and Dangling Modifiers  
Handbook: Chapter 23, pp. 163-166.

Nov. 8  Faulty Parallelism  
Handbook: Chapter 19, pp. 141-143.

Nov. 11  Veterans Day Holiday

Nov. 12  Troublesome Words and Phrases  
Handbook: Chapter 29, pp. 201.

Nov. 12  Punctuation: The Apostrophe  
Handbook: Chapter 37, pp. 254-257

Nov. 13  Punctuation: The Comma  

Nov. 14  Punctuation: The Semicolon  

Nov. 15  Punctuation: The Colon  

Nov. 18  Punctuation Exercise  
Coursepack: pp. 67-69  
*Uncontested Withdrawal Date*

Nov. 19  Punctuation Exercise Continued  

Nov. 20  Student Essay: “Is College Really Needed?”  
Coursepack, pp. 71 and 72.

Nov. 21  Student Essay: “The Appeal of Alcohol”  
Coursepack, pp. 73 and 74.  
Writing Effective Paragraph Transitions

Nov. 22  Exam #3:  
Sentence Parsing, Fragments, Comma Splices, Run on Sentences, Verb Agreement Errors, Misplaced Modifiers, Pronoun Reference and Agreement Errors, Punctuation Errors.

Nov. 25-Dec. 1  Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 2  Extended Review of Sentence Errors  
Grammatical Errors from Student Papers  

Dec. 3  Sentence Parsing Once Again.

Dec. 4  Student Essay: “Summary and Response to Armstrong Williams”  
Coursepack, pp. 77 and 78.

Dec. 5  Student Essay: “Women vs Themselves”  
Coursepack, pp. 87-89.

Dec. 6  “Women vs Themselves” continued.

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**Final Examination**  
**Tuesday, December 10th**  
8:00 AM –10:00 AM  
This exam counts double

“There is a positive association between learning and time spent studying **alone**, but a negative association between learning and time spent studying **with peers**.”