English 320: English Grammar
Syllabus, Fall 2014

Instructor: Dr. Gerald Stacy
408 C Language and Literature Building
Office Hours: 10:00—12:00 M&Th and by appointment.
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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 10th, Wednesday, November 5th, and Tuesday, November 25th. The two hour final examination will be held from 8:00 AM until 10:00 AM on Tuesday, December 9th. **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. 24 Prolegomena


Sept. 26 The Inner History: Indo European to Old English Coursepack pages 12-14, up to #6.

Sept. 29 Old English Inflection Coursepack: Section #6, pages 14-18 up to #7 and Essentials of Old English, pp. 23-26.

Sept. 30 Old English Literature: Caedmon and Beowulf Coursepack, pp. 27-29.
Oct. 1  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. 2  Middle English: Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales  

Oct. 3  Middle English to Early Modern English  
Coursepack: Chapters 4 and 7, pp. 10-12, 18-20  
*Caxton’s Preface.*

Oct. 6  Early Modern English  
Shakespeare and the English Language  
Read through the survey on pp. 33 and 34.

Oct. 7  Dr. Johnson’s English Dictionary  
Coursepack, pp. 37-40.

Oct. 8  America Seeks Its Own Language  
Noah Webster and his Dictionary

Oct. 9  Review and Catch up Day

Oct. 10  **Exam #1: History of English**

Oct. 13  Read for Discussion, *Write the Right Way*  
Coursepack, p. 41.  
Parts of Speech and Function Words  
Handbook: Chapter 8, pp. 75-83.

Oct. 14  Sentence Parts  
Sentence Identification Exercise  
Coursepack: pp. 43 and 44.

Oct. 15  Editing Sentence Errors  
Handbook: Chapters 11 and 12, pp. 91-103  
Coursepack: Sentence Fragments… pp. 45 and 46.

Oct. 16  Continuing Discussion of Sentence Errors  
Quiz on Function Words

Oct. 17  Pronoun Case Errors  
Oct. 20 Pronoun Agreement Errors

Oct. 21 Pronoun Reference Errors

Oct. 22 Pronoun Reference Errors Continued
Coursepack: pp. 49-53.

Oct. 23 Pronoun Reference Errors Continued
Coursepack: pp. 54-56. Do the exercises.

Oct. 24 Choosing Correct Verb Forms
Handbook: Chapter 13, pp. 103-114 also
Active versus Passive Voice, Handbook”
Chapter 20, pp. 145 and 146.

Oct. 27 Making Subjects and Verbs Agree

Oct. 28 Verbals: Participles, Gerunds, and Infinitives

Oct. 29 Choosing Adjectives and Adverbs
Handbook: Chapter 18, pp. 136-140.

Oct. 30 Sentence Parsing:
Identifying Parts of Speech and Grammatical
Function of Words in a Sentence, “Toilet Seat History”
Fractured Nursery Rhyme.

Oct. 31 Sentence Types and Sentence Parsing
“Mary had a Little Lamb” and “Dr. Foster Went to Gloucester”
For practice begin to work through the sentences on pp. 63 and 64
of your coursepack. You can check on how well you’re doing by
looking at the answers on pp. 65-69.

Nov. 3 More Sentence Parsing
“Molly at the Diner” and “Poor Pru at School”

Nov. 4 Review and Catch Up Day

Nov. 5 Exam #2: Sentence Types, Regular and Irregular Verbs,
Pronoun Case, Pronoun Reference, Sentence Parsing,
Participles, Gerunds, and Infinitives.
Nov. 6  Review of Exam

Nov. 7  Subordinate versus Coordinate Clauses
Handbook: Chapter 20b through 21e, pp. 147-157.
**Uncontested Withdrawal Deadline**

Nov. 10 Avoiding Mixed Constructions
Handbook: Chapter 22, pp. 158-162

Nov. 11 **Veterans’ Day Holiday**

Nov. 12 Faulty Parallelism
Handbook: Chapter 19, pp. 141-143

Nov. 13 Misplaced and Dangling Modifiers
Handbook: Chapter 23, pp. 163-166.

Nov. 14 Troublesome Words and Phrases
Handbook: Chapter 29, pp. 201.

Nov. 17 Punctuation: The Period and Comma

Nov. 18 Punctuation: The Comma
Chapter 34, pp. 238-248.

Nov. 19 Punctuation: The Semicolon and colon

Nov. 20 The Apostrophe and Quotation Marks
Handbook: Chapter, pp. 254-262
Punctuation Exercise, Coursepack: pp. 77-79.

Nov. 21 Grammatical Errors from Student Papers
Coursepack: pp. 71 and 72.

Nov. 24 Grammatical Errors from Student Papers
Coursepack: pp. 73-75.

Nov. 25 **Exam #3:**
Sentence Parsing, Fragments, Comma Splices, Run on Sentences, Verb Agreement Errors, Verb Tense Errors, Misplaced Modifiers, Pronoun Reference and Agreement Errors, Punctuation Errors.

Nov. 26- **Thanksgiving Break**
Dec. 1  Review of Exam
Dec. 2  Student Essay: “Is College Really Needed?”
Coursepack: pp. 81 and 82.
Dec. 3  “Is College Really Needed?” Continued
Dec. 4  Student Essay: “The Appeal of Alcohol”
Coursepack, pp. 83 and 84.
Dec. 5  Student Essay: “Analyzing Car Advertisements”
Coursepack, pp. 93-95.
Dec. 6  Student Essay: “The Iliad as Film”
Coursepack, pp. 101-103.

**Final Examination**
**Tuesday, December 9th**
**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.**”