Student: “Do you think I have what it takes to be a writer?"
Author Annie Dillard: “Well, do you like sentences?”

**Lecturer:** Rob Schnelle  
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**Office hours & location:** M/T/Th/F 11:00-11:50, Language and Literature 417

**Course time & location:** M/T/Th/F 12:00-12:50, Black 134

**Course texts**  

Mr. Schnelle’s English 320 Coursepack (available in the Wildcat Shop)

Strongly recommended: (1) a reference handbook such as *The Writer’s Harbrace Handbook* and (2) a comprehensive dictionary such as *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*

**Course objectives**  
Whatever your academic major, English 320 can help you become a stronger writer and editor. If you’re a student of literature, the course will equip you with tools for analysis. If you plan to teach writing, reading, or foreign languages at any level, the grammatical knowledge we will study is also essential. And professional or creative writers can improve their fluency by studying grammar. But even if you’re majoring in chemistry or flight technology, this class can help you gain confidence in preparing written documents. With these points in mind, you will have the opportunity to do the following:

- learn to identify word classes, phrases, and clauses;
- describe the functions of words, phrases, and clauses;
- describe sentence patterns, sentence forms, and sentence types;
- correct common sentence-level errors;
- use your knowledge of grammar to revise and edit your own writing and to comment helpfully on the writing of others;
- describe at least three different approaches to the study of English sentences; and
- discuss the evolution of the English language and the historical influences on its various forms.
Evaluation
1. Ungraded exercise assignments (50 points)
2. Test 1 (100 points)
3. Tests 2-4 (200 points each)
4. Comprehensive final exam (250 points)
5. Revised applications paper (part of final exam)

A 930 and above
B+ 870-899
B 830-869
etcetera . . .

Etiquette and advice
Please treat others as you would like to be treated: Arrive on time, don’t leave before I dismiss class, disable your lunch, don’t eat your cell phone, and refrain from chitchat during lectures and discussions. If you want me to take you seriously, complete all assignments, ask clarifying questions, and use electronics only with discretion. (Devices for the hearing impaired, dictionary apps, and so on, are welcome.) In your approach to learning, practice diligence, curiosity, sincerity, good humor, and respect. I’ll do the same.

Absence policy: Try to limit no-shows to three. Missing more than three classes will almost certainly jeopardize your grade, and most people find English 320 a challenging course in the first place: why make it harder on yourself?

Homework: According to the CWU catalogue, “one credit represents a total time commitment of three hours each week of the quarter.” Since English 320 is a five-credit course, success depends on your allotting to it fifteen hours per week: four hours in class plus ten hours of homework/studying and an hour for collaboration* or meeting with me.

This fifteenth hour (office hours) is not mandatory. But if you feel any qualms about grammar—or if you find yourself scoring poorly on our tests—you should meet with me individually for extra help.

Revision of the Applications Paper will be ongoing during the quarter and through the final exam. In other words, revision at the sentence and paragraphs levels is a fundamental feature of the class, not an opportunity for extra credit.

Academic Dishonesty: “Plagiarism” derives from a Latin root meaning *kidnapping*, which is a capital crime. Offenders are not prosecuted at Central, but their misdeeds go on record for the sake of future employers and graduate school admissions officers.

*Students in 320 have reported that their test scores rise when they meet beforehand with a disciplined study group.*
COURSE SCHEDULE

Changes to the calendar will be announced in class. Detailed readings and practice exercises will be given every day and posted on Canvas, where you can also access this syllabus. Note that each of the tests (including the comprehensive final exam) will include both in-class and take-home portions. Note also: In most cases, tests will cover material presented in our text as well as in class lectures. *On rare occasions, a test question may refer to an item mentioned in the text only.* Read and review conscientiously, assuming that attendance alone will not guarantee satisfactory grades.

**Words and Phrases**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Homework</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T Jan 6</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Complete the student profile; draft your applications paper for Monday.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Th Jan 8</td>
<td>Grammar: approaches and definitions</td>
<td>Rhetorical Grammar (RG) Introduction, p. 1-3; dictionary exercise</td>
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<tr>
<td>F Jan 9</td>
<td>Words: form classes; prototype theory</td>
<td>RG chapter 12, read p. 212-22 &amp; write exercises 38 &amp; 39; applications paper (typed revised draft) due Monday</td>
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<tr>
<td>M Jan 12</td>
<td>Words: form classes; features of effective writing: paper exchange</td>
<td>RG chapter 12 (read p. 222-25) &amp; write exercise 40; complete exercise in Writing Applications (WA) 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T Jan 13</td>
<td>Words: structure classes</td>
<td>Read RG chapter 12 (p. 225-34) &amp; write exercise 42 as well as the follow-up exercise in WA 2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Th Jan 15</td>
<td>Words: pronouns</td>
<td>RG chapter 12, p. 234-38 &amp; exercise 43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F Jan 16</td>
<td>Words: pronouns</td>
<td>RG chapter 1 (p. 5-12) &amp; exercises 1 &amp; 2; identify pronoun types used in a section of your applications paper, revising ineffective usages.</td>
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<tr>
<td>M Jan 19</td>
<td>MLK Day: no CWU classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>T Jan 20</td>
<td>Phrases</td>
<td>RG chapter 1 (12-17) &amp; write exercise 3</td>
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Th Jan 22  Phrases
Homework: Test prep, work on take-home assignment.

F Jan 23  Test 1 and submission of take-home assignment

The Structure of Sentences
M Jan 26  Sentence Patterns
Homework: RG chapter 2—read p. 18-23 & write ex. 4 & dictionary exs.

T Jan 27  Sentence Patterns
Homework: RG complete chapter 2 & exercises 5, 6, & 7

Th Jan 29  Verbs
Homework: TBA

F Jan 30  Verbs
Homework: TBA

M Feb 2  Coordination
Homework: TBA

T Feb 3  Coordination
Homework: TBA

Th Feb 5  Coordination and subordination
Homework: TBA

F Feb 6  Review in class
Homework: Test prep; take-home assignment

M Feb 9  Test 2 and submission of take-home assignment

Controlling the Message
T Feb 10  Cohesion
Homework: TBA

Th Feb 12  Cohesion & parallelism
Homework: TBA

F Feb 13  Parallelism
Homework: TBA

M Feb 16  Presidents’ Day: no CWU classes

T Feb 17  Sentence rhythm
Homework: TBA
Making Choices: Form and Function

Th Feb 19  Choosing adverbials
Homework: TBA

F Feb 20  Choosing adverbials
Homework: TBA

M Feb 23  Review in class
Homework: Test prep; work on take-home assignment

T Feb 24  Test 3 and submission of take-home assignment

Th Feb 26  Choosing adjectivals
Homework: TBA

F Feb 27  Choosing adjectivals
Homework: TBA

M March 2  Choosing adjectivals
Homework: TBA

T March 3  Choosing nominals
Homework: TBA

Th March 5  Choosing nominals
Homework: TBA

F March 6  Other stylistic variations
Homework: TBA

M March 9  Other stylistic variations/Review
Homework: Test prep; work on take-home assignment

T March 10  Test 4 and submission of take-home assignment

Punctuation

Th March 12  Punctuation
Homework: RG chapter 13 (239-50); write exercises 44 & 45

F March 13  Punctuation
HW: review for final exam; prepare revisions of applications paper according to directions

Final exam  Wednesday 3/18, 12:00-2:00