

**English 324: Structure of English**  
WHITE 4208 MWF 8:50 AM - 9:40 AM

**General Information**

Eric Raimy  
White 7123  
263-6870  
raimy#æt#wisc.edu

**Office Hours**

I will have informal office hours directly after class and official office hours on Tuesday mornings 9am to 10:30am and Thursday afternoons 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm. If none of these times work for you please email or talk to me about setting up a time that works.

**Course Materials**

There is a required textbook for this course which is:

van Gelderen, Elly (2002) *An introduction to the Grammar of English: Syntactic arguments and socio-historical background*. John Benjamins.

Other class materials (additional readings, handouts, etc.) will be distributed via the Learn@UW website for this course. Make sure you know how to use Learn@UW.

**Course Objectives**

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic principles of the descriptive analysis of English sentences and words. As part of this students will:

- learn to identify parts of words
- learn to identify parts of sentences
- learn to define grammatical categories via distributional patterns
- learn to represent structures of words and sentences via ‘trees’

**Evaluation**

There are three components to the grade for this course: homework assignments, exams and a phonological sketch.

Homework	40%
Exams	45%
Group Project	15%
Total	100%

*Homework Assignments 40%*

There will be about one homework assignment each week due on Friday in general. The homework assignment will be based on the week’s topic. ALL HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE TYPED (where appropriate) AND HANDED IN ON TIME. NO HANDWRITTEN OR LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE

ACCEPTED. We will discuss the homework in class on the day that it is due so we can make sure everyone understood the assignment. Typing your homework allows you to put hand written notes for your own benefit on the assignment. Only the type written answers will be graded and scratching out answers is unacceptable.

A grade from 0 (no homework handed in) to 5 (perfection) will be given each homework assignment. The final letter grade for the homework component will be calculated based on the average homework score on a curved scale based on the average score of the class.

*Exams 45% (22.5% each)*

There will be two in class exams. One at the midpoint of the class and one on the last day of classes. The dates for the exams are:

First Exam    Monday, October 22nd  
Second Exam   Friday, December 14th

All exam grades are calculated on a curved scale based on the average score of the class.

*Group Project 15%*

You are required to participate in a group project which investigates some aspect or topic in the grammar of English. Potential topics for these group projects will be provided to choose from and there will be 9 groups (consisting of 3 or 4 people). Each group will provide a 10-minute presentation on their chosen topic and write a 4 page (double spaced text) summary of their research on the topic. Dates for the group presentations are listed in the schedule below and group formation will occur in the second week of classes.

*Academic Misconduct*

Please make sure that you are familiar with UW's Academic Misconduct Policy which you can read at:

<http://www.wisc.edu/students/saja/misconduct/misconduct.html>  
NO ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT WILL BE TOLERATED.

*Class Attendance*

Regular class attendance is assumed to be the standard behavior. You are responsible for all information in each class whether you are present or not. IF YOU DO NOT ATTEND CLASS YOU WILL NOT DO WELL. Please inform me as soon as possible about missing any classes so arrangements can be made for you to make up any missed materials.

## Course Schedule

Topics of lectures, reading and homework assignments are listed below on the date they are DUE.

### Week 1 Sept. 4-7

Wed Administrative Issues and Introduction  
Fri Linguistics and unconscious knowledge  
READ: Chapter 1

### Week 2 Sept. 10-14

Mon-Wed Parts of speech and structure of the lexicon  
READ: Chapter 2 and Handout 1 from Learn@UW  
Fri HOMEWORK #1 DUE

### Week 3 Sept. 17-21

Mon-Wed Morphology  
READ: Brinton Ch 4 from Learn@UW website  
Fri HOMEWORK #2 DUE *Group Formation*

### Week 4 Sept. 24-28

Mon-Wed Syntactic Phrases  
READ Chapter 3 and Handout 2 from Learn@UW  
Fri HOMEWORK #3 DUE *Group 1 Presentation*

### Week 5 Oct. 1-5

Mon-Wed Functions in the clause  
READ: Chapters 4 + 5  
Fri HOMEWORK #4 DUE *Group 2 Presentation*

### Week 6 Oct. 8-12

Mon-Wed Verb classes in English  
READ: Handout 3 from Learn@UW  
Fri HOMEWORK #5 DUE *Group 3 Presentation*

### Week 7 Oct. 15-19

Mon Structure of the verb group  
READ: Chapter 8  
Wed REVIEW FOR FIRST EXAM  
Fri HOMEWORK# 6 DUE *Group 4 Presentation*

### Week 8 Oct. 22-26

Mon FIRST EXAM  
Wed Movie: Colorless Green Ideas  
Fri Exam and Movie discussion

**Week 9      Oct. 29-Nov. 2**

Mon-Wed      Complex sentences  
                    READ: Chapter 7  
Fri              HOMEWORK #7 DUE *Group 5 Presentation*

**Week 10     Nov. 5-9**

Mon-Wed      Non-finite clauses  
                    READ: Chapter 8  
Fri              HOMEWORK #8 DUE *Group 6 Presentation*

**Week 11     Nov. 12-16**

Mon-Wed      Complements and clauses in NPs and APs  
                    READ: Chapters 9 and 10  
Fri              HOMEWORK #9 DUE *Group 7 Presentation*

**Week 12     Nov. 19-23**

Mon-Wed      Identifying clause types  
                    READ: Handout 4 from Learn@UW  
Fri              Thanksgiving Break

**Week 13     Nov. 26-30**

Mon-Wed      Sentences with movement I  
                    READ: Chapter 11 and Handout 5 from Learn@UW  
Fri              HOMEWORK #10 DUE *Group 8 Presentation*

**Week 14     Dec. 3-7**

Mon-Wed      Sentences with movement II  
                    READ: Handout 6 from Learn@UW  
Fri              HOMEWORK #11 DUE *Group 9 Presentation*

**Week 15     Dec. 10-14**

Mon             Movie: Spellbound  
Wed             Review for Second Exam  
Fri              SECOND EXAM