



# ENG 501 (1XW), Structure of the English Language

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2026

## INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Shelby Miller

Office Location: Hall of Languages, Room #318

Office Hours: Traditionally, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 am - 11:30 am (please make an appointment first!). However, **I'm flexible**. If the prior days/times do not work for you, just reach out and we'll find a time that works for both of us!

Office Phone: Phone? Psh, let's zoom instead.

Office Fax: Do you really have something to fax to me? Just email it instead.

University Email Address: [Shelby.Miller@etamu.edu](mailto:Shelby.Miller@etamu.edu)

Zoom: Link provided in course shell under "Contact Information & Office Hours"

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: I will respond within 24 hours. If you have not heard from me, please assume I have not received your message and reach out to me again. I may not immediately respond to emails on weekends and holidays.

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Textbook(s) Required:** This class utilizes a textbook that is provided as a free pdf inside the course shell (D2L). 🎓👏

Attardo, Salvatore, "English Grammar Foundations" (2025). *CHSSA Open Educational Resources (OER)*. 1. <https://lair.etamu.edu/oer-faculty-chssa/1>

**Optional Texts and/or Materials:** If you want to own a book that has some but not all of the ideas presented in the course, you may like:

Brown, S., Attardo, S., & Vigliotti, C. (2014). *Understanding language structure, interaction, and variation* (3rd ed.). Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.

For an accessible linguistic description of the grammar of modern English, you can also consult:

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Greenbaum, S. & Quirk, R. (1999). *A student's grammar of the English language*. London: Longman.

### **Course Description**

Structure of the English Language. Three semester hours.

A thorough analysis of the grammatical structure of English employing contemporary as well as more traditional methodologies. Emphasis varies among phonology, morphology, syntax, text/discourse analysis and historical developments in the language. Prerequisites: none.

This course introduces the major syntactic structures of English and the ways to analyze them. Topics include categories, phrases, functions, types of verbs, clauses, and finiteness. The course stresses that it is more important to be able to argue something than just memorize rules. Some general linguistic issues, such as prescriptivism and descriptivism, varieties of English are discussed as well. This class is fully online. The class requires weekly work and assignments.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will be able to describe the morphological and syntactic nature of English grammar in specific contexts.
2. Students will be able to develop skills in grammatical analysis, such as identifying parts of speech, analyzing sentences, and identifying and correcting errors.
3. Students will be able to demonstrate understanding in cultural issues related to English grammar.

### **Course Evaluation Methods**

Detailed information and guidelines for each assignment will be available on the course site. For the course organization, please check the course calendar below.

### **GRADING**

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

	Total points corresponding to final letter grade
A = 90%-100%	A = 900 - 1000 Points
B = 80%-89%	B = 800 - 899 Points
C = 70%-79%	C = 700 - 799 Points
D = 60%-69%	D = 600 - 699 Points
F = 59% or Below	F = 0 - 599 Points

Assignment Type	Points	Percentage of Final Grade
Introductions	5	.5%
Q&As	11 @ 25 points each Total 275 points	27.5%
Comprehensive Reviews	9 @ 60 points each Total 540 points	54%
Essay Project	80	8%
Final Exam	100	10%

**Extra Credit:** There will be (at minimum) three extra credit opportunities this semester, presented in Week 14.

**Final Exam:** If you have an “A” (90% or higher) in the course after all your coursework is completed and graded (after Week 14), you do not have to take the final exam.

**Grade Bump:** Oh no, you finished the semester with an 89%, 79%, 69%, or 59%. You were so close to that next grade! Will the professor round my grade up? Each semester, about 10% of my students find themselves on the cusp of the next grade. These students always have something in common; they either missed assignment(s), worked haphazardly on an assignment, and (or) decided not to pursue extra credit opportunities. **You are** responsible for “bumping” your own grade. What does that mean? Take advantage of **every point** through every assignment.

### Fudge Points

It is the professor’s discretion on whether to award “fudge” points for quiz questions that seemed problematic. A quiz question is “problematic” when it meets at least two of the following conditions: 1.) at least 40% of the test takers answered it incorrectly, 2.) the material surrounding the question was not overtly addressed in the materials, and 3.) there is a good argument that the question was generally confusing or ambiguous.

### Regrading

If a quiz question was incorrectly set-up in D2L, the professor will regrade the quizzes. This may lead to some students seeing an increase in their quiz grade while others may see a decrease in their grade. If you did **not** receive points for a question that you answered **correctly**, you will then receive those points after the regrading. If you received points for a question that you answer **incorrectly**, you will then lose those points after the regrading.

### Assessments

- Q&As – Engage with the course by asking questions about the readings, answering classmates’ questions, or posting thoughtful, relevant comments in a discussion board.
- Comprehensive Reviews – Short assessments with multiple-choice and true/false questions to check your understanding of key concepts from the readings and lectures.
- Essay Project – Write a single annotated bibliography entry analyzing a source relevant to the course topic, demonstrating research and critical thinking skills.

- Final Exam – A cumulative exam that assesses your knowledge of all major course concepts, readings, and discussions.

### Submitting Assignments

With the exception of finals week, our work week runs from Monday to Monday. Assignments each week are due on the following Monday, and each Monday, a new week/module will be released. All assignments must be submitted to D2L by the designated due date. If an assignment requires submitting a text-based file, files must be either Word documents, PDF, or Google Docs. **No .pages files!** Also, if you are using Google Docs, you must be sure to grant the right sharing/viewing permissions when submitting the link. If I cannot access the file and have to ask for viewing permissions, it will be considered late. If this is a repeated issue, you will not be allowed to submit Google Doc files throughout the rest of the course. If you have technical issues in uploading the assignment to the course site, please contact CITE Help Desk at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@ETAMU.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ETAMU.edu) and email me to notify me of the problem. Your email should also include your assignment.

### COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

With the exception of the final, assignments will be due on Sunday each week. Each new module will be released on Monday each week.

Week	Topics	Assignments	Due
Week 1 June 1 - 7	Introduction & Basic Linguistic Preliminaries	Read Introduction, pp. 1-22  <i>Graded</i> Tweet-troductions  Read Chapter 1  <i>Graded</i> Q&A 1 Comprehensive Review 1	Sun, June 7
Week 2 June 7 - 14	Overview of the System	Read Chapter 2  <i>Graded</i> Q&A 2 Comprehensive Review 2	Sun, June 14
Week 3 June 14 - 21	The Verb  Nouns and Modifiers	Read Chapter 3  <i>Graded</i> Q&A 3 Comprehensive Review 3	Sun, June 21

		Read Chapter 4 <i>Graded</i> Q&A 4 Comprehensive Review 4	
Week 4 June 21 - 28	Minor Parts of Speech  Sentence & Phrasal Constituents	Read Chapter 5  <i>Graded</i> Q&A 5 Comprehensive Review 5  Read Chapter 6  <i>Graded</i> Q&A 6 Comprehensive Review 6	Sun, June 28
Week 5 June 28 - July 5	Complex Constructions	Read Chapter 7  <i>Graded</i> Q&A 7 Comprehensive Review 7	Sun, July 5
Week 6 July 5 - 12	Marked Constructions	Read Chapter 8  <i>Graded</i> Q&A 8 Comprehensive Review 8	Sun, July 12
Week 7 July 12 - 19	History of Grammar	Read Chapter 9  <i>Graded</i> Q&A 9 Comprehensive Review 9	Sun, July 19
Week 8 July 19 - 26	Variation	Read Chapter 10  <i>Graded</i> Q&A 10	Sun, July 26
Week 9 July 26 - August 2	Usage	Read Chapter 11  <i>Graded</i> Essay Project	Sun, August 2
Week 10 August 2 - 6	Finals Week	<i>Graded</i> Final Exam*  *You may be exempt.	Thur, August 6

Unless stated otherwise, assignments will be graded within two weeks, and emails will be answered within one business day. Before emailing, check the syllabus and the course shell on myLeo Online (D2L Brightspace) to see if your question is already answered.

Students who have concerns about this course or the instructor should speak to the instructor about those concerns first. If the student is not satisfied with the outcome of that conversation, the next person to talk to is the Department Head of Literature and Languages.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### Computer Technologies

This class will be delivered completely online using Desire2Learn Brightspace (D2L), the new Learning Management System used by East Texas A&M University. To get started with the course, go to [MyLeo](#). You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. Students are required to have regular access to a computer with an Internet connection. At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. If you experience problems in accessing the course site or have other technological difficulties, please contact the CITE Help Desk at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@ETAMU.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ETAMU.edu).

### LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements:

- [LMS Requirements](#)
- [LMS Browser Support](#)
- [Zoom Video Conferencing Tool](#)

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@ETAMU.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ETAMU.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COURSE

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

## **CWID and Password**

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@etamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@etamu.edu).

## **Technology-Related Issues**

Personal computer or internet connection problems do not excuse late or missing work. Every student should have a backup method for completing assignments, such as access to a friend's computer, a library, a campus lab, or another reliable location.

If you experience issues with myLeo Online (D2L Brightspace)—for example, submitting assignments or participating in discussions—contact the Help Desk at 1-866-656-5511, file a ticket, and email the instructor with your ticket number. Only issues directly related to myLeo Online (D2L Brightspace) are valid reasons for technical assistance. Make sure your browser is compatible and consider completing the myLeo Online tutorial if needed.

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

Students will need reliable computer and internet access for this course. Students must be able to effectively use myLeo email, myLeo Online D2L, and Microsoft Office.

### **Learning Management System (LMS) – D2L**

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are the technical requirements:

- View the [Learning Management System Requirements Webpage](#).
- Learn more on the [LMS Browser Support Webpage](#).

### **Technical Support**

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found on the [Brightspace Support Webpage](#).

D2L runs monthly updates during the last week of the month, usually on Wednesday. The system should remain up during this time unless otherwise specified in an announcement. You may experience minimal impacts to performance and/or look and feel of the environment.

## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

### **Interaction with Instructor Statement**

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor. Correspondence will always be through university email (your “myLeo” mail) and

announcements in myLeo online (D2L). You will not RECEIVE email through D2L (if you enabled notifications), so be sure to check your ETAMU email for communication. Students are encouraged to check university email daily.

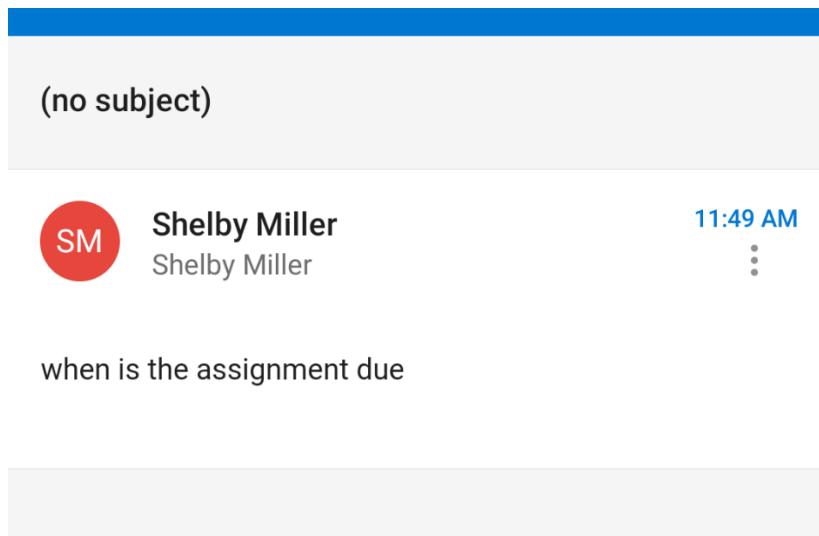
**Tips for sending emails!** I usually only have to provide this to undergraduate students, but sometimes graduate students need a gentle reminder. 😊

Include the Following in Emails with Instructor:

- Course name and subject in the subject line
- Salutation (Good afternoon, Dr. Jackson)
- Proper email etiquette (no “text” emails – use proper grammar and punctuation)
- Student name and CWID after the body of the email (possibly add to student signature on email)

When emailing, it’s always good to follow the genre conventions of a formal letter. This includes a subject line stating the name of the class, a greeting (“Hi, Dr. Miller,” for example), specific details and explanation in the body of your email, and a closing (“Thank you, Your Name” for example). Emails should be properly proofread and edited and contain the course number in the subject.

Please, pretty please, don’t send me an email like this:



Let’s be professional. Each time you send me a new email about a new topic, please compose a new email with a new subject; do not reply to some old email threads unless we discuss the same issue. It can be very confusing and makes it difficult to reply to your emails.

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

Being successful in an online course requires self-discipline and high motivation. In this course, all work will be completed through D2L. Access and follow all course instructions found in the content area of the D2L course. Please note that assignment due dates are crucial. No delayed assignments will be accepted. You should check the course website frequently for assignments, announcements, and discussions. I strongly recommend dedicating set days/times to

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

completing your work and working in advance so that you are always ahead. In order to achieve the outcomes of the course, you will be involved in a number of different activities. It is fundamental to complete all of the readings and activities on time: the quizzes, the discussions, and the assignments. I encourage you to do all the course reading and assignments for each learning module in the order they are presented. Moreover, we are co-constructing our knowledge in the online community. Please be prepared, share thoughtfully, respond respectfully, and engage in all learning processes.

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The [Code of Student Conduct](#) is described in detail online in the [Student Guidebook](#).

Students should also consult the [Rules of Netiquette Webpage](#) for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

### **ETAMU Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#).

### **Academic Integrity**

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

- [Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.03](#)
- [Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)
- [Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.10](#)
- [Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

### **Use of Artificial Intelligence**

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources

### **Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement**

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 have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services  
East Texas A&M University  
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148  
Email: [studentdisabilityservices@ETAMU.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@ETAMU.edu)  
Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and ETAMU Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

### **East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health – Counseling Services**

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.ETAMU.edu/counsel](http://www.ETAMU.edu/counsel)

### **Mental Health and Well-Being**

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



Department of Literature and Languages Mission Statement:

The Department of Literature and Languages at East Texas A&M University fosters transformation through the study of language and literature (“Words That Transform, Language That Connects”), preparing students for careers and advanced study by developing strong skills in reading, writing, critical thinking, and communication across diverse contexts.