The Art of the Sentence: Style through Grammar  
Winter 2022 Course Syllabus  
ENG 420/520, CRN 22480/22614, TR 12:00 – 13:20, 142 HED

Instructor: Dr. Carolyn Bergquist  
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Email: cjb@uoregon.edu (best way to reach me)  
Office Hours: W 11:00 – 2:00 at https://uoregon.zoom.us/my/bergquistc  
I’m also happily available by appointment

Territorial Acknowledgment

The University of Oregon is located on Kalapuya ilih, the traditional indigenous homeland of the Kalapuya people. Following treaties between 1851 and 1855, Kalapuya people were dispossessed of their indigenous homeland by the United States government and forcibly removed to the Coast Reservation in Western Oregon. Today, Kalapuya descendants are primarily citizens of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and they continue to make important contributions to their communities, to the UO, to Oregon, and to the world. In following the Indigenous protocol of acknowledging the original people of the land we occupy, we also extend our respect to the nine federally recognized Indigenous nations of Oregon: the Burns Paiute Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Coquille Indian Tribe, the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and the Klamath Tribes. We express our respect to the many more tribes who have ancestral connections to this territory, as well as to all other displaced Indigenous peoples who call Oregon home.*  
*Sincere thanks to the IRES Department for crafting the Territorial Acknowledgment

Course Information

Course Description:
We are going to look very closely at sentences to see how they work, how the individual parts of speech draw together into syntax, and what effect (artistic and otherwise) these patterns of syntax create. The course will mix technical study of sentence structure and reflection upon their artful potential so that each of us is able to see and describe how sentences achieve their effects. The course uses two textbooks: Cindy Vitto's Grammar by Diagram is an introduction to (or review of) English grammar; Virgínia Tufte's Artful Sentences: Style as Syntax is a collection of and reflection upon artfulness in sentences that serves as a starting point for each of our own descriptive and analytic work. In individual projects and in our pooled observations, we will each develop a critical language based in grammar for describing prose style. We will be looking at our own sentences and writing styles in order to gain more artistic and technical facility. Throughout, we will reflect on the process of learning and engaging with sentences at this level of detail. We may also, perhaps, enjoy the possibilities of English and have some fun with words.

Course Goals:
• Develop a working knowledge of sentence structure and terminology.  
• Develop a method of inquiry for identifying sentence features that are initially unclear.  
• Apply that working knowledge of sentence structure and terminology to analysis of the rhetorical and artful effects of sentences in texts that matter to you.  
• Recognize potential interplay between what sentences say and how they say them.  
• Be able to describe how and in what instances the structure of sentences contributes to the overall effect of prose.

Students in Art of the Sentence will work on these English Department Learning Outcomes:
• Perform critical, formal analyses of literary, cinematic, and other cultural texts
• Write focused, analytical essays in clear, grammatical prose
• Employ logic, creativity, and interpretive skills to produce original, persuasive arguments

Course Modality
This is an in-person course: Unlike asynchronous online/WEB courses, we will meet during scheduled class meeting times in 142 Hedco. I will accommodate illness and absences as described below. If you need additional flexibility UO encourages you to consider WEB courses. If you need accommodation related to a medical or other disability, you can set those up through AEC (https://aec.uoregon.edu)

Required Texts
Artful Sentences: Syntax as Style, Virginia Tufte (AS) Available through UODuckStore and other booksellers
Grammar by Diagram, 2nd edition, Cindy L. Vitto (GD) Available through UODuckStore and other booksellers
Additional readings will be provided on Canvas.

Class Participation
Creative analysis almost always starts from a wondering and having a willingness to explore unknown territory. To this analysis, each of you brings unique sensibilities, experiences, and powers of observation that will help all of us understand how sentence structure and style work on us. Your active, thoughtful, regular participation in our work on grammar and style will therefore be crucial to the success of this course. You each have reasons for being in this class. Your working knowledge of grammar, your sense of what makes a good sentence, and your interest in the style and art of words are important and valuable to our work in this class. Listening is therefore as important as speaking, drawing out your colleagues and inviting their contributions as valuable as those you might make yourselves. To accomplish our course goals, all students must feel their contributions valued and must be treated with respect. If this is ever not the case, please see me right away. The Bias Response Team and the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity can provide additional assistance. Please keep in mind that behavior that disrupts the learning environment of this classroom may result in your course grade being lowered.

Grading and Assignments
Instructions for and details about these assignments will be on Canvas:

In-Class Writing: 10%
Short Analysis Assignments 15%
Sentence Variation Project 25%
Style Project: 50%
  • 10% Project Proposal
  • 5% Presentation
  • 35% Style Project

Required but ungraded:
Academic Paper Sample: Each member of the class will submit a three-page to four-page excerpt of an academic paper that you have written for another course for use in the Academic Writing Analysis sequence. The more typical of your usual writing the better.

Beloved (or Not) Passage: Submit a paragraph from a prose work in English (novel, website, technical manual, scientific paper, newspaper, magazine, short story, or any other source chosen) that you find noteworthy, lovely, irritating, beautiful, or in some other way engaging. Include the full bibliographic citation, with page numbers, so others can follow up and investigate further. Introduce the passage with a few sentences by saying why you chose it.
Course Policies

COVID-19 Impacts: See our course Canvas site for University Information About COVID-19.

Office Hours and Questions
I will host office hours through Zoom at https://uoregon.zoom.us/my/bergquist each week on Wednesdays from 11:00 – 2:00 and also have a running discussion forum on our Canvas called “Class Questions and Answers” for the entire group to ask and answer. I welcome meetings outside my regular office hours, too. Just send me an email with times and days that work for your schedule. If you experience Internet access challenges, my office phone is a good way to leave a message.

I will do everything I can to help you succeed. If you contact me with a question, I will try to respond within one business day. I typically provide feedback on assignments within ten days.

Technical Requirements
• Canvas: Log into canvas.uoregon.edu using your DuckID to access our class. If you have questions about accessing and using Canvas, visit the Canvas support page. Canvas and Technology Support also is available by phone or live chat: 541-346-4357 | livehelp.uoregon.edu
• Zoom access for Office Hours (remote class meetings if needed) and other individual meetings. You will need to sign into Zoom using your UO email address to access office hours.
  o For Zoom support, submit a request here: https://service.uoregon.edu/TDClient/2030/Portal/Requests/ServiceDet?ID=42541
  o For information about how to log into Zoom with your DuckID, see this page: https://service.uoregon.edu/TDClient/2030/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=101516
• Office365: Log in to UO Software https://software.uoregon.edu/uo-software with your DuckID to find out how to get access to UO-provided software for teaching and learning.

Attendance: You may miss two class sessions without consequences. Additional absences may affect your course grade. Please be in touch if you have obstacles to regular participation in assignments and readings.

Academic Honesty: The University Student Conduct Code (dos.uoregon.edu/conduct) defines academic misconduct, which includes unauthorized help on assignments and the use of sources without acknowledgment. Academic misconduct is prohibited at UO. I will report misconduct to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards—consequences can include failure of the course. Students may not commit or attempt to commit any act that constitutes academic misconduct. Students should acknowledge and document all sources of information. If there is any question about whether an act constitutes academic misconduct, see me.

Accommodation: The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me in week one if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You may also wish to contact the Accessible Education Center in 164 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155.

Incompletes: The grade of Incomplete is awarded when the quality of course work is satisfactory, and some minor yet essential requirement has not been completed for reasons beyond the student’s control. Please stay in touch about how you are doing and if there are aspects of the course that become difficult to complete or access.

Notification of changes to class schedule: We are all living through a pandemic surge this term, and the effects of it on our lives and learning may continue to evolve. I will communicate with you through Canvas about any updates or improvements I make to the course. Be sure you are checking your university email account regularly.
Late Assignments: If you are having trouble meeting an assignment due date, please be in touch before it is due. Everyone gets three late assignments per term, up to seven days extension without questions, as long as you are in touch with me before the assignment is due. If an emergency prevents you from contacting me before the assignment is due, check in as soon as you can.

Students who experience gender-based violence: UO is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, and gender-based stalking. If you have experienced gender-based violence, know that you are not alone. UO has staff trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, getting academic and housing accommodations, getting legal protective orders, and accessing other help. If you tell me about harassment or assault, I am not required to report this information to anyone unless you request that I do so. I am required to consult with a confidential UO employee (someone with legal confidentiality, such as a counseling professional or a crisis center advocate) to ensure that you are supported. If you decide to make a report, I and other UO employees will help you to do so. My goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available and that you have access to the resources you need. If you wish to speak to someone confidentially, you can call 541-346-SAFE, UO’s 24-hour hotline, to be connected to a confidential counselor to discuss your options or visit the SAFE website at safe.uoregon.edu.

My Reporting Obligations: I am a student-directed employee. For information about my reporting obligations as an employee, please see Employee Reporting Obligations on the Office of Investigations and Civil Rights Compliance (OICRC) website. Students experiencing any form of prohibited discrimination or harassment, including sex or gender-based violence, may seek information and resources at safe.uoregon.edu, respect.uoregon.edu, or investigations.uoregon.edu or contact the non-confidential Title IX office/Office of Civil Rights Compliance (541-346-3123), or Dean of Students offices (541-346-3216), or call the 24-7 hotline 541-346-SAFE for help. I am also a mandatory reporter of child abuse. Please find more information at Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect.

Emergencies: UO Emergency Management & Continuity Program (UOEMC) has an entire website dedicated to helping students, staff, and faculty become better prepared in the event of an emergency: http://emc.uoregon.edu/. This website offers a wide range of helpful tips, including how to create your own emergency supply kit to updates on any recent alerts. Three recommendations are specifically important to this class:

1. Confirm that you are signed up for emergency alerts (for both emails and text messages)
2. Practice at least two routes out of this classroom so that you already know them in the event of an evacuation (there are evacuation maps available in most hallways that you can consult to help you identify the best routes) and know the evacuation assembly area.
3. For emergency assistance on campus call 911. For non-emergency assistance on campus call 541-346-2919. Never assume others have called when you witness an emergency situation that endangers yourself or others.

Inclement Weather: It is generally expected that class will meet unless the University is officially closed for inclement weather. If it becomes necessary to cancel class while the University remains open, this will be announced on Canvas and by email. Updates on inclement weather and closure are also communicated in other ways described here: https://hr.uoregon.edu/about-hr/campus-notifications/inclement-weather/inclement-weather-immediate-updates