

Fall 2017

ENG 209: The Craft of the Sentence

MWF 12-12.50 185 Lillis

Dr. Clark

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course documents on Canvas

Part 1: Course Description

Grammar is the language we use to talk about language. It's a tool for describing how written sentences work and figuring out and explaining why they don't work. In this course you'll learn the language of grammar: the technical terms and the conceptual principles needed to describe the grammatical structure of sentences. You'll learn sentence diagramming in order to help see the patterns behind grammatical concepts. We will pay careful attention not only to the rules of grammar but also to the logic behind those rules. Furthermore, you will learn about the historical development of some of those rules—why, for instance, English sentences are punctuated the way they are, why the passive voice should be avoided, and whether it is acceptable to ever split an infinitive. Along the way, we'll consider further questions about the nature of spoken vs. written language, dialects, and standardized language. As we will see, knowledge of grammatical concepts can help writers think through and revise their own written ideas more effectively.

Required Texts:

Grammar by Diagram, 2nd edition, by Cindy L. Vitto (Broadview Press, 2006).
ISBN 978-1551117782

Grammar by Diagram Workbook, by Cindy L. Vitto (Broadview Press, 2009).
ISBN 978-1551119014.

ISBN for both, bundled: 978-1554029259

The Deluxe Transitive Vampire, by Karen Elizabeth Gordon (Pantheon Books, 1993). ISBN 978-0679418603

You will need to bring the *Grammar by Diagram* textbook to class every day.

Part 2: Syllabus

** Schedule could change! This class is new to the English Department curriculum, offered this term for only the second time. Adjustments to the schedule will be made as necessary if the pace I've set here is too fast or too slow for the needs of the class.*

Prepare for class:

- Read whatever is assigned before class. Even though we go over the concepts in class, you will have a much easier time learning them if you work through them by yourself beforehand.
- Work through exercises in the assigned chapter/s of *Grammar by Diagram*. It doesn't matter so much that you do every single exercise (you won't turn them in) as it does that you understand the concepts. However, we will go over some of the exercises in class, so if you don't want to be caught flat-footed then do them all.
- After class, review the concepts covered in class using the *Workbook* in order to make sure you understand them. If you don't, either ask for follow up in class, or stop by office hours.

Please Note! We will be working with *Grammar by Diagram* every class day. You'll need to bring it to class. If you do not, you'll be asked to leave to go get it.

Week 1

M: Introduction

W: Grammar Issues
Read: *Grammar by Diagram*, pp. 9-16

F: Parts of a Sentence, Parts of Speech
Read: *Transitive Vampire*, pp. 3-7; *Grammar by Diagram*, pp. 17-44 (do exercises)
DUE: Grammar Journal 1; Grammar in the Wild entry.

Week 2

M: Nouns and Pronouns
Read: *Transitive Vampire* on: Nouns, pp. 30-39; Pronouns, pp. 77-98
Do: *Workbook* exercises 1.1-5
DUE: Grammar Journal 2

W: Verbs and Verbals
Read: *Transitive Vampire* on: Verbs, pp. 40-53; Verbals, pp. 54-64
Do: *Workbook* exercises 1.6-9

F: Adjectives and Adverbs
Read: *Transitive Vampire*, Adjectives and Adverbs, pp. 65-76
Do: *Workbook* exercises 1.10-11
DUE: Grammar in the Wild entry.

Week 3

M: Prepositions and Conjunctions
Review: *Grammar by Diagram*, pp. 35-38

Do: *Workbook* exercises 1.12-13; 1.14
DUE: Grammar Journal 3

W: Diagramming: *To Be* and Linking Verbs
Read: *Grammar by Diagram*, pp. 45-57
Review (after class): *Workbook*, pp. 27-40

F: Verb Tenses
Read: *Grammar by Diagram*, pp. 201-207
Quiz!
DUE: Grammar in the Wild entry
Review (after class): *Workbook*, pp. 137-143

Week 4

M: Diagramming: Transitive and Intransitive Verbs
Read: *Grammar by Diagram*, pp. 63-99
DUE: Grammar Journal
Review (after class): *Workbook*, pp. 41-49

W: Diagramming: Special Structures
Read: *Grammar by Diagram*, pp. 77-89
Review (after class): *Workbook*, pp. 49-56

F: Verb Voice
Read: *Grammar by Diagram*, pp. 207-217
Quiz!
DUE: Grammar in the Wild entry
Review (after class): *Workbook*, pp. 143-150

Week 5

M: Diagramming Verbals
Read: *Grammar by Diagram*, pp. 219-154
DUE: Grammar Journal
Review (after class): *Workbook*, pp. 151-181

W: Review

F: Midterm!
DUE: Grammar in the Wild entry

Week 6

M: Phrases
Read: *Transitive Vampire*, pp. 125-139
DUE: Grammar Journal

W: Compound Structures
Read: *Grammar by Diagram*, pp. 117-130
Review (after class): *Workbook*, pp. 73-80

F: Complex Sentences, Noun Clauses
Read: *Grammar by Diagram*, pp. 131-144
Quiz!
DUE: Grammar in the Wild entry.
Review (after class): *Workbook*, pp. 81-88

Week 7

M: Complex Sentences, Adverb and Relative Clauses, pt. 1
Read: *Grammar by Diagram*, pp. 145-155; *Transitive Vampire*, pp. 140-154
DUE: Grammar Journal
Review (after class): *Workbook*, pp. 89-94

W: Complex Sentences, Adverb and Relative Clauses, p. pt. 2
Read: *Grammar by Diagram*, pp. 156-69
Review (after class): *Workbook*, pp. 94-109

F: Case, Agreement, Consistency
Read: *Grammar by Diagram*, pp. 179-199
Quiz!
DUE: Grammar in the Wild entry
Review (after class): *Workbook*, pp. 125-135

Week 8

M: Verbals and Usage Problems
Grammar by Diagram, pp. 159-272
DUE: Grammar Journal
Review (after class): *Workbook*, pp. 183-190

W: Punctuation
Grammar by Diagram, pp. 275-318
Review (after class): *Workbook*, pp. 205-216

F: Quiz!
DUE: Grammar in the Wild entry.

Week 9

M: Grammatical Analysis
DUE: Grammar Journal

W: DUE: Essay: Grammatical Analysis of your own writing

DUE: Grammar in the Wild entry.

F: Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 10

M: Playing with Language

Read: *Grammar by Diagram*, pp. 219-337

DUE: Grammar Journal

Review: *Workbook*, pp. 217-225

W: Playing with Language

DUE: Transform your own writing (bring a sample to class)

F: Quiz!

DUE: Grammar in the Wild entry.

Final: 10.15am Monday, December 4. All exams must be taken at the scheduled time, no exceptions.