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*

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**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:**


ISBN for both, bundled: 978-1554029259


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

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**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.