

Department of English and Writing Studies

Writing 2210G/001 (Winter, 2020)
GrammarPhobia Demystified:
Contemporary Grammar for Writers

Monday, 12:30 - 2:20 and
Wednesday, 1:30 - 2:20, in UC Rm. 2110

A study of how the English language works in practice, the course surveys the grammatical structure of the language, using descriptive vocabulary and concepts derived from current linguistic theory, and explores the relationship of that grammatical structure to questions of style and rhetorical intention – to the practice of writing. Previous experience in linguistics is neither expected nor required.

Instructor: Brock Eayrs, UC 2430; beayrs@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Tuesdays between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., or by appointment

Required Texts:

Kolln, Martha and Loretta Gray, Rhetorical Grammar: Grammatical Choices, Rhetorical Effects
Eighth Edition. Pearson, 2017.

[A good, university-level dictionary (e.g. the Oxford Concise or equivalent) recommended.]

Schedule of Readings/Topics

Jan. 6/8: Introduction: General Conceptual and Historical Background

Jan. 13/15: Introduction (cont.)

Jan. 20/22: Words and Word Classes
Rhetorical Grammar, c. 1 and 12

FIRST IN-CLASS TEST WEDNESDAY JANUARY 22nd (5%)

Jan. 27/29: Words and Word Classes (cont.); Phrases
Rhetorical Grammar, c. 1 and 12; c. 5 pp. 78-90 and c. 6 pp. 91-99

Feb. 3/5: Phrases
Rhetorical Grammar, c. 5 pp. 78-90 and c. 6 pp. 91-99

SECOND IN-CLASS TEST WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 5th (10%)

Feb. 10/12: Phrases; Sentence Patterns and Verbs
Rhetorical Grammar, c. 2 and 3

(Reading Week February 17 – 21)

Feb. 24/26: Sentence Patterns and Verbs
Rhetorical Grammar, c. 2 and 3

THIRD IN-CLASS TEST WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 26TH (10%)
FIRST ESSAY DUE BY FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28TH @ 5 P.M. (10%)

March 2/4: Sentence Patterns and Verbs
Rhetorical Grammar, c. 2 and 3

March 9/11: Coordination and Subordination
Rhetorical Grammar, c. 4

FOURTH IN-CLASS TEST WEDNESDAY MARCH 11TH (10%)

March 16/18: Choosing Adverbials
Rhetorical Grammar, c. 5

March 23/25: Choosing Adjectivals; Choosing Nominals
Rhetorical Grammar, c. 6 and c. 7

April 30/May 1: Other Stylistic Variations; Cohesion
Rhetorical Grammar, c. 8 and c. 9

SECOND ESSAY DUE Friday April 3rd (30%)

***[FORMAL FINAL EXAMINATION (2 HOURS; 25%) DURING THE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION PERIOD;
DATE/TIME/ROOM T.B.A.]***

Tests, Essays, Grade Allocation

Your final mark in the course will be based on the following required work:

Four in-class tests (closed-book) on topics covered in lecture	35%
*First Essay, approx. 750 words, due Friday February 28 th	10%
*Second (Major) Essay, approx. 2000 to 2500 words, due Friday April 3 rd (last day of classes)	30%
A formal, written final examination (two hours, closed-book) on topics covered in lecture (date/time t.b.a.)	25%

*The two essays for this course will be based on a single researched topic, which you may choose from a set of topics to be distributed during the second week of class. You are as well free, in consultation with me and subject to my approval, to modify one of these topics or develop your own topic. Your first essay will be a preliminary one, developing an approach to, and thesis on, your topic, outlining the major essay, and proposing any necessary research. You should begin work on this first essay very early in the term. Your second (major) essay will be a fully-developed and self-contained elaboration of your thesis. Your essay's grammar, sentence structure, paragraphing, and overall coherence will be evaluated according to the generally-accepted norms of formal Standard (Written) English, together with the standards articulated in the Writing Studies document 'Writing Studies Grading Guide' (available through the Writing Studies homepage). This evaluation will include an assessment of such things as logical consistency, originality, intellectual acuity, and overall quality of exposition.

Course Policies

Attendance

Writing 2210F/G is a lecture-based course, rather than a 'workshop' one. **However**, you should note the following two points.

1. Your understanding of the material covered in lecture will be cumulative; that is, each week's lecture discussion builds on and assumes familiarity with the discussions and elucidations in previous weeks, and **the in-class tests and final exam are based on those discussions** together with your readings of relevant textbook sections.

2. You will require formal academic accommodation if you miss a scheduled in-class test (excluding Test #1). See further under **Due Dates/Test Dates** below.

Due Dates/Test Dates

The essays are due, and the four in-class tests will be written, on the dates set out in the course Schedule. Requests for **extensions of the first essay due date** will be considered on a case-by-case basis; any extension granted will be for a maximum of one week only, unless granted pursuant to a formal request for accommodation (see 'Medical Accommodation Policy' below).

The second (major) essay is due and must be submitted on or before the last day of classes: Friday, April 3rd. That is a deadline; any extension will require a formal request for academic accommodation, a recommendation of 'INC' or similar issued directly to me by your academic counsellor. **Note** that an SRA, if used to cover this date – April 3rd – expires the morning of April 4th. If you apply an SRA to this end-of-term deadline your final essay will remain due no later than Monday April 6th.

Permission to 'make-up' a missed in-class test other than the first test (Test 1) will be granted *only* pursuant to an SRA or a formal request for accommodation (see 'Medical Accommodation Policy' below). Further, students should be aware that **any** requests for SPC for the final examination, INC for the course, and so on **must** be directed in the first instance to the Dean's office of the student's home faculty. Individual instructors do **not** have the authority to make these kinds of formal arrangements.

Medical Accommodation Policy

Western has a comprehensive policy covering requests for accommodation by students who are not registered with Student Accessibility Services. All students should review this policy here, under the heading 'Accommodation for Illness – Undergraduate Students', noting the procedures, restrictions, and notice requirements: http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12

In Writing courses, students covered by this policy who are seeking academic consideration must proceed as follows.

Writing Studies' Basic Policy: students seeking academic consideration **on medical or any other grounds** for any missed tests/exams, class attendance/participation components, or late or missed assignments must either initiate a Self-Reported Absence (**for a grade component worth up to 30% of their final grade, but excluding final exams scheduled during the exam period**) or apply in person to the Academic Counselling or Undergraduate office of their home Faculty and provide a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) or other supporting documentation as required in accordance with official Western policy (linked above).

Students seeking academic consideration **must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by either:

- i. A Self-Reported Absence, or
- ii. Academic consideration supported by the Academic Counselling Office.

Exception: in Writing Studies courses, a student seeking academic accommodation **on non-medical grounds** for any missed in-class tests/exams, class attendance/participation components, or late or missed assignments **worth less than 10% of a final grade** may first consult directly with her or his instructor, who will – in his or her discretion – elect either to make a decision on the request directly or instruct the student to follow the procedures set out in **Writing Studies' Basic Policy**.

Please note that individual instructors will **not under any circumstances** accept or read medical documentation directly offered by a student, whether in support of an application for accommodation on medical grounds or for related reasons (e.g. to explain an absence from class which may result in a grade penalty under an 'Attendance' policy in the course). **All medical documentation must** be submitted to the Academic Counselling or Undergraduate office of a student's home Faculty.

Students who are or who feel they should be covered under Student Accessibility Services should review Western policy here:

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_10

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Scholastic Offences

"Scholastic Offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>."

"Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence."

"All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>)."

Prerequisites

The University Senate requires the following statement to appear on course outlines:

"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites." The prerequisite for this course is:

At least 65% in one of [Writing 2101F/G](#), [Writing 2125F/G](#) (or the former [Writing 2121F/G](#)), [Writing 2111F/G](#), [Writing 2130F/G](#) or [Writing 2131F/G](#); or at least 65% in one of [Writing 1000F/G](#), [Writing 1030F/G](#), or [Writing 1031F/G](#); or at least 65% in each of [MIT 1020E](#) (or both of [MIT 1021F/G](#) and [MIT 1022F/G](#)) and [MIT 1025F/G](#); or permission of the Department (consult the Undergraduate Program Director, Writing).