

Department of English and Writing Studies

Writing 2210G/001 (Winter, 2021)
GrammarPhobia Demystified:
Contemporary Grammar for Writers

This class will be entirely online this year and asynchronous. Further information below under 'Attendance' and 'Due Dates/Test Dates'. See also the 'Welcome' message that you will find on the 'Getting Started' page on our course Owl site.

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

Email: beayrs@uwo.ca

Consultation: by Western email (beayrs@uwo.ca) or course Owl email. I will typically respond within 24 to 36 hours. No in-person office hours this term.

Required Texts:

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

The text is available (hard copy) through The Bookstore, or as an ebook direct from VitalSource <https://www.vitalsource.com/en-ca/products/rhetorical-grammar-martha-j-kolln-v9780134095547>

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

Schedule of Readings/Topics

Week of Jan. 11: Introduction: General Conceptual and Historical Background

Week of Jan. 18: Introduction (cont.)

Week of Jan. 25: Words and Word Classes
Rhetorical Grammar, c. 1 and 12

FIRST TEST (5%)

Week of Feb. 1: Words and Word Classes (cont.); Phrases
Rhetorical Grammar, c. 1 and 12; c. 5 pp. 78-90 and c. 6 pp. 91-99

Week of Feb. 8: Phrases
Rhetorical Grammar, c. 5 pp. 78-90 and c. 6 pp. 91-99

SECOND TEST (10%)

(Reading Week February 13 – 21)

Week of Feb. 22: Phrases; Sentence Patterns and Verbs
Rhetorical Grammar, c. 2 and 3

Week of Mar. 1: Sentence Patterns and Verbs
Rhetorical Grammar, c. 2 and 3

THIRD TEST (10%)

Week of Mar. 8: Sentence Patterns and Verbs
Rhetorical Grammar, c. 2 and 3

FIRST ESSAY (10%) DUE BY MONDAY MARCH 8th

Week of Mar. 15: Coordination and Subordination
Rhetorical Grammar, c. 4

FOURTH TEST (10%)

Week of Mar. 22: Choosing Adverbials
Rhetorical Grammar, c. 5

Week of Mar. 29: Choosing Adjectivals; Choosing Nominals
Rhetorical Grammar, c. 6 and c. 7

Week of April 5: Other Stylistic Variations; Cohesion
Rhetorical Grammar, c. 8 and c. 9

SECOND ESSAY DUE MONDAY APRIL 12th (30%)

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

Tests, Essays, Grade Allocation

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

Four tests on topics covered in lecture/text 35%

*First Essay, approx. 750 words, due Monday March 8th 10%

*Second (Major) Essay, approx. 2000 to 2500 words, due Monday April 12th 30%

A formal, written final examination ('2 hours') on topics covered in
lecture/text (date/time and procedure 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 'Essay Topics' to be posted 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. I'll say more about the subject-area requirements for the essay in the 'Essay Topics'. 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 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 General Grading Rubric' (posted in 'Getting Started' on

our Owl class site). This evaluation will include an assessment of such things as logical consistency, originality, intellectual acuity, and overall quality of exposition.

Course Policies

Attendance

Writing 2210G is a lecture-based course, rather than a ‘workshop’ one. This term, as well, we will be running entirely asynchronously. There are no *formal* ‘attendance’ requirements – or mandatory ‘discussion’ requirements – other than those associated with writing the four tests through the term, and the final exam. More on all this in the ‘Welcome’ document posted in ‘Getting Started’ on our Owl class site.

Due Dates/Test Dates

The essays are due 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 either by me directly and/or in accordance with the ‘Academic Consideration and Accommodation Policies’ below.

The second (major) essay is due and must be submitted on or before Monday April 12th (last day of classes). That is a course – and university -- 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 12th – expires the morning of April 13th. If you apply an SRA to this end-of-term deadline your final essay will remain due no later than Tuesday April 13th.

The four tests to be written during term should not require any special consideration or accommodation as to time. They are designed to be written in 50 or fewer minutes if written ‘live’. You will have a 48-hour ‘window’ in which to download, write, and upload each test through a dedicated link in ‘Assignments’ on Owl. Each test link will open at 9 a.m. on Monday of the week in which it is scheduled above, and close at 9 a.m. on the Wednesday.

The final exam will be similar: it will be designed to be written in ‘2 hours’, but you will be able to access the exam paper a minimum of 24 hours prior to the ‘start date/time’ scheduled by the Registrar’s office.

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.

Academic Consideration and Accommodation Policies

Note: the official Western [Accommodation Policy](#) appears below. This is in effect, but may be modified temporarily by the university during the academic year as conditions change.

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

(Note: if you are registered with Accessible Education, please note [see above under [Assignments and Grades](#)] that you will not need extra time for the three tests to be written throughout the term in this course, nor for the final exam. You will have a three-day window in which to write each test, each of which is designed to take 50 minutes to complete, and you will receive the final exam 48 hours before the beginning of the Registrar’s official time slot/date for it.

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student’s final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors by email within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following

circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see [Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#) and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

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

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing (email), prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

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).