

**The Chinese University of Hong Kong**  
**Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages**  
**Second Term, 2024-25**

**1. Course Code: LING1003**

**2. Course Title: Exploring Grammar: English**

**3. Course Description:**

Grammatical issues to be discussed include modality, pronouns, tense and aspects, form-function mapping, verbal properties, coordination and subordination, clause types, relative clauses, and passives. Common grammatical concepts and linguistic terms are introduced to prepare students for advanced courses. The course will deepen students' sensitivity toward the subtleties and complexities in the structure of English.

**4. Course Syllabus**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Contents</b>
Word formation	morpheme; allomorph; inflectional morphology; derivational morphology
Constituents and Phrases	functional categories; lexical categories;
Clause structure	predicate; complement; finite and non-finite clauses
Combining clauses	coordination; embedding; relative clauses; adverb clauses; simple clauses; compound clauses; complex clauses
Finite and Nonfinite Clauses	tense-person-number agreement; infinitival clauses; participle clauses; conditionals; verbless clauses;
Relative Clauses	bare relatives; free relatives; infinitival relatives; pseudo-cleft sentences; restrictive relatives; nonrestrictive relatives
Speech acts and grammar	interrogatives: argument questions; adjunct questions; determiner questions; intensifier questions; multiple wh-questions; negative inversion; wh-exclamatives
Passives and information structure	voice; agentless passives; simple passives; complex passives; be-passives vs. get-passives; adjectival passives; stative passives

**5. Learning Outcomes**

Upon successfully completing the subject, students should be able to:

- To enhance students' understanding of grammar contributes to meaning making;
- To foster students' understanding of the place of grammar within a broader framework of communication;
- To apply the concepts of morphological and syntactic analysis to describe the structure, meaning and use of English Grammar;
- To understand and use English effectively and accurately.

**6. Course Components (Teaching Modes and Learning Activities)**

In-class:

- Lecture: 2 hours
- Tutorial: 1 hour

Lecture will be offered face-to-face, with no hybrid mode of teaching and learning.

## 7. Assessment type

Assignments (two outside class)	20%
Midterm test	40%
Final examination	40%
Total	100%

## 8. Assessment Rubric

LING1003	Exploring Grammar: English
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recognize almost all the grammatical concepts covered in the course</li> <li>▪ Explain and describe language use with great depth</li> <li>▪ Excellent in analyzing language data using grammatical knowledge in English</li> <li>▪ Excellent in evaluating language data inductively and with a lot of critical insights</li> </ul>
A-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recognize most of the grammatical concepts covered in the course</li> <li>▪ Explain and describe language use with great depth</li> <li>▪ Good in analyzing language data using grammatical knowledge in English</li> <li>▪ Good in evaluating language data inductively and with some critical insights</li> </ul>
B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recognize some grammatical concepts covered in the course</li> <li>▪ Explain and describe language use with some depth</li> <li>▪ Satisfactory in analyzing language data using grammatical knowledge in English</li> <li>▪ Satisfactory in evaluating language data inductively</li> </ul>
C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recognize relatively few grammatical concepts covered in the course</li> <li>▪ Explain and describe language use with limited depth</li> <li>▪ Weak in analyzing language data using grammatical knowledge in English</li> <li>▪ Weak in evaluating language data inductively</li> </ul>
D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recognize very few grammatical concepts covered in the course</li> <li>▪ Explain and describe language use rather superficially</li> <li>▪ Very weak in analyzing language data using grammatical knowledge in English</li> <li>▪ Very weak in evaluating language data inductively</li> </ul>
F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recognize almost no grammatical concepts covered in the course</li> <li>▪ Explain and describe language use superficially</li> <li>▪ Extremely weak in analyzing language data using grammatical knowledge in English</li> <li>▪ Extremely weak in evaluating language data inductively</li> </ul>

## 9. Required and recommended reading

Downing, Angela. (2015). *English grammar: A university course*. Third edition. London: Routledge.  
 Huddleston, Rodney D., Geoffrey K. Pullum, (2022). *A Student's Introduction to English Grammar*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Cambridge University Press.

## 10. Feedback for evaluation

Students are encouraged to give feedback or comments on course contents and teaching materials throughout the course, in addition to the midterm and final course evaluation. Students can contact the lecturer directly. See contact details below.

## 11. Course Schedule

	Date	Topic	<i>A Student's Introduction to English Grammar</i> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition, Huddleston Pullum, and Reynolds CUP, 2022	<i>English grammar: A university course.</i> Angela Downing, Third edition. Routledge, 2015.	<i>Webster's Grammar Workbook</i>	
1	Jan 8	Basic concepts	Chapters 1, 2	Chapter 1	Chapter 1: Nouns	
2	Jan 15	Clause structure, Clause types	Chapter 11-12	Chapter 2	Chapter 2: Subordination Chapter 3: Relative Clauses	
3	Jan 22	Describing events: verbs, tense and aspect	Chapter 3	Chapters 8, 9	Chapter 4: Verbs Chapter 5: Verb Types	
4		Public holiday				
5	Feb 5	Assignment One: Due 5 February (10%)				Chapter 6: Modal Vs Chapter 7: Auxiliary Vs Chapter 8: Phrasal Vs
		Complements in clauses	Chapter 4	Chapter 3	Chapter 9: To-inf Chapter 10: Participles	
6	Feb 12	Speech acts and grammar	Chapter 10	Chapter 4, 5	Chapter 11: Questions Chapter 12: Orders	
7	Feb 19	Assignment Two: Due 19 February (10%)				Chapter 13: Present Tense Chapter 14: Past Tense Chapter 15: Future Tense
		Nouns and determinatives	Chapter 5	Chapter 10	Chapter 16: Determiners Chapter 17: Demonstratives	
8	Feb 26	Adjectives and adverbs	Chapter 6, 13	Chapter 11	Chapter 18: Adjectives Chapter 19: Adverbs	
9		Reading Week				Chapter 20: Quantifiers Chapter 21: Comparison Chapter 22: Gerunds
10	Mar 12	Midterm Test (40%)				
11	Mar 19	Prepositions and adjuncts, negation	Chapter 7-9	Chapter 12	Chapter 23: Prepositions Chapter 24: Pronouns	
12	April 2	Combining clauses	Chapter 15	Chapter 7	Chapter 25: Coordination Chapter 26: Cleft	
13	April 9	Information structure	Chapter 16	Chapter 6	Chapter 27: Reported Chapter 28: Voice Chapter 29: Subj-Verb Agree	
14	April 16	Review				
	April 23	Final Examination (40%)				

## 12. Contact details

Professor Jonathan WEBSTER  
Email: jonathanjameswebster@cuhk.edu.hk

## 13. Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>. **With each assignment, students will be required to submit a statement that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures.**

You have to submit a soft copy to VeriGuide 2020 on or before the date of the deadline via <https://academic2.veriguide.org/cuhk/login>. Assignments with an originality score above 20% will **not** be graded.

#### **14. Use of Generative AI tools**

You have to submit a soft copy to VeriGuide AWD on or before the date of the deadline via <https://awd.veriguide.org/>. Assignments with an AI Detected score above 20% will **not** be graded.