

**The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Department of Linguistics and Modern
Languages Second Term, 2025-26**

Course Code: LING1003

Course Title: Exploring Grammar: English

Course Description:

Grammatical issues to be discussed include pronouns, tense and aspect, 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.

Learning Outcomes

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

- To enhance students' understanding of how grammar contributes to meaning making.
- To apply the concepts of syntactic analysis to describe the structure, meaning and use of English Grammar.
- To understand and use English effectively and accurately.

Course Syllabus

Topics	Concepts
Categories	lexical and grammatical categories
Phrases	noun phrase; verb phrase; adjective phrase; prepositional phrase
Clause structure	Subject and predicate; complements
Combining clauses	coordination; embedding
Finite and Nonfinite Clauses	tense-person-number agreement; functions of non-finites;
Relative Clauses	restrictive relatives; non-restrictive relatives
Speech acts	interrogatives and exclamations
Voice	active and passive

Course components: Teaching modes and Learning activities

Lecture: 2 hrs 14:30 – 16:15 pm (Lecture will be offered face-to-face, with no hybrid mode of teaching and learning.)

Interactive Tutorial: 1 hr 16:30 am – 17:15 pm

Lecture (hrs) In class	Interactive tutorial (hr) In class
2	1
M	M

M: Mandatory activity in the course

Assessment Scheme

Assignments (two homework tasks (10% each))	20%
Midterm test	40%
Final examination	40%
Total	100%

Late submission policy:

(Please specify the late submission policy of each of the course assessments. The policy should detail the penalties for late submission of the assessment, circumstances under which extensions may be granted, and if applicable, the process for requesting extensions. For details, please refer to Clause 9 of the [supplementary assessment guidelines for University GE courses](#).)

The requirement to include a late submission policy in the course outline for each of the assessments in the University GE courses was introduced by SCGE in May 2024. A clear submission policy provides a structured framework for teachers to deal with late submissions of assignments, and for students to understand the submission requirements. This helps minimize disputes between teachers and students arising from the lack of a clear policy and avoid delays in the grading process and/or providing feedback to students. This practice also aligns with the GE standards at other institutions, creating a structured and fair learning environment for all students. The examples below provide guidance for course teachers in designing a late submission policy. For more details, please refer to “*A Guide for Teachers of University GE courses*”.

Assessment task	Extension allowed (Y/N)	Late submission policy
Homework assignments	Y	<i>Unless an extension is granted, late submissions will result in a deduction of 5% of the marks awarded per day, with no marks to be given for a delay beyond 5 calendar days. Extension requests, supported by appropriate documentation, should be submitted to the course teacher for approval at least one week before the deadline in writing. Only unforeseen or exceptional circumstances beyond a student's control will be considered.</i>

Required reading

Elly van Gelderen. 2010. Introduction to the Grammar of English. John Benjamins.

Feedback for evaluation

Students are encouraged to give their feedback via email, Blackboard, and through use of the Early Feedback Collection System in the middle of the semester.

Grade descriptors

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

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	An Introduction to the Grammar of English Elly van Gelderen John Benjamins 2010
1	Jan 7	Introduction	Chapter 1
2	Jan 14	Categories: Lexical, Grammatical	Chapter 2
3	Jan 21	Phrases	Chapter 3
4	Jan 28	Functions in the sentence	Chapter 4
	Jan 30	1 st homework assignment due	
5	Feb 4	More functions, of prepositions and particles	Chapter 5
6	Feb 11	Structure of the Verb group in the VP	Chapter 6
7	Lunar New Year Vacation		
8	Feb 25	Finite clauses: Embedded and coordinated	Chapter 7
9	Reading Week		
10	Mar 11	Midterm test	
11	Mar 18	Non-finite clauses	Chapter 8

	Mar 20	2 nd homework assignment due	
12	Mar 25	Structure of PP, AdjP, AdvP and NP	Chapter 9
13	Apr 1	Clauses as parts of NPs and AdjPs	Chapter 10
14	Apr 8	Special sentences	Chapter 11
15	Apr 15	Review	
Make-up class period (20-21 April)		Final Exam	

Contact details of the instructor

Instructor:	
Name:	Prof Jonathan J Webster
Email:	jonathanjameswebster@cuhk.edu.hk
Teaching Venue:	LSK-210
Lecture/Tutorial Time:	Wednesday, 14:30-17:15
Teaching Assistant/Tutor:	
Name:	DONG, Qiren
Email:	1155208916@link.cuhk.edu.hk
Name:	RAO, Xiaohui
Email:	1155197282@link.cuhk.edu.hk

A facility for posting course announcements

A Blackboard account has been set up for students to access information of the course.

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 signed **declaration** that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures.

- For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment.
- Students' work will be investigated by AI content detection software to determine originality.
- Students are fully aware of the AI approach(es) adopted in the course.

Assignments without a properly signed declaration will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

The submission of a piece of work, or a part of a piece of work, for more than one purpose (e.g. to satisfy the requirements in two different courses) without declaration to this effect shall be regarded as having committed undeclared multiple submissions. It is common and acceptable to reuse a turn of phrase or a sentence or two from one's own work; but wholesale reuse is problematic. In any case, agreement from the course teacher(s) concerned should

be obtained prior to the submission of the piece of work.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools in Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Approach 1 - All use of AI tools is prohibited in assignments and assessment tasks

Use of AI tools for grading and provision of feedback on student work (include this Section where applicable)

Approach 1 - All use of AI tools is prohibited for grading and provision of feedback on student work

Guidelines on sharing lecture recordings

1. The copyright of any lecture recordings shared in the course, whether they are produced by teachers, students, or peer note-takers, belongs to the University.
2. Students should not share these recordings with others without obtaining prior written consent from the teacher.