Humanities 3605: Grammar and Usage in Society

Fall 2008

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Texts
Rodby & Winterowd, *The Uses of Grammar*
Garner, *The Oxford Dictionary of American Usage and Style*

Materials
Crayola 24-color pencil set

Course goals
This course is designed to teach you the fundamentals of English grammar and to help you understand contemporary problems of usage.

Course work and grading

- Exam 1 25%
- Exam 2 25%
- Exam 3 25%
- Usage project 25%

The exams are take-home exams. The project involves researching an assigned usage problem, reporting on it to the class, and writing a paper on it.

Exercises are assigned for most class sessions, and we will discuss the answers in class. I will *not* collect and correct the exercises. Doing them **before you come to class** is essential to your learning grammar, and as they are the main way for you to prepare for the exams, you will want to take careful notes on them and ask questions about anything you do not understand.

Work schedule (see the back of this sheet)

ADA Policy
Michigan Tech complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at Michigan Tech, please call the Dean of Students Office, at 487-2212. For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head or the Affirmative Action Office, at 487-3310.

NOTE: Please let me know if you have difficulty discerning the differences between colors.

WORK SCHEDULE AND DUE DATES

Web exercises and readings in quotation marks are found on the course website.

Sept 2	Introduction
Sept 4	Do web exercises 2 and 3; read Chapter 1; **Usage Project topic choice due**
Sept 9	Read Chapter 2; do exercise 2.2
Sept 11	Do web exercise 4
Sept 16	Read "Basic Sentence Structure"; do web exercise 5; read pp. 36-39; do exercise 4.1
Sept 18	Read pp. 43-51; do exercise 5.1
Sept 23	Do web exercise 6; read pp. 52-61; do exercises 5.2 and 5.3
Sept 25	Read "Verbs and their associated functions"; do web exercise 7; read Chapter 6; do exercises 6.1-6.5
Sept 30	Read pp. 94-112; do exercises 8.1 and 8.3; **Usage Project preliminary report due;**
Oct 1	Review; **Exam 1 handed out**
Oct 7	Read "Nonfinite Verbs"; read pp. 114-15; do exercise 8.4
Oct 9	Read Chapter 9; do exercises 9.1- 9.5
Oct 14	**Exam 1 due**
Oct 16	**No class**
Oct 21	Read "Adjectives"; read Chapter 11; do exercises 11.1-11.6
Oct 23	Read "Adverbs"; read Chapter 13; do exercises 13.1-13.4
Oct 28	Do web exercise 8; read "Clauses"
Oct 30	Read Chapter 16; do exercises 16.1, 16.2, 16.4, and 16.5
Nov 4	Do web exercise 9; read pp. 138-47; do exercises 10.1-10.3
Nov 6	Read pp. 148-53; do exercises 10.4 and 10.5; **Exam 2 handed out**
Nov 11	Do web exercise 10
Nov 13	Read Chapter 12; do exercises 12.1-12.5
Nov 18	Do web exercises 11 and 12
Nov 20	**Exam 2 due**
	Thanksgiving break
Dec 2	Read Chapter 14; do exercises 14.2-14.4
Dec 4	Do web exercise 13
Dec 9	Read "Particles and Prepositions"; read Chapter 15; do exercises 15.1-15.3; **Exam 3 handed out**
Dec 11	Review; **Usage Project paper due**
Dec 18	**Exam 3 due by 4 pm**