

UNIVERSITY OF COSTA RICA
 School of Modern Languages
 B. A. in English and B. A. and *Profesorado* in English Teaching

Course Syllabus (I-2017)

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| Name: Morphosyntax I | Requisites: LM-1234 & LM-1244 |
| Code: LM-1353 | Co-requisites: LM-1351 and LM-1352 |
| Credits: 2 | Type: B.A. in English & B.A. and <i>Profesorado</i> in English Teaching Curriculum (core course) |
| Schedule: 3 hours / week in-class work 6 hours / week out-of-class work | Cycle: I semester |
| Level: Third Year | |

I. Description

Morphosyntax I is designed for third level students of the English and English Teaching majors. This course merges *traditional descriptive grammar* with principles of *structural grammar* to have students describe how the English sentences, clauses, phrases and words are structured and syntactically interrelated as units that convey meaning. For this purpose, the course includes the formal study of both English morphology and syntax in a variety of contexts. It also prepares students to produce and describe syntactically and semantically varied structures up to the required performance of third level students. This course uses the meta-language of Grammar I & II which follow the prescriptive, traditional grammar approach to develop the descriptive, structural grammar framework.

II. General objective

Students will use syntactic and morphological analysis to enhance their understanding of the systematic nature of English language and its relevance for written and spoken discourse.

III. Specific objectives

By the end of the course, students will

- A. correctly use morphemes as basic units of meaning that make up words,
- B. distinguish between the two word classes – form classes and structure classes – based on their forms, meanings, and functions in sentences,
- C. distinguish among the various structure classes that signal specific form classes,
- D. use morphemes, affixes, and signal words to derive or select the correct word form to complete a unit of thought,
- E. differentiate among the ten basic sentence patterns of the English language and their constituents,
- F. identify the form and function of nominals in sentence patterns, and
- G. write syntactically correct and appropriate sentences using a variety of nominal forms and functions.

Contents

I. Unit 1: Morphology (words and word formation)

A. Morphemes

1. Bases and affixes
2. Bound and free morphemes
3. Derivational and inflectional morphemes
4. Allomorphs
5. Homonyms
6. Compound words

II. Unit 2: Word classes

A. Form classes

1. Nouns
2. Verbs
3. Adjectives
4. Adverbs

B. Structure classes

1. Determiners
2. Auxiliaries
3. Qualifiers
4. Prepositions
5. Conjunctions
6. Interrogatives
7. Expletives

An introduction to Words and Phrases (Chapter 2)

III. Unit 3: Sentence Patterns

A. Sentence Structure and slots

B. The basic sentence patterns

1. The *be* patterns
2. The linking verb patterns
3. The intransitive pattern
4. The transitive patterns

IV. Unit 4: The Noun Phrase Functions: Nominals

A. The nominal slots

B. Appositives

C. Gerunds

D. Infinitives

E. Nominal clauses

F. Delayed subject

IV. Methodology

A lecture/discussion format will be used for much of the course. Sets of problems (exercises) will be worked on during class. Therefore, students are expected to do the assigned readings and work through the problems before coming to class. Group and pair work will also be used to solve additional problems in class. This course emphasizes individual preparation and contribution; therefore, students will be asked to present their analysis results to the class from time to time. A variety of tasks and authentic texts will be used to draw students' attention to the target structure(s) as they are used in a variety of contexts. Students will also be required to produce their own sentences to enhance their understanding of the units studied throughout the semester.

V. Evaluation

Components and percentages

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| 4 Quizzes (minimum) | 40% |
| Exam I | 30% |
| Exam II | 30% |

VII. Bibliography

- Kolln, M., & Funk, R. (2011). *Understanding English Grammar* (9th Ed.). New York: Longman.
- Kolln, M., & Funk, R. (2006). *Exercises for Understanding English Grammar* (4th Ed.). New York: Longman.

VIII. Other resources and references

A. Textbooks

- Bing, J. (1989). *Grammar Guide: English Grammar in Context*. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall Regents.
- Celce-Murcia, M., & Larsen-Freeman, D. (1999). *The Grammar Book* (2nd Ed.). USA: Heinle & Heinle.
- Payne, T. (1997). *Describing Morphosyntax*. United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press

B. Websites

- Englishpage.com. (1998). *Englishpage.com*. Retrieved from <http://www.englishpage.com/>
- Purdue University. (1998). *The Purdue online writing lab*. Retrieved from <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>
- The University of Victoria. (2001). *The University of victoria's hypertext writer's guide*. Retrieved from <http://web.uvic.ca/wguide/>
- Aarts, Bas. (2008). *Internet grammar of english*. Retrieved from <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/internet-grammar/>

C. Others

- Authentic texts taken from newspapers and magazines published in English (e.g., *The Washington Post*, *Time Magazine*, *The Tico Times*, etc.)

Teacher-designed exercises

Additional information

1. Quizzes and exams will always be announced. They will include several sections (recognition, analysis, and production), as applicable.
2. Late work (assignments or quizzes) will not be authorized unless well-justified reasons are filed in due time according to the procedures provided for in the Institution's rules and regulations (*Reglamento de Régimen Académico Estudiantil*).
3. Cell phones must be off and put away at all times during class.
4. Students who get an absolute 9 or above in all quizzes and in exam I (not an overall average of all grades) will be exempted from taking the second exam.

IX. Tentative Course Schedule

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| Week 1 Mar 13 - 17 <i>Course Introduction</i> <i>Morphemes</i> | Week 10 May 15 – 19 TEST 1 |
| Week 2 Mar 20 – 24 <i>Morphemes</i> | Week 11 May 22 – 26 <i>Cont. Sentence Patterns</i> |
| Week 3 Mar 27 - 31 <i>Introduction to Form Classes</i> | Week 12 May 29 – June 2 <i>Cont. Sentence Patterns</i> <i>Introduction to Nominals</i> |
| Week 4 Apr 3 – 7 <i>Cont. Form Classes</i> | Week 13 June 5 – 9 <i>Cont. Nominals</i> |
| Week 5 Apr 10 – 14 Holiday (Easter Week) | Week 14 June 12 – 16 <i>Cont. Nominals</i> |
| Week 6 Apr 17- 21 <i>Structure Classes</i> | Week 15 June 19 – 23 <i>Cont. Nominals</i> |
| Week 7 Apr 24 – 28 (University Week) <i>Cont. Structure Classes</i> | Week 16 June 26 – 30 <i>Review for test 2</i> |
| Week 8 May 1 - 5 <i>Holiday Labor Day (Group 01)</i> | Week 17 July 3 – 7 TEST 2 |
| Week 9 May 8 – 12 <i>Review for test 1</i> <i>Introduce Sentence Patterns</i> | Test: "Ampliacion" July 11 th Hour and room will be announced |

Results will be handed in on Tuesday, July 4th.