

**Universidad de Costa Rica**  
**Escuela de Lenguas Modernas**  
**Bachillerato en Inglés**  
**Sección de II a IV Año**

## **SYLLABUS**

<b>Course: English Grammar VI</b>	<b>Requisite: LM 0356</b>
<b>Code: LM-0357</b>	<b>Corequisite : None</b>
<b>Credit hours: 2</b>	<b>Semester : VIII</b>
<b>Class time: 3 hours</b> <b>Out of class: 3 hours</b>	<b>Type : Mixed</b>
<b>Level: Fourth year</b>	<b>On site course</b>

### **I. Course description**

This course is designed to help students develop a deeper understanding of advanced principles of English grammar. It will specifically allow them to examine how grammar works in academic settings and to apply this knowledge into their writing and speaking. The course is designed to build upon students' grammatical command of English achieved in previous courses, and more specifically on those included in LM-0356 (English Grammar V). Authentic texts and texts produced by students will be used to analyze grammatical phenomena that are distinctive of academic oral and written communication.

This course will use *Mediación Virtual* as a repository for assignments, answer keys, and projects.

### **II. Objectives**

#### **General objective**

Upon completion of this course the student will have reliably demonstrated the ability to justify the choice of particular grammatical structures in academic writing or speaking through proper syntactical analysis.

#### **Specific objectives**

After completing this course the student will be able to

- A. apply the proper subject-verb agreement rules in sentences with specific subjects .
- B. utilize the most appropriate verbal tense, aspect or voice in the context of a research literature review.
- C. produce grammatical statements by using specific sentence patterns.
- D. utilize nouns in context according to meaning (common/proper and count/noncount).
- E. use determiners based on specific reference rules of nouns or their condition as count or noncount and singular or plural nouns.

- F. use adjectivals within noun phrases and in their proper order.
- G. rewrite sentences including appropriate nominalization.
- H. compose sentences including relative clauses.
- I. rephrase sentences by reducing relative clauses to non-finite forms.
- J. use nominal clauses and embedded clauses in the production of written sentences.
- K. utilize adverbials purposefully.

### **III. Contents**

- 1. Basic sentence patterns
  - a. Different kinds of verbs
  - b. Verb complements
- 2. Adverbials
  - a. Types of adverbials
  - b. Placement of adverbials
- 3. Adjectivals
  - a. Pre headword modifiers
  - b. Post headword modifiers
- 4. Nominals
  - a. Nominals in writing
  - b. Nominals for focus
- 5. Verbals
  - a. Basic tenses: Present simple, past simple, present perfect
  - b. Other tenses
  - c. Passive voice
  - d. Subject-verb agreement
- 6. Finite and non-finite clauses
  - a. Relative clauses
  - b. Nominal clauses
  - c. Reduced embedded clauses
- 7. Noun phrases
  - a. Determiners and quantifiers
  - b. Modifiers
  - c. Nominalization

#### IV. Methodology

Most of the class time will be dedicated to the analysis of grammatical structures used in academic settings. The major syntactical elements will be presented through lectures and text analysis. Students, on their part, will be given the chance to analyze texts individually, in pairs or in groups and report on their findings. During class time, students will be presented with authentic texts from academic sources to get them acquainted with different registers and rhetorical patterns. Also, students' own academic texts can be used for syntactical analysis and comparison. Students are expected to read the material out of class and come prepared with questions that will be used as input for learning activities. Mediación Virtual will function as a repository for extra material, assignments, and answer keys.

#### V. Evaluation

A. Quizzes (at least 3-in class) .....	25%
B. Portfolio (online).....	25%
C. Test I (in class).....	25%
D. Test II (in class).....	25%

The learning portfolio consists of a collection of students' learning experiences during the development of the course. After each course section, determined by the topics covered, students are expected to look through articles in their academic discipline and find examples of the grammatical structures or syntactical topics studied in class. These samples will be analyzed and collected in a portfolio, which will be evaluated at different points during the semester. The data collection and analysis will be done in groups to reinforce cooperation and collaborative work.

#### VI. Sources

*Base textbooks:*

Caplan, N. A. (2019). *Grammar choices for graduate and professional writers*. University of Michigan Press.

Kolln, M., & Gray, L. (2013). *Rhetorical Grammar: Grammatical Choices, Rhetorical Effects* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). Boston: Pearson.

Kolln, M., & Funk, R. (2009). *Understanding English grammar* (8<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: Longman.

#### ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Bing, J. (1989). *Grammar Guide: English Grammar in Context*. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall Regents.

Celce-Murcia, M., & Larsen-Freeman, D. (1999). *The Grammar Book* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). New York: Heinle & Heinle.

- Hinkel, E., & Fotos, S. (Eds.). (2002). *New perspectives on grammar teaching in second language classrooms*. Mahwah, NJ: L. Erlbaum Associates.
- Kumar, R. (2005). *Research methodology: A step-by-step guide for beginners*. London: SAGE.
- Maurer, J. (2000). *Focus on Grammar*. New York: Addison Wesley Longman.
- Swales, J., & Feak, C. (2012). *Academic writing for graduate students: Essential tasks and skills* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Ann Arbor: Michigan University Press.
- Swales, J., & Feak, C. (2009). *Telling a research story: Writing a literature review*. Ann Arbor: Michigan University Press.
- Wallwork, A. (2013). *English for academic research, writing exercises*. New York: Springer.

## VII. Tentative timetable

WEEK	ACTIVITY
1. March 9-13	Introduction to the course Review of sentence patterns
2. March 16-20	More on sentence patterns Adverbials
3. March 23-27	Adverbials
March 30 April 3	<b>EASTER</b>
4. April 6-10	<b>Quiz # 1 (During class time)</b> Adjectivals
5. April 13-17	Adjectivals
6. April 20-24 <b>Semana U</b>	Nominals
7. Ap. 27-May 1	<b>Portfolio 1 (Online)</b> <b>Quiz # 2 (During class time)</b>
8. May 4-8	Review for exam I Verbals in the Literature Review
9. May 11-15	<b>First exam (During class time)</b>
10. May 18 - 22	Verbals in the Literature Review
11. May 25-29	<b>Portfolio 2<sup>nd</sup> installment (online)</b> Finite and non finite clauses in the Research Introduction
12. June 1-5	Finite and non finite clauses in the Research Introduction
13. June 8-12	<b>Quiz 3 (During class time)</b> Noun phrases in headings and abstract
14. June 15-19	Noun phrases in headings and abstract
15. June 22-26	<b>Portfolio 3<sup>rd</sup> installment (Online)</b> Review
16. June 29 July 3	<b>Second exam (During class time)</b>
17. July 3	<b>Grades</b>
Monday, July 13	<b>Ampliación (1 p.m.) (Room to be announced later)</b>