

• Structure and History of the English Language

English 3303

Summer II 2015

web

Dr. Don Walden

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Goals

This course is about the way English works – how it communicates ideas from one person to another. Essentially, “structure” means grammar, the words, writing and speaking systems, and texts. We’ll focus on grammar and the words. “History” refers to how English evolved from a language that is foreign to us today. After taking the course, you should be able to

Understand and explain important grammar conventions more easily by referring to how they affect meaning and communication.

Know the basic steps in the evolution of English from Old English to modern American English.

Text

There will be no text. I shall post essays on Blackboard explaining the concepts and refer to you web sites.

Grading

Your grade will be based on how well you demonstrate that you understand the concepts of grammar and history that we discuss. You will get a chance to accumulate up to 1,000 points, and if you have 900 or more, you get an A, and so on. Specifically, you will:

Submit daily assignments, worth 32 or 40 points each. In most, you will write incorrect sentences and correct them. Assignments are under course content.

Participate in two discussions on Blackboard. You will design lessons to teach concepts without reference to English teacher jargon and then respond to your classmates’ suggestions.

Submit a term project in which you will design a way to teach some aspect of English. You will write exercises, etc. that will help someone learn English.

Take a final examination, covering both structure and history.

Submitting assignments

Never submit anything to me through Blackboard unless I specifically say to do so. Instead, use your e-mail program to send to my e-mail program, dwalden@sulross.edu. In the subject line, use the subject specified on the fourth line of the assignment sheet. For an example, the subject line for the first assignment is Language sentence. Type the subject line exactly as I have written it. Do not abbreviate, punctuate, reverse words, capitalize except where I have capitalized, or do anything to the subject line. Type it exactly as I have it. This makes my bookkeeping easier and will make me think you are smart.

Plagiarism

Plagiarized work will not be accepted. Plagiarism means turning in someone else's work as your own. If you use anything from someone else, you must acknowledge where you got it. If not, it will not be accepted, and you will get a zero.

Students with disabilities

Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. Students who need accessibility services should contact Kathy Biddick at 830-279-3003. The address is 2623 Garner Field Road, Uvalde, Texas 78801.

Distance education

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should submit online assignments through Blackboard or SRSU email, which require secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

Schedule

The dates below are the dates when assignments are due. There are PowerPoint Presentations to explain each topic, and the assignments are under Course Content.

July 10, Basic sentence structure

July 11, Writing engaging sentences

July 13, More on engaging sentences

July 15, Nouns and pronouns

July 17, Discussion

July 18, adjectives and adverbs

July 19, response to the first discussion question

July 20, possessives and plurals

July 22, punctuation

July 24, lexemes'

July 25, discussion

July 26, Proposal for your term project

July 27, response to the second discussion question

July 28, draft of your term project

July 30, second draft

August 1, Power Point presentation for your term project

August 3, the final draft of your term project

August 5, Prehistory and Old English

August 7, Middle English

August 9, Modern English

August 11, American English

August 13, final examination online