

**Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College**  
**English 5308 Historical and Pedagogical Approaches to Grammar**  
**Fall 2016**

**Dr. Sally Roche** [smoreman@sulross.edu](mailto:smoreman@sulross.edu); 830 469 6686

**Office:** Sul Ross RGC Castroville Site; Room 100C

**Office Hours:** Mondays & Wednesdays 9:00-3:00 and by appointment. Note: I will be in Del Rio some Tuesdays, Eagle Pass and Uvalde some Thursdays. Please contact me if you would like an appointment at those campuses.

### Course Description

English 5308 is a reading and research-based course about English grammar. The course is designed for students with varying levels of linguistic competence; it will cater to a wide range of interests in the topic. The course will cover a history of grammar as well as pedagogical, linguistic, and philosophical approaches to grammar. We will explore and evaluate prescriptive school grammar, phrase-structure grammar, Chomsky's critique of phrase-structure grammar, and cognitive grammar. Students will conduct research to write a research paper and share their findings on Blackboard.

### English Program Student Learning Outcomes

The graduating student in English will demonstrate that he/she can

- construct essays that demonstrate clear topic/thesis, development, organization, and appropriate language
- select, evaluate, and synthesize primary and secondary sources and correctly document those sources
- demonstrate knowledge of a variety of literature, of elements of literature, and of literary genres necessary for success in teaching or in graduate school.

### English 5308 Student Learning Objectives

At the end of the course, students will be able to

1. identify different linguistic approaches to the study of grammar, including traditional grammar, phrase structure grammar and cognitive grammar (Measures: discussions, tests);
2. explain dialects including standard English (Measures: discussions, tests,);
3. apply grammar theories to teaching and preparing teaching materials for high school and college teaching (Measures: discussions, tests);
4. write a clear and theoretically correct research paper on the subject of grammar (Measures: researched essay).

### Text

James D. Williams. *The Teacher's Grammar Book*. 2nd ed. Mahwah; New Jersey, Lawrence Erlbaum P, 2005.

### How This Blackboard Course Will Work

I will use Announcements for most communications with you.

Course instruction will be posted to Announcements and to the Handouts and Links area. When I post materials, I alert you to that with an Announcement.

In short, please check Announcements Mondays especially and weekdays.

I reserve weekends for our readings; I will not post on the weekends.

### Grade Determination

Assignment	Date Due	Possible Points	SLO Measured
Discussions	Fridays	10@10 points each	1, 2, 3
Responses to each other	Mondays		
Tests			
--Test #1	9/23	100	1, 2, 3
--Test #2	10/28	100	1, 2, 3
--Test #3 (Final Exam)	12/5	200	1, 2, 3

**Research Project:**

--Proposal	9/16	100	3, 4
--Annotated Bibliography	10/7	100	4
--Researched Paper	11/18	300	3, 4
Total		1000	1, 2, 3, 4

**Formatting Assignments and Using Blackboard**

In order for all of us to be able to open and read your writing, please write and/or save your documents as “.doc, .docx, or .rtf.” If you encounter technical problems, contact Sandy Bogus at [sbogus@sulross.edu](mailto:sbogus@sulross.edu) (432 837 8523). Also, changing the internet browser can help. As a rule, Blackboard works best with Google Chrome. Assignments must be submitted to the appropriate assignment link in Blackboard; assignments sent through email cannot be accepted.

**Discussions****Your weekly discussions are due by 11:59 p.m. Fridays.**

Discussions (300 words approx.) provide opportunities for you to make sense of the week’s readings through written conversations that closely connect to the text. Your purpose is to extend and deepen each other’s understanding of the material in writing that is clear, succinct, and developed with illustrative textual references.

**Your responses to each other (respond to at least two students) are due by 11:59 p.m. Mondays.** Your responses (250 words) to each other should be similarly clear and well developed with textual references.

**Researched Paper is due November 18 by 11:59 p.m.**

The researched paper consists of three documents:

- A one-page proposal identifying question/problem, your approach to addressing it, and the value of your paper for your intended audience; this is due September 16 by 11:59 p.m.
- An annotated bibliography of at least ten sources; due October 7 by 11:59 p.m. For each source, provide a brief annotation that
  - describes the source’s purpose,
  - outlines briefly its major ideas, and
  - evaluates its value for scholars and teachers.
- A 15 page researched paper for college-level scholars or instructors. An assignment handout will be provided.

**Tests**

The three tests will consist of short answer questions and essay questions. You will received the details in announcements.

**Grading**

A: 90 – 100

B: 80 – 89

C: 70 – 79

D: 60 – 69

F: 0 – 59

Course Grade is calculated as a percentage of your cumulative points. So if you earn 793 points, then your grade is 79% or a C.

**Course Policies**

**SRSU Distance Education Policy:** Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university’s academic support services, such as Smarthinking, library resources, such as online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires 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.

### **Scholastic Honesty**

All work submitted must be your own and must be written exclusively for this class; the use of sources must be appropriately, correctly, and consistently documented. Quotations, paraphrases, or summaries that are not documented and the use of papers written by others constitute plagiarism.

Three different acts are considered plagiarism:

- (1) failing to cite quotations and borrowed ideas,
- (2) failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks, and
- (3) failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words.

**A grade of "F" for the course is earned if the work exhibits any of these kinds of scholastic dishonesty.**

### **Turn in Papers/Assignments to Blackboard**

All assignments must be submitted to Blackboard. If you encounter technical problems, please contact Sandy Bogus at [sbogus@sulross.edu](mailto:sbogus@sulross.edu) (432 837 8523). Also, changing the internet browser can help; Blackboard works best with Chrome. Do not email me your assignments; instead email me if Sandy Bogus and you cannot resolve technical issues preventing you from submitting your assignment.

### **Life Challenges and This Course**

If life gets in the way, and you find yourself unable to submit discussions by the deadline, please email or call me as early as possible so that we can assess the situation and possibly make arrangements for you to complete the assignments. My priority is every student's success, but if I am not aware of a student's challenges, then I cannot help.

### **Late Submissions Not Permitted**

All assignments must be submitted by the deadline. Discussion Board postings must be posted by 11:59 p.m. on Fridays and responses must be posted by 11:59 p.m. on Mondays so that we can have timely conversations about the weekly readings. The discussions will become unavailable after the deadlines, so if you miss a discussion, just move on to the next week's reading and writing.

### **ADA Statement**

SRSU Rio Grande College is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Disability Services Coordinator assists students with disabilities in gaining opportunities for full participation in programs, services and activities. The Disability Services Coordinator is the Director of Student Services 830-758-5006 in Eagle Pass, Texas.

### **Schedule**

Note: All assignments will be due by end of day (11:59 p.m.) of deadline

Week One 8/22 to 8/26	Readings posted to the Handouts and Links area in Blackboard Discussion due Friday 8/26 and two responses due Monday, 8/29
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Week Two 8/29 to 9/2	Williams Chapter 1: "A Short History of Grammar" Discussion due Friday and two responses due Monday
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Week Three 9/5 to 9/9	Williams Chapter 2: "Teaching Grammar" Discussion due Friday and two responses due Monday
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Week Four	Williams Chapter 3: "Traditional Grammar"
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9/12 to 9/16 Proposal due Friday; discussion due Friday and two responses due Monday

Week Five Williams Chapter 3: "Traditional Grammar"  
9/19 to 9/23 Test #1 Friday

Week Six Williams Chapter 3: "Traditional Grammar"  
9/26 to 9/30 Discussion due Friday and two responses due Monday

Week Seven Williams Chapter 4: "Phrase Structure Grammar"  
10/3 to 10/7 Annotated Bibliography due Friday

Week Eight Williams Chapter 4: "Phrase Structure Grammar"  
10/10 to 10/14 Discussion due Friday and two responses due Monday

Week Nine Williams Chapter 7: "Dialects"  
10/17 to 10/21 Discussion due Friday and two responses due Monday

Week Ten Williams Chapter 7: "Dialects"  
10/24 to 10/28 Test #2

Week Eleven Williams Chapter 5: "Noam Chomsky and Grammar"  
10/31 to 11/4 Discussion due Friday and two responses due Monday

Week Twelve Williams Chapter 6: "Cognitive Grammar"  
11/7 to 11/11 Discussion due Friday and two responses due Monday

Week Thirteen Review Williams Chapter 2: "Teaching Grammar"  
11/14 to 11/18 Researched Paper due Friday

Week Fourteen Course Review  
11/28 to 12/2 Discussion due Friday and two responses due Monday

Final Exam

Test #3, a cumulative final exam, will be due by 11:59 p.m. Monday December 5