

Department of English and Writing Studies

Writing 2210G/001 (Winter, 2024) GrammarPhobia Demystified: Contemporary Grammar for Writers

A study of how the English language works in practice, the course surveys the grammatical structure of the language, using descriptive vocabulary and concepts derived from current linguistic theory, and explores the relationship of that grammatical structure to questions of style and rhetorical intention – to the practice of writing. Previous experience in linguistics is neither expected nor required.

Required Texts:

Kolln, Martha and Loretta Gray, Rhetorical Grammar: Grammatical Choices, Rhetorical Effects Eighth Edition. Pearson, 2017.

The text is available through The Bookstore, or as an ebook direct from VitalSource
<https://www.vitalsource.com/en-ca/products/rhetorical-grammar-martha-j-kolln-v9780134095547>

[A good, university-level dictionary (e.g. the Oxford Concise or equivalent) recommended.]

Tests, Essays, Grade Allocation, Prerequisites, Scholastic Offences

Your final mark in the course will be based on the following required work:

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| Four tests during term on topics covered in lecture/text | 35% |
| *First Essay, approx. 750 words, due Monday March 7 th | 10% |
| *Second (Major) Essay, approx. 2000 to 2500 words, due Monday April 10 th | 30% |
| A formal, written final examination (2 hours) on topics covered in lecture/text (date/time t.b.a.) | 25% |

*The two essays for this course will be based on a single researched topic, which you may choose from a set of 'Essay Topics' to be posted during the second week of class. You are as well free, in consultation with me and subject to my approval, to modify one of these topics or develop your own topic. I'll say more about the subject-area requirements for the essay in the 'Essay Topics'. Your first essay will be a preliminary one, developing an approach to, and thesis on, your topic, outlining the major essay, and proposing any necessary research. You should begin work on this first essay fairly early in the term. Your second (major) essay will be a fully-developed and self-contained elaboration of your thesis. Your essay's grammar, sentence structure, paragraphing, and overall coherence will be evaluated according to the generally-accepted norms of formal Standard (Written) English, together with the standards articulated in the Writing Studies document 'Writing Studies General Grading Rubric' (posted in 'Getting Started' on our Owl class site). This evaluation will include an assessment of such things as logical consistency, originality, intellectual acuity, and overall quality of exposition.

Attendance

Writing 2210G is a lecture-based course, rather than a ‘workshop’ one. There are no *formal* ‘attendance’ requirements – or mandatory ‘discussion’ requirements – other than those associated with writing the four tests through the term, and the final exam and a general expectation that you will attend class regularly.

Due Dates/Test Dates

The essays are due on the dates set out in the course Schedule.

The second (major) essay is due and must be submitted on or before Monday April 8th (last day of classes). That is a course – and university -- deadline; any extension will require a formal request for academic accommodation, a recommendation of ‘INC’ or similar issued directly to me by your academic counsellor.

The four tests will be written during term during either the Monday or Wednesday class period. I will announce the specific date well in advance.

The final exam will be written ‘in person’ during the official Final Exam period in April, at a date/time to be announced.

You should be aware that **any** requests for **SPC** for the final examination, **INC** for the course, and so on **must** be directed in the first instance to the Dean’s office of the student’s home faculty. I do **not** have the authority to make these kinds of formal arrangements. See further below under ‘Academic Consideration.’

Prerequisites

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites. The prerequisite for this course is:

At least 65% in one of [Writing 2101F/G](#), [Writing 2125F/G](#) (or the former Writing 2121F/G), [Writing 2111F/G](#), [Writing 2130F/G](#) or [Writing 2131F/G](#); or at least 65% in one of [Writing 1000F/G](#), [Writing 1030F/G](#), or [Writing 1031F/G](#); or at least 65% in each of [MIT 1020E](#) (or both of [MIT 1021F/G](#) and [MIT 1022F/G](#)) and [MIT 1025F/G](#); or permission of the Department (consult the Undergraduate Program Director, Writing).

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf”

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy as above).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

Writing Studies’ Policy on the Use of AI Tools

“In this course, students are permitted to use AI tools for information gathering and preliminary research purposes only (unless otherwise indicated in the assignment instructions). These tools are intended to enhance the learning experience by providing access to diverse information sources. It is essential, however, that students critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize, develop, and articulate their own ideas, arguments, and

perspectives. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploration, but students are expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources and avoiding plagiarism in any form. Note that for all assignments completed outside of class, the instructor can require you to attend an in-person interview to discuss your work before a mark is finalized. Assignments should always reflect students' own thoughts and constitute independent written work. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and ethical learning environment that promotes critical thinking, supports independent inquiry, and encourages original written contributions.”

Intellectual Property and Copyright Statement

All instructor-written materials (e.g. PowerPoints, lecture notes, oral lectures) for this course are created solely for students' personal use within the course, and remain the instructor's intellectual property. Further reproduction, fixation, distribution, transmission, dissemination, communication, or any other uses, without securing the consent of the copyright owner (the course instructor) may be an infringement of copyright. You may not distribute, email, or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person. These limitations extend to recording, photographing, or sharing lectures (online or in-person) and lecture material without permission. Posting the instructor's content from this course to online course sharing sites like OneClass or Course Hero without permission is both an infringement of intellectual property law and a violation of academic integrity guidelines. The instructor will pass these cases on to the Western University Ombudsperson or their Department Chair as appropriate.

Academic Consideration and Accommodation

General Note: Instructors are not permitted to request, receive, or review documentation – including but not limited to medical documentation – directly from you, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. All such documentation, if required, *must* be submitted *directly* to the Academic Counselling Office of your Faculty of Registration.

Academic Accommodation Policy

Senate language requires all requests for accommodation for a grade component of 10% or more to go to academic counselling. That same section, however, allows for (and encourages) instructors to deal directly with accommodation requests for grade components less than 10%. Here's the relevant Senate language:

“Accommodation by Instructor for work worth less than 10% of the overall grade in a course: Instructors are encouraged, in the first instance, to arrange participation requirements and multiple small assignments in such a way as to allow students some flexibility. A student seeking academic accommodation for any work worth less than 10% must contact the instructor or follow the appropriate Department or course specific instructions provided on the course outline.

In arranging accommodation, instructors will use good judgment and ensure fair treatment for all students. Instructors must indicate on the course outline how they will be dealing with work worth less than 10% of the total course grade. In particular, instructors must indicate whether medical documentation will be required for absences, late assignments or essays, missed tests, laboratory experiments or tutorials, etc. Where medical documentation is required, such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Academic Counselling/Dean's office, who will make the determination whether accommodation is warranted. Given the University's Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy, https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/general/privacy.pdf, instructors may not collect medical documentation.”

In this course: If you miss completing and submitting the first scheduled Test (5%) you may consult directly with me informally – as soon as possible – to discuss making up the missed Test. I will decide whether directly to allow you to write a make-up Test or to refer you to academic counselling to seek formal accommodation.

The other Tests and assignments in this course are worth 10% or more and are therefore covered by the

university's official 'Medical Accommodation Policy.'

Medical Accommodation Policy

"The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet their academic responsibilities.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the appropriate Dean's office (the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration/home Faculty) together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. These documents will be retained in the student's file and will be held in confidence in accordance with the University's Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy. Once the petition and supporting documents have been received and assessed, appropriate academic accommodation shall be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements for classes/labs/tutorials, arranging Special Exams or Incompletes, re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawals without academic penalty. Academic accommodation shall be granted only where the documentation indicates that the onset, duration, and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete their academic responsibilities. (Note – it will not be sufficient to provide documentation indicating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill.")

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner."

Documentation from Family Physicians/Nurse Practitioners and Walk-In Clinics

A Western Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required where a student is seeking academic accommodation. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. An SMC can be downloaded at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Documentation from Student Health Services

At the time of illness, students should make an appointment with a physician/nurse practitioner at Student Health Services. During this appointment, request a Student Medical Certificate from the Physician/Nurse Practitioner.

Documentation from Hospital Urgent Care Centres or Emergency Departments

Students should request that an SMC be filled out. Students may bring this form with them, or request alternative Emergency Department documentation. Documentation should be secured at the time of the initial visit to the Emergency Department. Where it is not possible for a student to have an SMC completed by the attending physician, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that their ability to meet their academic responsibilities was seriously affected."

Please note that individual instructors will not under any circumstances accept or read medical documentation directly offered by a student, whether in support of an application for accommodation on medical grounds or for related reasons (e.g. to explain an absence from class which may result in a grade penalty under an 'Attendance' policy in the course). All medical documentation must be submitted to the Academic Counselling or Undergraduate office of a student's home Faculty.

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western:

(<https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519-661-3030 (during class hours) or 519-433-2023 after class hours and on weekends.

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays and should give reasonable notice in writing (email), prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar (<https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>).

Statement on Gender-based Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced gender-based or sexual violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts, here. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Other Student Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login&languageCd=ENG&>
provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Academic Support and Engagement <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>