

English 059: Grammar and Usage Review
CRN 20362, Room 2733, TuTh 10:15 to 11:40 a.m.
Imperial Valley College, Spring 2013

Prof. David R. Zielinski

English Division

380 East Aten Road

Imperial, CA 92251

(760) 355-6470

david.zielinski@imperial.edu

OFFICE: Room 2790

HOURS: M, Tu, W, Th 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Course Description

English 059 is a 3-unit course that provides students with a review of English grammar. That is, the class will focus on gaining more experience with words and the way words work together. The ultimate goal is for students to become more confident writers and more effective communicators. English 059 also focuses on English language usage regarding punctuation, mechanics, capitalization, and spelling. Practice will also be given over to writing a variety of sentence patterns and effective paragraphs. Recommended preparation for English 059: Eligibility for English 008 or higher. (This class is non-transferable and non-degree applicable.)

It's All About the Skills

Required texts:

There are three texts required for this class. We will be using all of them, and it is important to bring these texts to each class meeting. The texts have been chosen for portability (they are small in size), and for cost (they are relatively inexpensive). But above all, these texts are designed to foster the grammar skills necessary for success at the college level. Certainly, students will use these texts to complete assignments and to prepare for class activities; however, these texts offer a rich array of grammar information that can be studied independently, beyond the requirements for the course. Reading also improves writing!

1. A useful tool for building writing and reading skills is a good college dictionary. A paperback version of the **American Heritage** dictionary is a good choice, as is **Random House** or **Webster's**. Look for a dictionary that has been updated within the past few years and that contains around 70,000 entries, biographical information, word histories, and grammar assistance.
2. It is essential to build confidence with English grammar. Therefore, we will incorporate a grammar guide into English 059. You need to purchase a copy of **The Grammar Bible** by Michael Strumpf (paperback, the 2004 edition, blue cover, published by St. Martin's Griffin).
3. Writers learn to write well through imitation. We will use a book of sentence-composing patterns to help enhance writing style through imitation. The third book needed for this class, to

help with developing skill with both grammar and writing style, is **Grammar for College Writing--A Sentence-Composing Approach**, by Killgallon, published by Heinemann.

Inspiration:

The study of English grammar is not limited to memorizing rules or learning how to diagram sentences. The study of grammar extends much further than the limits of rules and regulations. As Michael Strumpf says in **The Grammar Bible**, "We study grammar so that we may speak and write in a clearer and more effective manner." Ultimately, that is the goal of English 059, to serve effective communication. Strumpf goes on to say, "The unconscious knowledge of grammar that every communicator possesses may be sufficient for simple language use, but those who wish to communicate artfully and well will seek the greater depth of understanding and proficiency that the study of grammar provides." As students work through this course, their understanding and proficiency with grammar will increase accordingly.

Class Policies

Students are expected to attend each class meeting and to participate online, when assigned. (We will be using the Blackboard course management system for our online work.) Students with more than one week of continuous unexcused absences may be dropped. Students who no longer wish to participate in class are responsible for dropping themselves using the online registration system. (Specific instructions and deadlines are listed each term in the Class Schedule.) Excused absences will be allowed only for the representation of the college at officially approved conferences and contests, for which a signed letter from the Vice-President of Academic Services is required. Make every effort to use restrooms and cell phones before class begins. There is no drinking or eating allowed in the classroom. Please do not make appointments that conflict with class time. Make an effort to consider your education a priority. Cases with extenuating circumstances need to be cleared with the instructor. If you do miss a class, you are responsible for any and all assignments due upon your return, to include any handouts. **Late papers will not be accepted.** The last day to drop the class with a "W" is 13 April 2013.

Class Procedures

We will be producing a variety of written products in class this semester, from simple quiz responses to more ambitious paragraph writing exercises. Regular quizzes are simple tools that assess reading comprehension, vocabulary, and understanding of the concepts under study. Sentence exercises will be composed in class, but also expect a few to be assigned for homework or as online projects. **(All out-of-class writing assignments need to be produced and printed with a word processor.)** Paragraph writing will focus on a variety of topics, providing students practice with the grammar and style concepts under study. And the mid-term and final exam will each be a mixture of sentence-level exercises and paragraph assignments.

If you do not have the Internet at home, make sure you learn how to access the web from campus. Students should keep track of their assignments, due-dates, and grades. Students are expected to do their own work, always. Plagiarism will not be tolerated; students guilty of this

“academic felony” will be referred to the Dean of Student Affairs for disciplinary action and will receive an “F” for the assignment.

Grading

Participation	10%
Quizzes	15%
Sentence Exercises	30%
Paragraphs	20%
Mid-Term	10%
Final Exam	15%

Students must earn a final grade of at least 70% in order to pass this class.

100-90%	A
89-80%	B
79-70%	C
69-60%	D
59-0%	F

Participation

Participation in English 059 includes the following:

- Reading assigned work
- Participating online, as assigned
- Completing assigned homework
- Bringing dictionary, textbooks, and course materials to class
- Contributing respectfully and thoughtfully to in-class and online discussions
- Actively participating in group activities

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate up to four techniques for repairing a comma-splice error.
2. Demonstrate ability to use present-tense verbs correctly.
3. Demonstrate ability to use past-participle verb forms correctly.

Objectives for the Course

This course is designed to serve six basic learning objectives. In the process of meeting these objectives, students will write a series sentence patterns, a number of paragraph exercises, and a mid-term and final exam. In completing writing assignments for this course, students will:

- *Identify* parts of speech and their grammatical functions;
- *Identify* and *differentiate* grammar components at the phrase, clause, and discourse level;
- *Identify* and *write* the four basic sentence types;
- *Use successfully* various punctuation marks and sentence mechanics;
- *Demonstrate* a mastery of basic spelling rules;
- *Write successfully* a variety of sentences exercises, paragraphs, and other composition assignments.

Calendar for the Semester

Week One	Introduction (syllabus); expectations; grammar exercises
Week Two	Introduce Grammar for College Writing
Week Three	Work with Blackboard website and The Grammar Bible
Week Four	Focused sentence exercises (GCW)
Week Five	More sentence exercises (GCW)
Week Six	Even more sentence exercises (GCW)
Week Seven	Review exercises
Week Eight	MID-TERM
Week Nine	Continue with sentence exercises (GCW)
Week Ten	Additional sentence exercises (GCW)
Week Eleven	Focused work with The Grammar Bible
Week Twelve	Begin focused paragraph exercises
Week Thirteen	More work with paragraphs
Week Fourteen	Even more work with paragraphs
Week Fifteen	Review exercises
Week Sixteen	FINAL EXAM

Final Words

If a student's in-class writing is demonstrably different from that student's out-of-class writing, the instructor reserves the right to grade that student on the in-class writing assignments exclusively. Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. DSP&S is located in the Health Sciences Building, Room 2117: Call (760) 355-6312.