Department of English and Writing Studies

Distance Studies
Writing 2210G/650 (Winter, 2025)
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 (see also 'Access to Brightspace and Microsoft Powerpoint' below):

> **Kolln, Martha and Loretta Gray, <u>Rhetorical Grammar: Grammatical Choices, Rhetorical Effects</u> Eighth Edition. Pearson, 2017.**
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> **The text is available through The Bookstore as a print book for $144.50, or as a 12-month eTextbook (instant access) direct from Pearson Canada for $57.99: <u>https://www.pearson.com/en-ca/subject-catalog/p/rhetorical-grammar-grammatical-choices-rhetorical-effects/P200000002254/9780137518265</u>**
> **Note that this course does <u>not</u> use 'Pearson Writer'.**
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> **Alternatively, you may be able to purchase the text as a 180-day eTextbook through VitalSource for $57.99: <u>https://www.vitalsource.com/en-ca/products/rhetorical-grammar-martha-j-kolln-v9780134095547</u>**
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> **[A good, university-level dictionary (e.g. the Oxford Concise or equivalent) recommended.]**

<u>**Course Requirements and Grade Allocations**</u>

Three Tests written during term, online in 'Quizzes' on Owl site:	**40%**
Assignment 1 (essay; set topic), approximately 750 words:	**10%**
Assignment 2 (essay; research paper), approximately 2000 words:	**30%**
Final exam (take-home) to be written during April exam period,	
details to follow in due course:	**20%**

<u>**Access to Brightspace and Microsoft Powerpoint (both are *required*)**</u>

This course is fully online, therefore access to and familiarity with Owl (Brightspace) is essential. Further: students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (https://westernu.brightspace.com/) regularly for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class. Further, the Unit/Week lectures in this course consist of Powerpoint slides with audio commentary. You therefore must have access to Powerpoint. If you need assistance with the course OWL site, or with obtaining Powerpoint, you can seek support on the OWL Brightspace Help page and/or you can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk.

They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

Assignment Format
All assignments are to be electronic (typed) documents and must have your name, course name, section number, and instructor's name on the first page. Do not use a cover page; these are particularly unnecessary for online submissions. When using sources in a paper, you will be expected to follow MLA, APA, or Chicago citation practice.

Submitting Assignments 1 and 2
Assignments are due on the dates specified in the syllabus. Late papers will be penalized at 5% per day unless I have permitted an extension of the due date. You must contact me ahead of time for an extension and provide a suitable reason (see also **Academic Consideration and Accommodation** below). Our class week runs from Monday to Sunday, so assignments for a particular week are due by Sunday (mid)night, Eastern Standard Time, unless otherwise stated. All term work must be completed by the last day of classes. Any term work not submitted by the last day of classes will receive a grade of zero without official academic accommodation.
Important: you are responsible for keeping a copy of all assignments you submit.

Procedure for Assignment Submission
You will find Turnitin-enabled submission links for each of Assignments 1 and 2 on our Brightspace site (under 'Assignments'). You will upload your final version of each assignment through its link, as a **single** Word (.doc or .docx extension) file,* titled to identify you as author. Your graded assignment, with comments, will be returned to you in the same format, through Brightspace.

*Note: PDF or other read-only formats and compressed/zipped files are not acceptable. Please note also that Turnitin will not accept more than a single file submission. In other words, do not try to submit an assignment twice <u>or in parts as two or more files</u>. Also note that I access your original uploaded Word file; typically any formatting errors (etc.) which show in the Turnitin preview function will not appear on your uploaded file.

Attendance/Participation (please note posting requirements)
Obviously, we do not meet formally as a class in this online course. Therefore, attendance and participation in 'Discussions' on our Brightspace site are intertwined. While Distance Studies classes are generally asynchronous, they are not correspondence or self-paced. You must attend class (defined as logging into our Brightspace section) and participate by introducing yourself and posting questions and thoughts during the first week and by posting (by participating in a given week's set discussion topic) in subsequent weeks where there is a Discussion topic. This means at least three separate posts during each of those weeks (a week is defined for this purpose as running from Monday to Sunday), at least one of which must be a reply/response to another student and at least one of which must be a new post (new topic). Extended absences, defined as a failure to post into the Brightspace classroom for more than five consecutive days, must be coordinated with the instructor.

Postings on the Discussion Board must have the following characteristics:

- Must contribute something meaningful to the board;
- Must support your opinion with sufficient reasons or evidence;
- Must display good grammar and organization.

Postings should not:

- Contain disrespectful, insulting, or offensive language;
- Be excessively long or excessively short;
- Be unrelated to the week's topic;
- Say things that do not contribute anything, e.g. "I agree with you" or "nice comment."

Note: Attendance as defined in this section is **mandatory** in this course. Failure to meet the minimum posting requirements as defined above for any week where there is Discussion will result in your earned final grade in this course being reduced by 3%.

Scholastic Offences, including Plagiarism
The University Senate requires the following statements, and Web site references, to appear on course outlines:

"Scholastic Offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, which can be found here: 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.

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 Western and Turnitin.com http://www.turnitin.com."

AI Policy
In this course, the use of AI (such as automatic translation tools, grammar checkers, ChatGPT…) is prohibited, unless there has been discussion with and agreement by the instructor before beginning an assignment. If AI use is suspected, the instructor will ask for research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and/or other materials used in preparing assignments. Students are expected to retain these materials until after final grades have been entered. In the unlikely event of concerns being raised about the authenticity of any assignment, students may be asked to produce these materials; an inability to do so may weigh heavily against them.

Prerequisites
Ensuring you have the correct prerequisite(s) is your responsibility. The University Senate requires the following statement to appear on course outlines: "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: "At least 65% in one of Writing 2101F/G, Writing 2125F/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 MediaCom 1020E (or both of MediaCom 1021F/G and MediaCom 1022F/G) and MediaCom 1025F/G; or permission of the Department (consult the Undergraduate Program Director, Writing)."

Academic Consideration and Accommodation
University policy on academic considerations is described here. This policy requires that all requests for

academic considerations must be accompanied by a self-attestation.

Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline.

For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests through the Student Absence Portal, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar's webpage:
https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/index.html

All requests for Academic Consideration must be made within 48 hours after the assessment date or submission deadline.

All academic consideration requests must include supporting documentation, which may include a Student Medical Certificate. Recognizing that formal documentation may not be available in some extenuating circumstances, the policy allows students to make one Academic Consideration request **without supporting documentation** in this course.

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.

Statement on Gender-based Sexual Violence
Western University is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/health/studentsupport/survivorsupport/get-help.html. 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
Services provided by the USC http://westernusc.ca/services/
Academic Support and Engagement http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/

Intellectual Property and Copyright
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.