



Bachelor's courses Faculty of Humanities

VU University Amsterdam - Student- & Onderwijszaken - Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit - 2019-2020

The Structures of English

Course code	L_AABACIW112 ()
Period	Period 5+6
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities
Coordinator	dr. G.A. Dreschler
Examinator	dr. G.A. Dreschler
Teaching staff	dr. G.A. Dreschler
Teaching method(s)	Lecture, Seminar
Level	100

Course objective

After successfully completing this course, you will have insight into the basic principles of syntactic and morphological analysis; you will have an understanding of the internal structure of clauses and phrases in the English sentence; and you will know the most important processes of word formation in English. You will also be able to model these structures using phrase markers and can apply the insights gained in the course to analyse a linguistic phenomenon.

Course content

This course provides an introduction into the syntactic and morphological structures of English and aims to answer the question what the principles are that form the basis for English words and sentences. In the syntax component, we will discuss the most important principles of syntactic analysis, analyse the structure of phrases and sentences, and will model these structures using phrase markers. We will focus on the structure of the noun phrase, on verb complementation patterns, and on the structure of complex sentences. In the morphology component, we will cover the most important processes of word formation in English: inflection, derivation, and compounding. While the grammar course in period 2 (Academic English: grammar) focuses on correct production of English grammar, this course focuses on understanding the underlying principles.

Form of tuition

Periods 5 and 6: one two-hour lecture and one two-hour seminar per week.

Type of assessment

The final grade will be based on two exams (both 30%) and a paper (40%). In order to pass the course, you need a 5.5 minimum for each component.

Course reading

Noel-Burton Roberts (2016). *Analysing Sentences: An Introduction to English Syntax*. Fourth edition. London/New York: Routledge. (It's important that you have this fourth edition, not an earlier one)

Steven Pinker (1999/2011). *Words and Rules: The Ingredients of Language*. New York, NY: Harper Perennial. (Any edition is fine)

Entry requirements

Students need to have completed Academic English CIW-L&S: Grammar.

Target group

First-year students of Communication and Information Studies, in particular those doing the tracks <English Language and Communication Studies>; and <Language Learning and Language Teaching>;.

Remarks

Attendance is obligatory (80% minimum). If you miss more classes, you may still be allowed to finish the course if you submit an alternative assignment, but only if you've attended 70% of the classes.