Guidelines of the course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>English Language: Descriptive Grammar I</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area</td>
<td>A2 (Scientific description of the English language)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree</td>
<td>English Studies Degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>Degree: English Studies Code 41686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching period</td>
<td>1st semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
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<td>Level</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>1st year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECTS Credits</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language of instruction</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Group B: Esther Álvarez de la Fuente</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact</td>
<td>Room nº 16B; Ext. 6771; e-mail: <a href="mailto:alvareze@fyl.uva.es">alvareze@fyl.uva.es</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office hours</td>
<td>Not available yet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department</td>
<td>English Philology</td>
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1. Aim of the course

1.1 Contextualization

*English Language: Descriptive Grammar I* is the first course included in the area of the scientific description of the English language. It is taught in the first year of the English Studies Degree and it is focused on the basic structural properties associated to English and, particularly, to the noun phrase.

1.2 Relationship with other areas

It is related to the courses belonging to both the A1 and the A2 areas (Scientific description of the English language). It is meant as an introduction to a descriptive analysis of the English grammar which is also covered by other two courses of the English Studies Degree: *English Language: Descriptive Grammar II* (first year, second semester) and *English Language: Descriptive Grammar III* (second year, first semester).

1.3 Prerequisites

It is recommended to have an English level equivalent to B1 in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.
2. Competences

2.1 General competences

G1. Capacity to analyze and summarize basic concepts in the study of language  
G4. Capacity to understand basic theoretical concepts dealing with English grammar  
G9. Capacity to use some research tools and to collect necessary information to understand and analyze the basic grammatical properties of the English language

2.2 Specific competences

E2. Capacity to communicate in oral and written English in academic and formal contexts  
E6. Capacity to understand how English language works  
E24. Capacity to perform a linguistic analysis of the properties of the English noun phrase

3. Main objective

This course is designed to provide students a description of the basic grammatical properties of the noun phrase in English and the understanding of how certain methodological tools can help them to learn and understand basic concepts related to the description of the English language.

4. Students´ total workload

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
<th>OUT-OF-CLASS ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Individual work</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical tasks</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Group work</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory practice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traineeships, clinical practice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and fieldwork</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminars</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group tutorials</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Topics

**Topic 1: INTRODUCTION: BASIC GRAMMATICAL CONCEPTS**

**Workload (ECTS credits):** 1

a. **Contextualization and justification**

This topic deals with the main basic concepts about grammatical categories and structures in English, which will be necessary for the understanding of further content.

b. **Objectives**

The main objective of this topic is to provide the students a basic knowledge about some important grammatical concepts.

c. **Content**

Basic notions for the study of English grammar: categories and constituents.

d. **Methodology**

The contents will be presented through theoretical and practical lectures, and a seminar at the end of the topic.

e. **Work plan**

Theoretical lectures will be followed by practical tasks which will be corrected in class and so students will be in charge of providing or discussing the answers through active participation.

f. **Assessment**

A compulsory assignment together with an active participation in class will be part of the students’ continuous evaluation.

g. **Basic bibliography**


h. **Complementary bibliography**


i. **Necessary resources**

Access to UVa e-campus (Moodle platform)
**Topic 2: THE ENGLISH NOUN: SEMANTIC FEATURES AND GRAMMATICAL BEHAVIOUR**

**Workload (ECTS credits):** 1.5

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**a. Contextualization and justification**

This topic provides students a semantic analysis of features of the English noun and their influence on its grammatical behaviour in a sentence.

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**b. Objectives**

To learn about the basic properties of the English noun and the semantic features related to it.

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**c. Content**

A traditional semantic classification of nouns is discussed in order to analyze some of the problems that derive from this perspective.

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**d. Methodology**

As in Topic 1 above.

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**e. Work plan**

As in Topic 1 above.

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**f. Assessment**

As in Topic 1 above.

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**g. Basic bibliography**


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**h. Complementary bibliography**


**British National Corpus (BNC) [http://www.natcorp.ox.ac.uk](http://www.natcorp.ox.ac.uk) (July 2015)**

**Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) [http://corpus.byu.edu/coca/](http://corpus.byu.edu/coca/) (July 2015)**

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**i. Necessary resources**

As in topic 1 above.
### Topic 3: THE ENGLISH NOUN PHRASE: GRAMMATICAL FEATURES

**Workload (ECTS credits): 1.5**

**a. Contextualization and justification**

This topic is meant to analyze the grammatical features of the English noun phrase.

**b. Objectives**

To understand the basic concepts such as definiteness, person, number, case and gender expressed in English noun phrases.

**c. Content**

General properties of the English noun phrase: definiteness, person, number, case and gender.

**d. Methodology**

As in topic 1 above.

**e. Work plan**

As in topic 1 above.

**f. Assessment**

As in topic 1 above.

**g. Basic bibliography**


**h. Complementary bibliography**


<http://rua.ua.es/dspace/bitstream/10045/6369/1/RAEI_20_03.pdf> (July 2015)

<http://www.csun.edu/~galasso/handbook1.pdf> [Section 2.1.] (July 2015)


<https://www.freidok.uni-freiburg.de/data/1412> [Chapters 3 and 8] (July 2015)

<http://wac.colostate.edu/books/sound/> [Chapter 7] (July 2015)

**i. Necessary resources**

As in topic 1 above.
Topic 4: THE STRUCTURE OF THE ENGLISH NOUN PHRASE: IDENTIFYING FUNCTIONS

Workload (ECTS credits): 2

a. Contextualization and justification
This topic is meant to analyze the structure of the English noun phrase and the different functions that can be identified within such structure.

b. Objectives
To learn about basic and more complex structures within the English noun phrase, as well as the functions related to such phrase.

c. Content
This topic offers a general analysis of the English noun phrase structure.

d. Methodology
As in topic 1 above.

e. Work plan
As in topic 1 above.

f. Assessment
As in topic 1 above.

g. Basic bibliography

h. Complementary bibliography

i. Necessary resources
As in topic 1 above.
6. Chronogram (per topic)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>ECTS CREDITS</th>
<th>TIME-FRAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I – BASIC CONCEPTS</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1st - 3rd weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II – SEMANTIC FEATURES &amp; GRAMMATICAL BEHAVIOUR</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>4th - 6th weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III – GRAMMATICAL CATEGORIES</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>7th - 9th weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV – STRUCTURE &amp; FUNCTIONS</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10th - 15th weeks</td>
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</table>

7. General methodology and assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROCEDURE</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>OBSERVATIONS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Assignments will include 2 group and 1 individual practical exercises which will be done in the classroom so students will be required to be present in the classroom the date the assignments are due (the dates will be set up from the beginning of the course and will be posted in Moodle when the course opens). The grade corresponding to these assignments will be added to (January or February) final exam.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active participation in class</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Active participation will be assessed on the students’ capacity to provide reasoned arguments and to solve exercises in the classroom. The grade corresponding to active participation will be added to (January or February) final exam.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>The written final exam will include issues discussed during the lectures and the practical tasks.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. Final considerations

Most seminars will be based on group-work sessions.