WR 130: Fundamentals of Grammar, Syntax, and Sentence Building (1 credit)
Course Syllabus and Schedule

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Text
This course makes use of open-educational resources. No text is required.

Course Description
WR 130 is a 1-credit course that provides opportunities to improve writing at the sentence level. The course focuses on the fundamental elements of the sentence (grammar), the principles and rules of sentence structure (syntax), and techniques for writing meaningful, compelling sentences (sentence building).

In this course, students will learn to recognize common grammatical errors, how to fix them, and strategies for avoiding them in the first place. Students will also combine sentences, select powerful verbs, and develop an understanding of grammar fundamentals and style.

WR 130 is an Ecampus course; students will work through online modules, activities, and quizzes to advance understanding of grammar fundamentals and to practice writing, editing, and revising sentences. Our work in the discussion board will emphasize student questions and ways of applying lessons to other academic writing projects.

This course maintains a focus on standard grammatical correctness, but recognizes, discusses, and appreciates language differences.

Measurable Student Learning Outcomes
In this course you will complete a variety of learning activities in order to demonstrate that you are able to:
• Identify and avoid the most common errors found in student writing
• Punctuate introductory elements and quoted material correctly
• Combine phrases and clauses in sentence-combining exercises, and punctuate them correctly
• Evaluate rhetorical choices such as the active and passive voice
• Effectively revise, edit, and proofread your own writing with attention to sentence-level correctness
• Demonstrate an understanding of your own language autobiography

Learning Resources Required:
Hardware: Computer with reliable internet connection; speakers/headset to listen to audio power point presentations and other course tutorials or internet clips.
Software: Microsoft Word processing in .doc/docx- for drafting, submitting work, and receiving feedback.
Asking Questions
Please use the “Questions and Answers” discussion forum in our Canvas classroom for any grammar question—whether it is the topic for the week or not. You may also use this forum as a place to post a sentence you are trying to write—or just a sentence you find particularly interesting. Sometimes it can be so useful to discuss a sentence in writing!

Email
Besides using the “Questions and Answers forum,” please also feel free to email me. I will reply to course-related questions and email within 24-48 hours.

Evaluation of Student Performance
WR 130 is taken S/U only. The WR 130 grade (S or U) has no effect on your WR 121 grade.

Late Work
(policy here)

Grading
Quizzes you may take as many times as you’d like: 75%
Canvas Discussions 15%
Writing Activities 10%

Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities
Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by Disability Access Services (DAS). If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval please contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098 or at http://ds.oregonstate.edu. DAS notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations.

Statement Regarding Religious Accommodation
As an instructor, I am happy to provide reasonable accommodations for sincerely held religious beliefs. Please make me aware of the request as soon as possible prior to the need for the accommodation.

Expectations for Student Conduct
If you need more information on academic dishonesty, please see the Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct found by clicking on this link http://studentlife.oregonstate.edu/studentconduct/offenses-0. You may also contact me for more information.

Student Evaluation of Teaching
The online Student Evaluation of Teaching system opens to students the Monday of dead week
and closes the Monday following the end of finals. Students will receive notification, instructions and the link through their ONID. They may also log into the system via Online Services. Course evaluation results are extremely important and used to help improve courses and the learning experience of future students. Responses are anonymous (unless a student chooses to “sign” their comments agreeing to relinquish anonymity) and unavailable to instructors until after grades have been posted. The results of scaled questions and signed comments go to both the instructor and their unit head/supervisor. Anonymous (unsigned) comments go to the instructor only.

Course Site Login Information: Information on how to login to our Canvas course site can be found HERE.

Technical Assistance
If you experience computer difficulties, need help downloading a browser or plug-in, assistance logging into the course, or if you experience any errors or problems while in our online classroom, contact the OSU Help Desk for assistance. You can call (541) 737-3474, email osuhelpdesk@oregonstate.edu or visit the OSU Computer Helpdesk online.

WR 130
Weekly Schedule of Activities, Discussions, and Quizzes

MODULE 1 (Week 3): Introductions, Diagnostics, Language Differences, and the Sentence Fragment
--Introductions
--Diagnostics and Reflection (Activity)
--Grammar Autobiography and Language Differences (Canvas Discussion)
--Exploring The Punctuation Guide, Parts 1 and 2 (Activity)
--The Sentence Fragment (Reading)
--Recognizing Sentence Fragments (Quiz)

MODULE 2 (Week 4): Eight Parts of Speech
--Eight Parts of Speech: Definitions, Examples, Applications (Reading)
--Identifying Parts of Speech (Quiz)
--Grammatical Correctness and the Eight Parts of Speech (Reading)
--Adding Prepositional Phrases (Activity)
--Choosing Correct Prepositions (Quiz)

MODULE 3 (Week 5): Common Grammatical Errors
--Wrong Word Errors (Reading)
--Choosing the Correct Word (Quiz)
--Agreement Errors (Reading)
--Fixing Errors of Agreement (Quiz)
--Modification Errors (Reading)
--The Subjective Nature of Correctness (Canvas Discussion)

**MODULE 4 (Week 6): Punctuation Part 1: Commas, Semicolons, Colons**
--Revisiting *The Punctuation Guide*
--Commas, Semicolons, Colons (Reading)
--Recognizing Punctuation Errors: Commas (Quiz)
--Recognizing Punctuation Errors: Semicolons and Colons (Quiz)

**MODULE 5 (Week 7): Punctuation Part 2: Hyphens, Dashes, Quotation Marks, Brackets, Parentheses, and Apostrophes**
--Hyphens, Dashes, Quotation Marks, Brackets, Parentheses, and Apostrophes (Reading)
--Rules for Finding and Fixing Apostrophe Errors (Reading)
--Recognizing Punctuation Errors: Apostrophes (Quiz)
--Recognizing Punctuation Errors: Hyphens and Dashes (Quiz)
--Recognizing Punctuation Errors: Quotation Marks (Quiz)

**MODULE 6 (Week 8): Word Choice, Simplicity, Combining Sentences**
--Word Choice (Reading)
--Simplicity (Reading)
--Combining Sentences (Reading)
--Combining Sentences (Activity)
--Word Choice and Clutter (Canvas Discussion)
--Choosing Strong Verbs (Quiz)
--Uncluttering Houdini (Activity)

**MODULE 7 (Week 9): Active and Passive Voice, Parallelism, Punctuation (again!)*
--Active and Passive Voice (Reading)
--Active and Passive Voice Movie Quotes (Activity)
--Active and Passive Voice (Quiz)
--Parallelism (Reading)
--Writing Parallel Constructions (Activity)
--Perspectives on Punctuation (Canvas Discussion)

**MODULE 8 (Week 10): Open and Reflection**
--Final Reflection (Activity)
--Where We Are Now and Goals (Canvas Discussion)