

# English linguistics I

**Lecturer**

Philippe DE BRABANTER (Coordinator)

**Course mnemonic**

GERM-B100

**ECTS credits**

5 credits

**Language(s) of instruction**

English

**Course period**

First and second terms

**Campus**

Solbosch

## Course content

This course provides a linguistic, therefore descriptive, approach to the study of English grammar. It relies largely on *A Student's Introduction to English Grammar* (Huddleston, R., Pullum, G. & Reynolds, B. 2021). It should not, therefore, be confused with an English proficiency course, where students learn what *should be* instead of what *is*.

The following key elements of English grammar are covered:

- > verbs and verb phrases
- > complements in clauses
- > nouns and determinatives
- > adjectives and adverbs
- > clause types
- > subordinate clauses
- > relative constructions (time permitting)
- > non-finite clauses (time permitting)

## Objectives (and/or specific learning outcomes)

Students are expected

- > to familiarise themselves with the descriptive approach to the study of languages
- > to grasp the difference between a precise and rigorous linguistic approach and the looseness of traditional student grammars
- > to form a clear idea of all the key areas of English grammar.

## Pre-requisites and co-requisites

### Required knowledge and skills

The minimal levels of English proficiency for students to be able to follow the course successfully are shown in the table below. But let me insist that these are *minimal* requirements. Ideally, students should have achieved advanced mastery of English (or nearly), i.e. they should be able to read various types of texts with ease (fiction, newspapers, essays), readily understand spoken English and be able to express themselves fluently.

[[table]]

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_European_Framework_of_Reference_for_Languages)

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## Teaching method and learning activities

Weekly lectures: 2 credits

Weekly exercise sessions: 2 credits

Weekly online tests (non-compulsory but recommended)

Personal reading: 1 credit

### Contribution to the teaching profile

This course makes the following contributions:

1. Training students to think critically (by insisting on precisely defined concepts and rigorous analyses)
2. Developing students' command of English
3. Training students to adopt a scientific approach to language phenomena (cf. point 1)

## References, bibliography and recommended reading

Compulsory reading:

- > Huddleston, R., Pullum, G. & Reynolds, B. 2021. *A Student's Introduction to English Grammar*, 2nd ed., Cambridge University Press.

### Course notes

Université virtuelle

## Other information

### Place(s) of teaching

Solbosch

### Contact(s)

MAIL : [Philippe.De.Brabanter@ulb.be](mailto:Philippe.De.Brabanter@ulb.be)

TEL : 02/650.38.12

OFFICE : AZ4.109 Make an appointment via e-mail.

## Evaluation method(s)

written examination

### Determination of the mark (including the weighting of partial marks)

There are two written exams:

- > January: chapters 1 to 6 in Huddleston, R., Pullum, G. & Reynolds (2021)
- > May-June: chapters 10 to 14 in Huddleston, R., Pullum, G. & Reynolds (2021)

Each exam is worth 50% of the final mark.

*Students who didn't obtain the credits for the course in June will have to redo in August all the parts of the evaluation for which they got less than 10.*

### Main language(s) of evaluation

English

## Programmes

### Programmes proposing this course at the faculty of Letters, Translation and Communication

BA-COMM | Bachelor in Information and Communication | unit 2, BA-LCLAS | Bachelor in Ancient Languages and Letters : Classics | unit 2, BA-LGERM | Bachelor in Modern Languages and Letters : German, Dutch and English | unit 1 and unit 2, BA-LLANG | Bachelor in Modern Languages and Letters : General | unit 1 and unit 2, BA-LORIE | Bachelor in Modern Languages and Letters : Oriental Languages | unit 2, BA-LROMA | Bachelor in French and Romance Languages and Letters : General | unit 2, BA-LSLAV | Bachelor in Modern Languages and Letters : Slavic Languages | unit 2, MA-LGERM | Master in Modern Languages and Letters : German, Dutch and English | finalité Third language/unit 1 and MA-LLANG | Master in Modern Languages and Letters : General | finalité Third language/unit 1

### Programmes proposing this course at the faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences

BA-HHAAR | Bachelor in History of Art and Archaeology : General | unit 2, BA-HHIST | Bachelor in History | unit 2, BA-HMUSI | Bachelor in History of Art and Archaeology : Musicology | unit 2 and BA-PPHIL | Bachelor in Philosophy | unit 2