

# LING 203

## APPLIED ENGLISH GRAMMAR



**“This was the most unkindest cut of all”**

**William Shakespeare: *Julius Caesar*, Act 3, Sc II.**

**2019**

## LINGUIST 203 – APPLIED ENGLISH GRAMMAR

**Lecturer / tutor:** Dr Keith Montgomery  
Arts 2, Room 320; ext. 82798  
k.montgomery@auckland.ac.nz  
Office hours:

### Course

This course is a self-contained introduction to the study of form–function relationships in English grammar. We assume no prior knowledge of linguistics, but students need to be competent users of basic English, able to read and understand various English text types. Our approach to studying grammar is systematic and analytical. We will begin with basic concepts (revision for some people, new to others) after which we consider progressively larger units of grammar, examining **form** (clause and sentence type) and **function** (speaker's meaning and intention). Later lectures assume your familiarity with information presented in earlier ones.

### Structure

The course is delivered in twenty four lectures and 11 tutorials, so your time commitment is 35 hours over 3 months. You are expected to make every effort to attend all hours. If our class falls on a public holiday, lecture material and a quiz will be posted to Canvas.

### Tutorials

Tutorials for LINGUIST 203 begin in the SECOND week of the semester. Tutorials are an integral part of the course. Lecture material is reviewed, discussed and reinforced in tutorials with exercises using real rather than textbook data.

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### Class times

**Lectures:** Monday 2 - 4 17 Eden Crescent, Rm 210

**Tutorials:** Thursday 10 - 11 Human Sciences - East, Rm 306

Thursday 11 - 12 Old Choral Hall, Rm 124

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### Assessment

Coursework @ 40% of the final grade.

4 x 5% online quizzes

The quizzes will be published on CANVAS and distributed through the semester. They will appear on a Friday (announced ahead of time) and be live for one week. They will be made up of some or all multiple choice, yes / no, true / false type questions. Their content will be drawn from everything taught in the course up to the point the quiz is posted. ALL lecture, tutorial and text book material is examinable.

One 20% take-home assignment

A functional and formal analysis of written texts usually handed out in week 6.

2-Hr Exam @ 60% of the final grade.

The exam will also cover both formal and functional analysis of written and oral text. Exam content is drawn from the whole course.

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### Set text:

The text set for this course is Roger Berry. (2012) *English Grammar. A resource book for students*. Routledge. The contents page lists all topics very clearly, although not necessarily in the order in which we cover them. You are expected to identify the relevant material and read it in conjunction with the appropriate lecture.

## Topics covered

### **A. Grammar of the people, by the people, for the people**

What is grammar? What is 'good' grammar? What are the social meanings of 'grammar' and what can it tell us about people? Prescription vs. description: should we question self-appointed grammar 'experts'?

### **B. Key concepts in Applied Grammar**

What are the building blocks of texts? What are the functions of different word types? In answering these questions we'll introduce and define the major word classes, sentence constituency, verb types and their behaviour, formal and functional sentence components.

### **C. Speech Acts and Clause Structure**

We identify basic sentence types and relate their form (word order) to their function. In doing so, we introduce and define some basic grammatical units that combine to make up sentences (Subject, predicate), and phrases (head, complement, adjunct). Direct / indirect speech acts

### **D. Clauses in Clauses**

How does the writer/speaker convey their attitude, the relative importance of participants, events and ideas etc. We introduce multi-clause sentences Dislocation / Cleft constructions Subordination and discuss their functions in texts.

### **E. Information Structure & Word Order:**

What key tasks must a speaker/writer perform in order to communicate? How do speakers/writers cater for, or control their listener's attention? We introduce key concepts in information structure using a range of text types: Topic, Focus, Presupposition (given vs new), and relate them in general terms, to word order and phrase structure (presentatives, anchoring, relative clauses).

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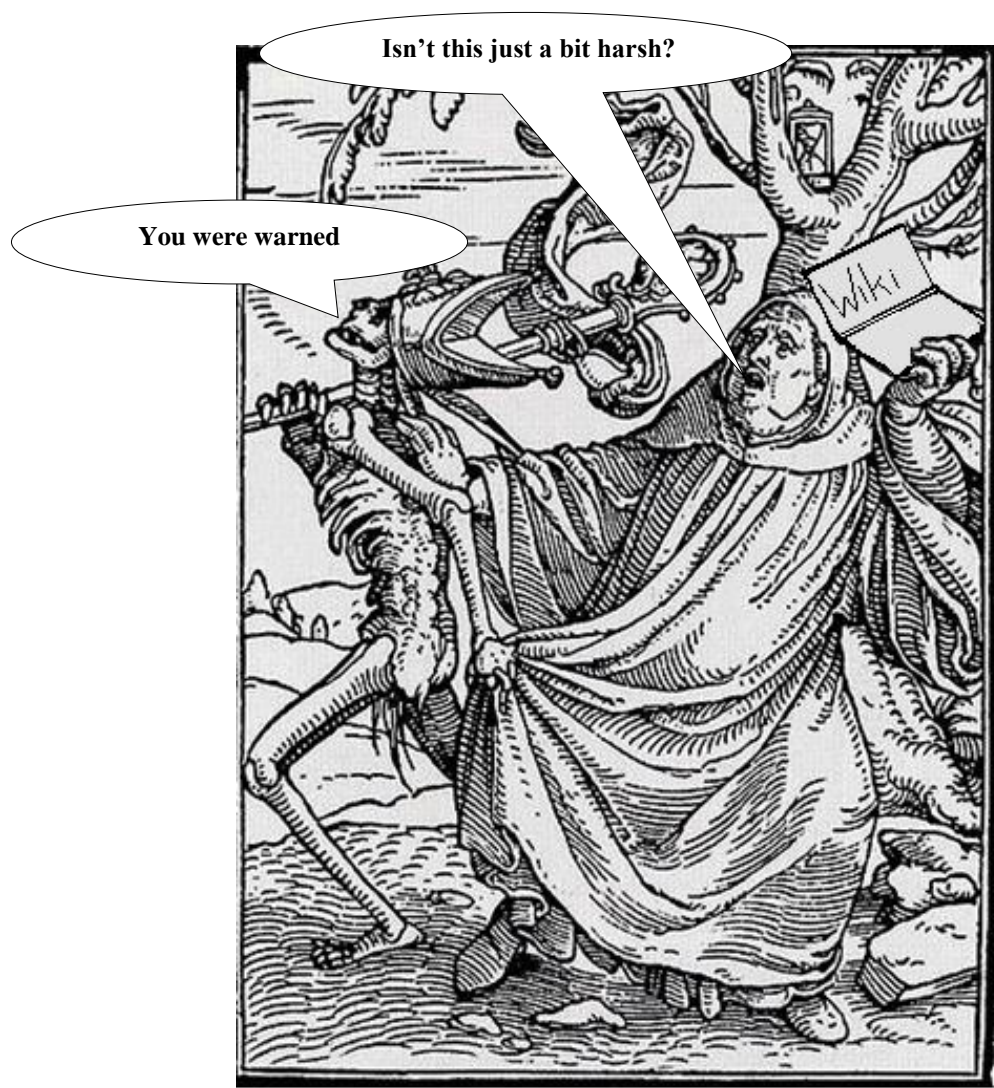


## 💀 **PLAGIARISM** 💀

**Plagiarism** /pleɪdʒərɪz(ə)m/ (noun). Passing off someone else's work or ideas as your own.

Synonyms for *plagiarism*: copying piracy theft stealing

If you are unsure of what plagiarism is, then perhaps university is not the place for you. The University of Auckland takes a dim view of plagiarism and mine is dimmer. It is YOUR responsibility to be familiar with the University's guidelines on Academic Honesty and Plagiarism. If you plagiarise, I will know and you will be penalised.



The Abbot from *The Dance of Death* by Hans Holbein the Younger