

# LING 203

## APPLIED ENGLISH GRAMMAR



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

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

**2020**

## LINGUIST 203 – APPLIED ENGLISH GRAMMAR

**Lecturer** Dr Keith Montgomery  
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Office hours: Mon. 12 - 1

**Tutor:** TBA

### 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 or grammar, but students need to be competent users of English and 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** (e.g. clause and sentence type) and **function** (e.g. speaker's selections for meaning and intention) and how these ultimately combine to create discourse.

### 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 will be posted to Canvas.

### Tutorials

Tutorials are an integral part of the course and begin in the FIRST week of the semester. In tutorials, difficulties with lecture material, your thoughts on grammar etc. can be discussed. Exercises are provided to reinforce lectures. These will use real rather than textbook data as much as possible.

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## CLASS TIMES

<b>Lectures:</b>	Monday	9 - 10	Humanities Bldg, Room 315
	Wed	11 - 12	Old Choral Hall, Room G53
<b>Tutorials:</b>	Fri	11 - 12	Commerce A, Room G14
	Fri	12 - 1	Clock Tower, Room 012

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## ASSESSMENT

**In 2020, LING 203 will be internally assessed according to the following schedule. However, please note that the schedule may have to be adjusted should the university be forced to shut down again.**

### 4 x 10% online quizzes

Posted: Friday afternoon in weeks 2, 4, 8, 10

Quizzes will be keyed to readings placed on TALIS (i.e. you will need to do the readings to answer the quiz). Quizzes are all multiple choice, true / false and, occasionally, one sentence answers. These are always posted on the Friday afternoon after all classes are finished for the week. They are available until the following Friday.

### 2 x 20% tests

In the second class hour, Weeks 6 and 12

Both tests will be short answer, multiple choice etc. Test 1 will be based on what we cover from week 1 until the second class of week 5. Test 2 will draw from the entire semester.

### 1 x 20% assignment

Posted: Friday afternoon, Week 6

The assignment will be made up of questions and problems based on the content drawn from **lectures and tutorials** and **the reading** content relevant to them. The assignment will NOT include questions based on the quiz content.

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## SET TEXT

**The set text for LING 203 was to be Roger Berry, *English Grammar: A Resource Book for Students*. Unfortunately, we discovered delivery would take at least 14 weeks, putting its arrival too far into Sem 2 to make it worthwhile. Fortunately, the University library has an e-copy. Readings from it will be notified in lectures as appropriate.**

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## TOPICS COVERED

### **A. What is grammar?**

What exactly 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. Words: the building blocks of discourse.**

The types and functions of major and minor word classes, focussing on verb subclassification and grammatical behaviour.

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

We construct larger grammatical units (phrases) analysing their structure. We combine our phrases into basic clause types, which we will analyse for their formal and functional constituents. How do we use these to impose conditions, convey attitudes and state facts etc?

### **D. Clauses within Clauses**

How does the writer/speaker convey their attitude, the relative importance of participants, events and ideas etc. What are direct / indirect speech acts? How do we use multi-clause sentences, unusual clause constructions, clause subordination in text?

### **E. Ordering Information**

What key grammatical tasks must a speaker/writer perform in order to communicate? How do speakers/writers manipulate their listener's attention? We introduce key concepts in information structure using a range of text types:

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## CANVAS

The University of Auckland's basic CANVAS requirements for any course are:

Syllabus

Course structure

Assessments: online / take-home

Talis reading list

or suitable equivalents.

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## CANVAS for LING 203

### **Syllabus and Course Structure**

You are currently reading them.

### **Lectures**

In 2019, the University adopted a blanket policy of posting lectures to CANVAS within **72 hours** of the lecture. Please do not email straight after a lecture asking where they are. I do not post them – the University does. They will appear but I cannot speed up the process.

### **Quizzes and the assignment**

These are announced and posted on CANVAS in the relevant week.

### **Talis reading list**

In addition to text book, readings will also be posted to Talis. It is intended that these readings will be the sources for all quizzes.

### **Other material**

For face to face classes, I provide lecture outlines which are literally skeletons of the PowerPoint lecture slides. They are to help attendees take notes over the hour. They are **not** study guides nor do they contain anything that is not on the slides. They are **NOT** posted to CANVAS because the lecture and slides are available to review at your leisure.

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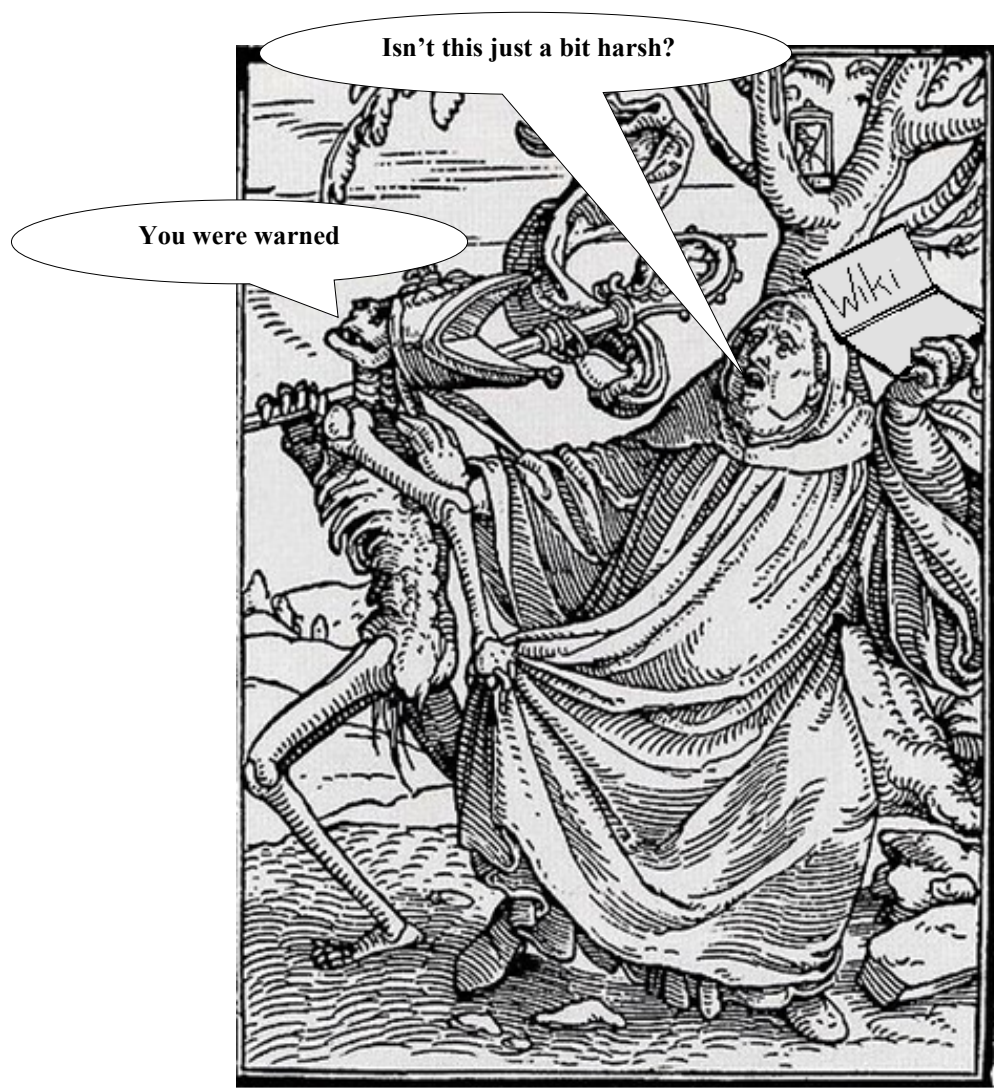


## 💀 PLAGIARISM 💀

**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