



# Exploring English Grammar — the world of clauses, WS 2018/2019

## 1 General information

**This course is specifically designed to be useful to students of translation and interpreting.**

This course provides an overview of English grammar from a SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL perspective, and is designed to help students develop their own repertoire of strategies for answering the following questions:

- “What do I need to pay attention to when I’m in the middle of translating or interpreting into English and have to make a choice about how to re-word a part of the meaning of the source text?”
- “How can I do it in such a way that the sentence I’m forming means what I want it to mean and doesn’t make a native speaker of English unexpectedly wince or laugh?”

The course is designed for native or near-native speakers of one of the Romance languages French, Spanish, or Italian, and is intended specifically for Erasmus students. Other students are welcome to attend the course provided they have a reasonably sound knowledge of English. It is also assumed that students taking the course have some knowledge of German.

The main language of instruction is English, but sometimes German will be used, depending on the nature of the particular problem under discussion.

The course devotes special attention to the things that can go wrong when it is the grammar of a Romance language that is interfering with the grammar of English, but we will also look at some of the things that can go wrong when the source of the interference is the grammar of German.

The course runs for one 15-week semester ( $1 \times 2 \text{ SWS} = 2 \text{ SWS}$ ) and is held each Tuesday from 10:15 to 11:45. In summer semester, a companion course (*Exploring English Grammar — the world of groups and phrases*) is offered, which covers all the material that could not be covered in winter semester. Most of the material covered in summer is based around nominal or verbal groups, including a great deal of work on tense.

The course held in winter covers the structures that clauses have due to their function in constructing experience, enacting interpersonal relationships, and enabling coherent text. It also covers the logical relations involved in putting clauses together to produce clause complexes (i.e. sentences consisting of more than one single clause).



(The course held in summer covers the structure and functions of nominal groups, including demonstratives, the order of adjectives, defining (restrictive) relative clauses, etc.; the functions of prepositions in prepositional phrases; and the systems such as aspect and tense that are encoded in verbal groups. Several weeks are devoted to contrastive exercises in which the English tense system is examined from the perspective of tense in French, Italian, Spanish, and German.)

After each class (15 x 2 hours) there is a small amount of homework, consisting of exercises designed to review what has just been learnt and prepare the ground for what is to come. The total extent of the course is thus 30 (15 x 2) contact hours, plus an additional 45 to 60 hours devoted to homework, making a total of 75 to 90 hours for 3 credit points. (An equivalent amount of work is involved in the summer semester course, which is also worth 3 credit points.)

All students taking the course should make sure that their correct email address is on the course mailing list. (Online registration is available via LSF, but please try to get to the first lesson so that I can meet you in person!) When sending an email to the course leader, please make sure that the piece of text

[grammar]

(including the square brackets!) is included in the subject line. (This will happen automatically if you are reading any email I have already sent you concerning this course and you simply hit the “Reply” button.)

Students are expected to attend regularly. ***If you are unable to attend one of the lessons, it is vital that you contact me beforehand to let me know. Missing more than two lessons altogether would seriously compromise your chances of successfully completing the course.***

Each lesson is accompanied by a worksheet of questions which students are expected to answer. These questions will be discussed in class, but in general the worksheet does not need to be handed in.

Assessment for the course will be on the basis of a final examination (to be held during the normal class time in the last week of lectures) plus a small number of hand-in exercises spread throughout the semester. The examination itself will be based entirely on the questions contained in the weekly worksheets.

Most of the course materials, including the weekly worksheets, will be included in the course notes and placed on the website; certain additional materials will be distributed in the lessons; and other materials can be accessed by following the links on the course website.

The website will be updated frequently, so please check back regularly.



## 2 Links

### 2.1 Course Notes WS 2017/2018

Here you can find the course notes for winter semester 2017/2018. The document will be uploaded chapter by chapter. Here are the first instalments:

[http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/coursenotes201802/fascicles/fascicle\\_00.pdf](http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/coursenotes201802/fascicles/fascicle_00.pdf)

[http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/coursenotes201802/fascicles/fascicle\\_01.pdf](http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/coursenotes201802/fascicles/fascicle_01.pdf)

### 2.2 Class of 2018-10-16

Here you can find the slides from 16.10.2018:

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/gram1802topic00/grammar20181016-beamer.pdf>

and here are the content of the slides in a format more suitable for printing:

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/gram1802topic00/grammar20181016-print.pdf>

Here is the link to the initial survey:

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/initialsurvey/index.pdf>

Here is the Exercise Sheet to do BEFORE the second class:

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/questions01/index.pdf>

## 3 Links to materials from previous semesters

### 3.1 Class of 2018-04-10

In this class, general information about the course was provided, and students did an initial assessment test.



### 3.2 Class of 2018-04-17

In this class we discussed all the issues that came up in the initial test.

### 3.3 Class of 2018-04-24

This was the first week in which it became clear just how many students were taking the course – a record number.

Here you can find the slides for the class of 24.04.2018:

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/gram1801topic01/grammar20180424-beamer.pdf>

and here are the content of the slides in a format more suitable for printing:

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/gram1801topic01/grammar20180424-print.pdf>

### 3.4 Class of 2018-05-01

There was no class on 1 May, due to the public holiday.

### 3.5 Class of 2018-05-08

In this class we spent most of the time discussing the rest of the slides from 24.04.2018.

The printout of the slides for this week was handed out in class:

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/gram1801topic02/grammar20180508-print.pdf>

Students were asked to look at this week's slides on their own:

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/gram1801topic02/grammar20180508-beamer.pdf>

and refer back to them while completing the following exercise:

[http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/SFG\\_Analysis\\_Exercise/SFG\\_Analysis\\_Exercise.pdf](http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/SFG_Analysis_Exercise/SFG_Analysis_Exercise.pdf)



### **3.6 Class of 2018-05-15**

In this class we discussed the analysis of the SFPCA structures in the exercise handed out the week before.

### **3.7 Class of 2018-05-22**

In this class we began discussing nominal groups:

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/gram1801topic06a/grammar20180521-beamer.pdf>

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/gram1801topic06a/grammar20180521-print.pdf>

At the end of the class, students arranged words to make nominal groups that had the adjectives in the correct order.

### **3.8 Class of 2018-05-29**

### **3.9 Class of 2018-06-05**

### **3.10 Class of 2018-06-12**

### **3.11 Class of 2018-06-19**

### **3.12 Class of 2018-06-26**

### **3.13 Class of 2018-07-03**

### **3.14 Class of 2018-07-10**

### **3.15 Class of 2018-07-17**

### **3.16 Course Notes WS 2017/2018**

Here you can find the course notes for winter semester 2017/2018. The document will be uploaded chapter by chapter. Here are the first instalments:



[http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/coursenotes201702/fascicles/fascicle\\_00.pdf](http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/coursenotes201702/fascicles/fascicle_00.pdf)

[http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/coursenotes201702/fascicles/fascicle\\_01.pdf](http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/coursenotes201702/fascicles/fascicle_01.pdf)

### 3.17 Class of 2017-10-17

Here you can find the slides from 17.10.2017 (updated with the revised timetable):

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/gram1702topic00/grammar20171017-beamer.pdf>

and here are the content of the slides in a format more suitable for printing:

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/gram1702topic00/grammar20171017-print.pdf>

Here is the link to the initial survey:

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/initialsurvey/index.pdf>

Here is the Exercise Sheet to do BEFORE the second class:

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/questions01/index.pdf>

### 3.18 Class of 2017-10-24

Here you can find the slides from 24.10.2017:

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/gram1702topic01/grammar20171024-beamer.pdf>

and here are the content of the slides in a format more suitable for printing:

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/gram1702topic01/grammar20171024-print.pdf>

Here are the additional slides for Unit 02—we skipped over these due to the public holiday on 31 October, and in favour of a deeper discussion of the initial survey and of exercise sheet 01:

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/gram1702topic02/grammar20171024a-beamer.pdf>



and here are the content of the slides in a format more suitable for printing:

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/gram1702topic02/grammar20171024a-print.pdf>

### **3.19 2017-10-31**

There was no class this week, due to a one-off extra public holiday (Reformation Day).

### **3.20 2017-11-07**

This week we concluded the theoretical introduction to the course, and discussed problems that arose from the examples in the initial survey and the first exercise sheet.

Here is the Exercise Sheet to do be completed BEFORE Unit 3:

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/questions02/index.pdf>

### **3.21 Class of 2017-11-14**

Here you can find the slides from 14.11.2017:

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/gram1702topic03/grammar20171114-beamer.pdf>

and here are the content of the slides in a format more suitable for printing:

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/gram1702topic03/grammar20171114-print.pdf>

Additional materials on this week's class can be found here:

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/unit03>

Here is the Exercise Sheet to do BEFORE the fourth class:

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/questions03/index.pdf>

### **3.22 Class of 2017-11-21**

Here you can find the slides from 21.11.2017:



<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/gram1702topic04a/grammar20171121-beamer.pdf>

and here are the content of the slides in a format more suitable for printing:

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/gram1702topic04a/grammar20171121-print.pdf>

The worksheet on modal verbs to be completed before next week's class (on modality) is here:

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/questions04a/index.pdf>

Additional materials relating to this week's class can be found here:

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/unit04a/moodtags.pdf>

–these slides contain all the answers to the questions of the Exercise Sheet 03 on mood tags that was set for homework last week. In the final exam, there will be two questions on mood tags; they will be based on the questions on Exercise Sheet 03.

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/unit04a/moodtags-print.pdf>

– this is the printout of the slides on Mood Tags.

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/unit04a/paradigms.pdf>

– this was the table-completion exercise that was set for homework. The answers are available in the plastic frame next to my office (A2 2, 2.02.1).

### 3.23 Class of 2017-11-28

Here you can find the slides from 28.11.2017:

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/gram1702topic04b/grammar20171128-beamer.pdf>

and here are the content of the slides in a format more suitable for printing:

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/gram1702topic04b/grammar20171128-print.pdf>

Here is the Exercise Sheet on Modality (Exercise Sheet 5), which should be done for homework:

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/questions04b/index.pdf>

Additional materials relating to this week's class can be found in:





<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/unit04b/>

That material will be helpful in completing Exercise Sheet 4b.

### **3.24 Class of 2017-12-05**

Here you can find the slides from 05.12.2017:

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/gram1702topic05a/grammar20171205-beamer.pdf>

and here are the content of the slides in a format more suitable for printing:

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/gram1702topic05a/grammar20171205-print.pdf>

The 3-page handout for this week's class, containing more legible versions of the diagrams, can be found here:

[http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/unit05a/handout\\_5a.pdf](http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/unit05a/handout_5a.pdf)

The exercise sheet we worked on in class can be found here:

<http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/questions05a/index.pdf>

### **3.25 Class of 2017-12-12**

The handout for this week's class, containing tables and diagrams, can be found here:

[http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/unit05b/handout\\_5b.pdf](http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/unit05b/handout_5b.pdf)

There is no separate exercise sheet for Unit 5b; you should continue working on the extensive exercise sheet for Unit 5a.

### **3.26 Class of 2016-06-14 / 2016-06-15**

The handout for this week's class, containing tables and diagrams, can be found here:

[http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/unit05/handout\\_5b.pdf](http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/grammar/unit05/handout_5b.pdf)