Initial Survey

Please answer as many of the following questions as possible. Remember: this is a survey, not a test, so the questions are genuine questions, i.e. I don't know the answers. You can send me your reply via any electronic means that are convenient (e.g., convert and/or edit the PDF file; or print it out, fill it in by hand, then scan or photograph the completed sheets; etc.). My email is:
`r.spence@mx.uni-saarland.de`

1. What is your name?

2. In English, we usually use first names in university courses. You can call me Rob, or Robert, or even Bob (but only in French, and only because my French professor in 1975 wrongly assumed that all Roberts are called Bob in English)... so... how should I address you?

3. What are your pronouns? (I am a cis male and my preferred pronouns are *he/him*, but singular *they/them* is also okay—and should probably be more widely used in English than it already is.)

4. I am very bad at putting names to faces. How will I recognize you? What is your most characteristic feature?

5. Tell me one really boring thing about yourself:

6. What courses have you taken already in the area of English Linguistics?

7. What other *Sprachpraxis* courses have you taken already?

8. Where did you learn English? (Which country? If in Germany, which *Bundesland*?)

9. Did your teachers have a standard system for correcting your written work in English (e.g., abbreviations they wrote in the margin to tell you what kinds of mistakes you had made)?

10. Do you feel able to use that system actively yourself without difficulty?

11. Do you have a favourite grammar book? Do you have a favourite dictionary? If so, what are they?

12. Have you heard about the new Writing Center yet?
https://www.uni-saarland.de/fachrichtung/anglistik/writing-center.html
(Disclaimer: I know almost nothing about it — but it's available to you.)

13. (We'll go into this in more detail the first time I interact with you in writing in English; and I'll give you feedback on your grammar and usage and advice about what to concentrate on, but for the time being:) Which aspects of your English do you feel you most need to work on?

14. Do you prefer more British English (as will be taught in this course) or more American English?

15. Is there a native English speaker (maybe a novelist or poet) whose writing style you admire and try to imitate? Who is it?

16. Have you spent time in an English-speaking country? Which one? And which city? How long? Doing what? How long ago?

17. It is now certain that the whole of the semester will have to be done by remote learning. Would you be able and willing to communicate with me once a week, by email or on social media? If you don't have time to type, would you be able and willing to send me voice messages via Facebook Chat / Messenger, Instagram, WhatsApp, Threema, Signal, Telegram, or Skype? (If something else: please specify what.)

18. How easy is it for you to work online? (Think of download speed, data limits, etc.; there will be videoconferences, and there will be pre-recorded videos you can download or stream, plus some large-ish PDF files and audio files.)

19. If you work with Moodle, what are the features of Moodle that you find most essential for your work? Do you use forums there?

20. Have you used Microsoft Teams or Zoom before? What were your experiences like?

21. Do you have any health or disability or other issues? (Some examples from previous semesters: allergies to old building materials; impaired vision; anxiety about tests or examinations or interacting with other people; problems arranging childcare; part-time jobs that consume most of your time.)

22. You can write any further comments or questions to me here: