Humanities 3605: Grammar and Usage in Society

Fall 2005

Texts
Rodby & Winterowd, The Uses of Grammar
Garner, The Oxford Dictionary of American Usage and Style

Materials
Crayola 24-color pencil set

Course goals
This course is designed to teach to the fundamentals of English grammar and to help you understand contemporary problems of usage.

Course work and grading
- Mid-term exam 30%
- Final exam 30%
- Usage project 40%

The exams are take-home exams. The project involves researching an assigned usage problem, reporting on it to the class, and writing a paper on it.

Exercises are assigned for most class sessions (the work schedule will be handed out on Thursday.) Doing them before you come to class is essential to your learning grammar. Please make a copy of all completed exercises to hand in at the beginning of class. I will review them for problems but will not correct them and hand them back. We will discuss the answers in class, and as they are the main way for you to prepare for the exams, you will want to take careful notes on them and ask questions about anything you do not understand.

Assignment for Thursday: Read Chapter 1 of The Uses of Grammar.