Instructor Information
Instructor: Abraham Romney, PhD, Assistant Professor
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Telephone: Office
E-mail: aromney@mtu.edu
Office Hours: MW 2pm – 4pm or by appointment

Course Identification
Course Number: HU3605-R01
Course Name: Grammar and Usage in Society
Course Location: 127 Fisher Hall
Class Times: MWF 10:05am – 10:55pm
Prerequisites:

Course Description/Overview
Description and analysis of current standards of grammar and usage in the U.S. Students acquire an understanding of the structures of American English as well as an understanding of the social forces underlying standardization and the processes of language change.

Course Learning Objectives
- Understand the Structure of American English.
- Acquire the tools to parse any sentence in English.
- Understand the way that standards and usage work politically and culturally in Society.
- Move beyond prescriptive notions of grammar.
- Develop and demonstrate strategies for revision based on an understanding of grammar.

Course Resources
Course Website(s)
- Canvas<http://mtu.instructure.com>
- Personal Website <http://abrahamromney.com>
**Required Course Text**

- *Doing Grammar: Fourth Edition*, currently a little over $35 on Amazon and Abebooks (no affiliation) for a used copy but a bit costly for a new one. We will wait until the second week of class to delve into this text to give everyone a chance to get it.

- A Usage Dictionary. You'll want to have access to a usage dictionary. The most recent, most expensive and also most interesting to read is probably *Garner's Modern American Usage*, which runs about $26 new. Current edition is 2009. You can get the [2003 edition](http://example.com) for much less. I believe these are also similar to his [1998 *A Dictionary of Modern American Usage*](http://example.com), which can be purchased currently on the used market for a penny plus shipping. I have also requested that this last edition be placed on reserve in the library. Go with what your budget can handle!

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**Grading Scheme**

**Grading System**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade points/credit</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93% &amp; above</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB</td>
<td>87% – 92%</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>Very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82% – 86%</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC</td>
<td>76% – 81%</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>Above average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70% – 75%</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD</td>
<td>65% – 69%</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>Below average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60% - 64%</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Inferior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% and below</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Incomplete; given only when a student is unable to complete a segment of the course because of circumstances beyond the student’s control.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Conditional, with no grade points per credit; given only when the student is at fault in failing to complete a minor segment of a course, but in the judgment of the instructor does not need to repeat the course. It must be made up by the close of the next semester or the grade becomes a failure (F). A (X) grade is computed into the grade point average as a (F) grade.</td>
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**Grading Policy**

25% Midterm

30 % Final

20 % Participation and Minor Assignments

- Quizzes

- Questions and Discussion on Canvas

- Homework

25 % Writing

- Short Essays on Grammar
**Usage Assignment**

**Late Assignments**
All assignments must be turned in on time for full credit.

**Course Policies**

**Participation and Attendance.**
You are expected to participate actively in group discussion and activities and to be generally engaged in the course. Electronic devices are to be used for educational purposes. Excessive absences will affect your grade. Missing more than 10% of the class periods could result in your not passing the class. Some graded assignments and quizzes conducted during class may not be made up. This is true of pop quizzes. For scheduled assignments, please contact me well in advance of any absences.

**Communication**
In all email communication (to be sent to aromney@mtu.edu), include “HU3605 R01” in the subject, along with a brief description of your request. Sample Subject line: “Request for Feedback on my Thesis HU2130 R02.” I use email filtering to flag your message as an important email that needs a response, so make sure to include the number. It is a best practice to always address your instructor and sign your name at the end of the email. If you go by a name that does not match your official record, please include both. Responses could take up to 48 hours, especially on weekends (You’ll find that I generally respond much faster, but, hey, I’m not a machine!).

**Collaboration/Plagiarism Rules**
MTU and this course have strong policies against plagiarism. Any acts of plagiarism, Cheating, Fabrication or Facilitating will not be tolerated and can result in failure of the assignment in question and, potentially, failure of the entire course. Read more extensively about plagiarism here http://www.mtu.edu/dean/conduct/policy/academic-integrity/definition.html

**University Policies**
Student work products (exams, essays, projects, etc.) may be used for purposes of university, program, or course assessment. All work used for assessment purposes will not include any individual student identification.
Michigan Tech has standard policies on academic misconduct and complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For more information about reasonable accommodation for or equal access to education or services at Michigan Tech, please call the Dean of Students Office, at (906) 487-2212 or go to [http://www.mtu.edu/provost/faculty-resources/syllabus-policies/](http://www.mtu.edu/provost/faculty-resources/syllabus-policies/)

**Course Schedule**

**Week 1**

* W 9/4 Course introduction
  Explore historical Grammar texts and definitions.

* F 9/6 Reading: Bello, Andres, *Prologue to Gramática*. Preface and Intro to Cobbett’s *A Grammar of the English Language*.  
  **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS DUE**  
  *K-day recess begins at noon*

**Week 2**

* M 9/9 George Orwell, “Politics and the English Language”  
  Write a 1-page (single-space) response that cites all of the class readings to date. Print it and bring it to class.

  Discussion Questions Online.  
  *Last day to drop full semester courses with a refund*  
  *Last day to add full semester courses or change a section*

* F 9/13 David Foster Wallace “Tense Present.”  
  **Response paper** that engages with the texts and articulates your position on Grammar and usage. Are you a snoot?

**Week 3**

* M 9/16 Pinker, The Language Instinct CH 1 (pdf or on reserve in the Library)  
  [Single page view](#)  
  [Two pages per sheet](#)  
  *Doing Grammar* (hereafter DG) Introduction

* W 9/18 Pinker, The Language Instinct CH 4 (pdf [Single page view](#), [Two pages per sheet](#) or on reserve in the Library)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Chapter/Assignment</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F 9/20</td>
<td><strong>DG Chapter 1 + Exercises</strong>&lt;br&gt;<em>Last day to drop full semester courses without a grade appearing on the academic record - No Refund</em></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Week 4**
- M 9/23: **DG Chapter 2**
- W 9/25: **DG Chapter 2, cont.**
- F 9/27: **DG Chapter 2, cont.**

**Draft of Grammar Essay**

**Week 5**
- M 9/30: **DG Chapter 3**
- W 10/2: **DG Chapter 3, cont.**
- F 10/4: **DG Chapter 3, cont.**

**Week 6**
- M 10/7: **DG Chapter 4**
- W 10/9: **DG Chapter 4, cont.**
- F 10/11: **Midterm Examination**

**Week 7**
- M 10/14: **DG Chapter 5**
- W 10/16: **DG Chapter 5**
- F 10/18: **Reading TBA Final Revision of Grammar Essay due**

**Week 8**
- M 10/21: **DG Chapter 6**
  - Begin Bringing Usage Samples
- W 10/23: **DG Chapter 6, cont.**
- F 10/25: **Reading TBA**

**Week 9**
- M 10/28: **DG Chapter 7**
- W 10/30: **DG Chapter 7, cont.**
- F 11/1: **Reading TBA**
**Week 10**

- **M 11/4**  
  **DG Chapter 8**

- **W 11/6**  
  **DG Chapter 8**

- **F 11/8**  
  **DG Chapter 8**

- **Last day to drop full semester courses with a grade of 'W'**

**Week 11**

- **M 11/11**  
  **DG Chapter 9**

- **W 11/13**  
  **DG Chapter 9**

- **F 11/15**  
  **DG Chapter 9**

**Week 12**

- **M 11/18**  
  **DG Chapter 10** “What can you do now that you can Do Grammar?”

- **W 11/20**  
  **DG Chapter 10, cont.**

- **F 11/22**  
  **DG Chapter 10, cont.**

  - **Usage Assignment, Draft Due.**
  - **Thanksgiving recess begins at 10:00pm**

- **THANKSGIVING BREAK (11/22 – 12/2)**

**Week 13**

- **M 12/2**  
  **Revision Exercises**

  - **Classes Resume**

- **W 12/4**  
  **Revision Exercises**

- **F 12/6**  
  **Revision Exercises**

**Week 14**

- **M 12/9**  
  **TBA**

- **W 12/11** **Usage Assignment Final Due**

- **F 12/13** **Final Examination**

**Finals Week**

- **TDB**