

Course report

ENG107 English grammar II

Fall 2018

Head-teacher: Jerzy Nykiel

Grammar HelpDesk instructors: Haakon Simpson, Ingeborg Vansgnes (student assistants)

Video feedback: Jerzy Nykiel (teacher), Anders Samland, Haakon Simpson, Ingeborg Vansgnes (student assistants)

ENG107 is a 5 credit course composed of 12 lectures and 12 seminar sessions. The lectures and seminars were taught by Jerzy Nykiel. There was one seminar group. There were also 12 grammar HelpDesk sessions led by two MA student assistants: Haakon Simpson, and Ingeborg Vansgnes (six sessions each). The course aims to give the students insight into the more advanced structures of the English language, especially in terms of syntax and semantics. It also equips the students with precise linguistic vocabulary as a working tool.

The number of registered students was 135. The lectures were attended regularly by ca. 40-50 students and the seminars had similar attendance. Seminar tasks were posted to Mitt UiB ca. 5-6 days before each seminar session. Some of the seminar tasks were online tasks. PowerPoint materials were uploaded on Mitt UiB before class. A significant number of students attended the Grammar HelpDesk sessions where the students obtained instant feedback on their work on the seminar tasks and other grammar tasks. The schedule of the HelpDesk sessions was adjusted to the needs of the students with a greater concentration of the sessions toward the end of the semester. The last sessions were attended by an increased number of students.

There were six non-obligatory papers in the course of the semester. The following numbers of students submitted the non-obligatory assignments: paper 1: 36 students; paper 2: 31 students; paper 3: 29 students, paper 4: 34 students; paper 5: 43 students; paper 6: 41 students. All the students received detailed video feedback on their performance on the paper in that every student was sent a link to a personalized video file in which the teacher or one of the MA student assistants talks the student through the paper. The video feedback was a new aspect of ENG107 and, as can be seen in the student evaluation, many students appreciate this form of feedback and say that they were able to learn grammar more effectively through the video feedback on their submissions.

Student evaluation was carried out in the form of an online questionnaire. 51 students sent in their replies. They were very satisfied with the course (the results of the evaluation are attached in a different file). On the other hand quite

a few students complained about the rather unfortunate schedule, which had the final exam take place in the week directly following the week with the last lecture.

Exam

96 students took a 3-hour school exam. The results were as follows:

A - 10 = 10%

B - 20 = 21%

C - 16 = 17%

D - 10 = 10%

E - 13 = 14%

F - 27 = 28%

Teacher's evaluation

The course proceeded as planned. The students were offered various opportunities to put their grammar analysis skills to practice (seminars, HelpDesk sessions, non-obligatory papers) and a significant number of students availed themselves of these opportunities on a weekly basis. This is later reflected in the fact that 48 per cent of students obtained very good to good grades on the exam (A - B - C). There were a few students very interested in the content of the course throughout the semester. I am generally satisfied with the course.