

Titusville Fine Arts Initiative **HIGH SCHOOL GRAMMAR 1**

Instructor: Ron Gaver

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Grade Level: 9th – 12th grade

Prerequisites: none

Textbooks:

- (1) *Diagramming Step by Step: One Hundred and Fifty-Five Steps to Excellence in Sentence Diagramming*, ISBN-10: 1953058671, ISBN-13: 978-1953058676 (currently < \$40 on Amazon: <https://a.co/d/4vQlmZk>)
- (2) *The Perfect English Grammar Workbook: Simple Rules and Quizzes to Master Today's English*, ISBN-10: 162315796X, ISBN-13: 978-1623157968 (currently < \$14 on Amazon: <https://a.co/d/agBgVcG>)
- (3) *English Grammar & Punctuation: A QuickStudy Laminated Reference Guide*, ISBN-10: 1423218655, ISBN-13: 978-1423218654 (currently < \$7 on Amazon: <https://a.co/d/2HR272p>)
- (4) *The Blue Book of Grammar and Punctuation*, ISBN-10: 1119653029, ISBN-13: 978-1119653028 (currently < \$14 on Amazon <https://a.co/d/f5gFUwT>)

Supplies Required: 3-ring binder, 2 inch

Monthly Tuition: \$140/semester or 4 installments of \$35 due (cash or check)

See installment plan below

Materials Fee: \$30/semester

Class Time: Tuesdays, 12:30-1:25 pm (no class on March 17)

Semester Length: January 7 – May 13

Class Description:

Lisa McClendon wrote: "[W]hen grammar is ignored or confused, sentences come crashing down, paragraphs collapse, and meaning gets lost. ... People are confused. ... You're not deliberately wasting breath or ink or bytes, but if you're not being clear, you might as well be. And that's why grammar is important: It makes language work. ... *Use grammar as your tool to control language and make it work exactly how you want it to*" (textbook #2 in the list, italics added). That last sentence is the objective for this class.

Descriptive grammar is concerned with parts of speech and how they fit together to form a relatively small number of sentence types. This will be our focus. We will use sentence diagramming as a tool because it transforms essentially one-dimensional sentences into two-dimensional structures illustrating the relationships between words and phrases and clauses. I didn't understand much about English grammar until I started taking German in high school. Many years of German later, I had a good grasp of the parts of speech and their uses, but it wasn't until I learned diagramming in a college English grammar class that the tapestry was revealed.

Grading: Assignments will consist of several items to accomplish. Each item will be assigned points based on the effort required to complete it. Answers will be provided for questions when applicable, and students will be expected to correct their work. Grading will be based on the percentage of questions attempted and corrected, when applicable, relative to the total. (Grading will not be based on a percentage of questions answered correctly relative to the total.) Failure to attempt or correct an item, when applicable, will result in no credit. Reporting will be on an honor system; as a rule, I will not audit. I will keep score throughout the semester. Scores will be reported to parents on or around the first Tuesday of each month.

Non-Refundable Materials Fee Due at Registration

Installment Plan

1st payment due: February 4

2nd payment due: March 4

3rd payment due: April 1

4th payment due: May 6