More information about EIL 422:

This course is designed to help students meet three objectives:

1. To understand English grammar and to develop the ability to further your knowledge of English grammar by self-study after the course is over.
2. To acquire knowledge about the types of grammatical problems that ESL/EFL learners with different native languages tend to have.
3. Based on current second language acquisition (SLA) research findings and grammar teaching approaches/methodologies/techniques, to learn how to effectively teach English grammar to ESL/EFL learners.

To meet the first two criteria, the course covers a variety of grammar topics, with a focus on those aspects of English grammar that are known to be particularly challenging to ESL/EFL learners. Grammar topics typically covered in this course include (but are not limited to):

- Subject-verb agreement
- Tense and aspect
- Modals
- Negation
- Question formation
- Articles
- Prepositions
- Passives

Within each topic, students learn about the grammatical phenomena and do exercises and activities that help them make generalizations about why English grammar works the way it does. This is followed by a discussion of problems that ESL/EFL learners face for the particular grammar topic, and learner-focused activities such analysis of learner errors.

In order to meet the third objective, the course provides students with supplementary readings on different approaches to grammar teaching. Based on the readings and the class activities, students develop teaching materials on one or more grammar topics, and implement these materials in a tutoring practicum with an ESL/EFL student. Students receive feedback from the instructor and from one another as they prepare for the tutoring practicum, and subsequently analyze their tutoring sessions.

Upon successful completion of this course, the students are expected to have a firm grasp of several major areas of English grammar, and an understanding of how to approach grammar teaching. The course is intended to give students a solid grounding in pedagogical English grammar, and ability to further their understanding of English grammar through self-study.