

Carleton University
Fall 2013
Department of English
ENGL 2105A: History of the English Language

MW 2:35–3:55
Southam 304 (Please confirm location on Carleton Central.)
Instructor: Dr. Robin Norris
Email: Robin_Norris@carleton.ca
Office: 1806 Dunton Tower
Telephone: 613-520-2600, ext. 4195
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:00–2:30 or by appointment

Course description

The History of the English Language is a course unlike most English classes. Instead of analyzing texts as literature, we'll be analyzing texts as evidence of linguistic evolution in an investigation that will ultimately allow students to develop new approaches to literary study. In order to understand where words come from, why spelling differs from pronunciation, or what a split infinitive is and why we've been told to avoid them, students will review basic English grammar and learn terminology and concepts from linguistics. We will also trace the history of English from its Indo-European and Germanic roots, through the earliest form of the English language (the Old English of *Beowulf* and the Venerable Bede), the Middle English of Geoffrey Chaucer, and Shakespeare's Early Modern English. Throughout the course, we will discuss the external history of the language and how cultural developments can influence language change. Finally, we will take a descriptive view of Present Day English usage and dialects including Canadian English.

Course objectives

- Ability to read and analyze Chaucer in Middle English and Shakespeare in Early Modern English.
- Descriptive (rather than prescriptive) analysis of social and geographic dialects of world English, including Canadian English.
- Introduction to the *Oxford English Dictionary*.
- Knowledge of fundamental linguistic concepts and terminology (including IPA, lexical change, morphology, orthography, phonology, semantics, and syntax).
- Study of the major phases of English's development: Old English, Middle English, Early Modern English, and Present Day English.
- Understanding processes of language change and its causes, including the influence of cultural and historical developments.

Required texts

David Crystal, *Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*, 2nd ed. (Cambridge, 2003).

Available at Octopus Books, 116 Third Avenue, octopusbooks.org, (613)233-2589.

Note: Additional required and supplementary texts may be made available online and by other means.

Evaluation

- Exercises and quizzes 15%
- Test One 25%
- Test Two 25%
- Final exam 35%

Note: All assignments must be written in standard academic English using MLA format. All examinations may be cumulative and may consist of essay, translation, and/or objective sections (e.g., short answer questions, multiple choice, etc.).

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

UNIT ONE: HOW ENGLISH WORKS

Topics	Reading Assignments	Dates
Welcome to HEL		M9/9
Lexicon and Semantic Change Where do words come from and what do they mean? In conjunction with Chapter 10, we will practice using the <i>Oxford English Dictionary</i> .	Chapter 8: The Nature of the Lexicon Chapter 9: Sources of the Lexicon Chapter 10: Etymology (Focus on pp. 124–30 and pp. 136–9.)	W9/11– M9/16
Orthography Letters and their forms.	Chapter 18: The Writing System (Focus on pp. 256–65 and pp. 272–5.)	W9/18
Phonology What are the sounds of English? How can we represent these sounds in writing?	Memorize basic IPA symbols as soon as possible. See chart on p. 471 and handout. Chapter 17: The Sound System (Focus on pp. 236–45.)	M9/23 W9/25
Morphology and Syntax What are the parts of words and sentences? How do we put words and sentences together?	Chapter 13: Grammatical Mythology Chapter 14: The Structure of Words Chapter 15: Word Classes Chapter 16: The Structure of Sentences (Focus on pp. 190–225.)	M9/30 W10/2
Review for test		M10/7
TEST ONE		W10/9

THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS OCTOBER 14

UNIT TWO: EARLY FORMS OF ENGLISH

Topics	Reading Assignments	Dates
Old English Together we will analyze sample texts in OE.	Chapter 2: The Origins of English Chapter 3: Old English	W10/16 M10/21
Middle English	Chapter 4: Middle English	W10/23

FALL BREAK – NO CLASS OCTOBER 28–30

Middle English We will practice reading Chaucer's Middle English.	Chapter 4: Middle English	M11/4
Early Modern English We will practice reading Shakespeare's EME.	Chapter 5: Early Modern English	W11/6 M11/11
The Transition to ModE	Chapter 6: Modern English	W11/13
<i>MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18 TBA</i>		
Review for test		W11/20
TEST TWO		M11/25

UNIT THREE: MODERN ENGLISH AND CANADIAN ENGLISH

Topics	Reading Assignments	Dates
PDE and World Englishes What historical and cultural influences have shaped Present Day English?	Chapter 6: Modern English	W11/27
Canadian English What historical and cultural influences have shaped Canadian English?	<i>OED</i> overview of CanE (online) and pp. 92–5, 111, 144–5, 284, 298–315, 340–3.	M12/2 W12/4
Review for exam		M12/9

NOTE: A FORMAL, CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAM WILL TAKE PLACE, DATE TBA (DEC. 11–22)

COURSE POLICIES

Academic accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by November 8, 2013, for the Fall term and March 7, 2014, for the Winter term. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>.

Attendance policy

Unlike many English courses, this class features homework, exercises, and/or quizzes completed or submitted in class or online. Students are responsible for the completion and submission of online quizzes as assigned. Faithful attendance, advance preparation, and informed participation will be necessary to pass the course. In addition, you must bring the textbook to each class; the penalty for coming to class without the textbook is a zero quiz grade.

Backup copies

I reserve the right to request a backup electronic and/or hard copy of all assignments; you are responsible for keeping these backups and submitting them immediately upon request.

Campus services

- Academic Writing Centre and Writing Tutorial Service
4th Floor, MacOdrum Library, 613-520-6632, carleton.ca/wts
- Learning Commons
4th Floor, MacOdrum Library, 613-530-2600 x1125, library.carleton.ca/learning_commons
- Paul Menton Centre
500 University Centre, 613-520-6608, carleton.ca/pmc
- Student Academic Success Centre
302 Tory, 613-520-7850, carleton.ca/sasc

Deferred final exams

Deferred final exams must be applied for at the registrar's office and are available only if the student is in good standing in the course. In order to qualify for a deferred final exam for this course, all prior assignments must have been submitted on or before their respective deadlines, and the student may not have more than two unexcused absences or zero quiz grades.

Final grades

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Late assignments

A grade of zero will be recorded for all late or missing assignments. No late homework assignments, exercises, or quizzes will be accepted except in cases when students present documentation of accommodation, illness, bereavement, etc., and take responsibility for making appropriate arrangements to make up the missing work. Late assignments may receive a grade but no written feedback.

Missed appointments

The penalty for a missed appointment is a zero quiz grade. I also reserve the right to refuse future appointments to students who miss appointments scheduled with me.

Rewrite policy

Under no circumstances will a student be allowed to rewrite an essay or exam, or to resubmit an assignment in this course.

Statement on plagiarism

Before completing any assignment, it is your responsibility to ensure that you understand what academic integrity means, what plagiarism is, how to complete your work honestly, and how to cite sources properly. All work must be completed independently unless otherwise instructed. No piece of work written for another course, however modified, may be submitted for credit in this one.

Academic integrity violations will not be tolerated. All suspected cases will be reported to the dean's office at once and prosecuted to the fullest extent possible. All existing means of plagiarism detection will be utilized, including internet search engines and services such as turnitin.com.

The University Senate defines plagiarism as "presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own." This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of F for the course.