

**Carleton University
Winter 2016
Department of English**

ENGL 2105 W: History of the English Language

Prerequisite(s): second-year standing

Monday, Wednesday/ 10:05- 11:25am

Location: *please confirm location on Carleton Central*

**Instructor: Prof. Robin Norris
Email: robin.norris@carleton.ca
Office: DT 1806**

Phone: 613-520-2600 x4195

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 11:30–12:30 and by appointment

COURSE OUTLINE

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 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.

COURSE POLICIES

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.

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 where 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.

FASS POLICIES

Academic accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: 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. For more details see the Student Guide

<http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/academic/students/>

Religious obligation: 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. For more details see the Student Guide.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

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.

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. For more information please go to: <http://www2.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity>

Evaluation

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| Exercises and quizzes | 10% |
| Attendance, participation, and presentation | 20% |
| Test One | 20% |
| Test Two | 20% |
| Final exam | 30% |

****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 COURSE SCHEDULE

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| W 1/6 | Welcome to HEL | |
| UNIT ONE: HOW ENGLISH WORKS | | |
| M 1/11 | Orthography | Chapter 18: The Writing System (Focus on pp. 256–65 and pp. 272–5.) |
| W 1/13 | Morphology and syntax | 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.) |
| M 1/18 | Lexicon, semantic change, and the OED | 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.) |
| W 1/20 M 1/25 | Phonology | <i>Memorize basic IPA symbols as soon as possible.</i> See chart on p. 471 and handout. Chapter 17: The Sound System (Focus on pp. 236–45.) |

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| W 1/27 | Review for test | |
| M 2/1 | Test one | |
| UNIT TWO: HOW ENGLISH WAS | | |
| W 2/3 M 2/8 | Old English | Chapter 2: The Origins of English Chapter 3: Old English |
| W 2/10 <i>reading week</i> M 2/22 | Middle English | Chapter 4: Middle English |
| W 2/24 M 2/29 | Early Modern English | Chapter 5: Early Modern English |
| W 3/2 | The Transition to Modern English | Chapter 6: Modern English |
| M 3/7 | Review for test | |
| W 3/9 | Test two | |
| UNIT THREE: WHAT ENGLISH IS/HWÆT ENGLISHES! | | |
| M 3/14 W 3/16 | | Preparations for presentations. |
| M 3/21 | Modern English | Chapter 6: Modern English and presentations. |
| W 3/23 | Canadian English | <i>OED</i> overview (online). Presentations. pp. 92–5, 111, 144–5, 284, 298–315, 340–3. |
| M 3/28 W 3/30 M 4/4 W 4/6 | New English/English news | Presentations and exam review. |

NOTE: A FORMAL, CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAM WILL TAKE PLACE, DATE TBA.