

ENGL 1311E S01: History of the English Language
Semester II, 2013-14

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Office hours MW 10:30-11:30,
T 1:30-2:30, and by appointment

Course Description and Outcomes

This course begins with the discovery that all native speakers of English have “internalized” a set of rules that operate rapidly, unconsciously, and with great precision during normal language use. Such rules are acquired intuitively during childhood with no assistance from adults beyond emotional support and a willingness to converse. Activities in the first part of the course are designed to bring rules of English to consciousness, prioritizing those with important social and aesthetic implications. In the second part of the course, we deal with distinctive characteristics of English which have historical explanations. We consider what English has in common with languages to which it is remotely but significantly related (such as Hindi or Russian) and with languages to which it is more closely related (such as Dutch or Icelandic). Finally, we consider how English has changed since the time when it first became a distinct language not readily comprehensible by speakers of related languages.

Note that ENGL 1311 is not a good choice if you cannot attend and contribute regularly. Grades are based on class participation and workbook completion (20%) and on three in-class exams and a take-home project, at 20% each. More than three absences will lower your grade; if you have an emergency, speak to me. I do take attendance in class and evaluate daily performance. Please take advantage of my office hours if you have trouble with the concepts or readings; I will be glad to offer help.

On the schedule of activities below, dates for exercises refer to the time when they should have been completed for class discussion, an indispensable aid to learning in all fields of linguistics. Always bring the workbook, as we will do certain exercises together in class. If you cannot find answers to the workbook’s problems, bring your questions for class discussion.

Required Texts

John Algeo and Carmen A. Butcher. *The Origins and Development of the English Language*, 7th edition [ISBN 1133307272]

John Algeo and Carmen A. Butcher. Workbook: Problems for Algeo/Butcher's *The Origins and Development of the English Language*, 7th ed. [ISBN 1133957544]

Various handouts given out in class or available on Canvas.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

This schedule may be subject to revision throughout the semester. Any changes will be announced in class or over email (always check your email for announcements if you miss a class). **Readings and other assignments are due the day on which they are listed. You will need to obtain the exact editions listed above**, as they may differ from other editions under the same titles, and you will need to have a copy of each book and printouts of the handouts in class at every meeting. Workbook exercises will not be graded or taken up, but I will note whether you have tried to do them ahead of class.

Week 1

Introduction to the course

Wed. 1-22

Course Introduction

Fri. 1-24

The “simple” rule for rhyme in canonical English poetry

Begin to read Ch.1: Language and the English Language

Week 2:

What can we know about language?

Mon. 1-27

Systems of Language, Writing and Speech (lecture/discussion); Workbook, Ex.1.3

Wed. 1-29

Language Change and Language Variation (lecture/discussion); Workbook, Ex.1.6, 1.11

Fri. 1-31

The History of English [Ch.1 completed]; Workbook, Ex.1.14 **[Begin reading Ch.2]**

Week 3

English and other languages

Mon. 2-3

The International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA): see p.36 and read Workbook, pp.24-5; do Ex.2.3

Wed. 2-5

Consonants of English (note charts pp.22 & 24): Workbook, Ex. 2.6, 2.7, and 2.8

Fri. 2-7

Vowels of English (note chart p.26): Workbook, Ex.2.12, 2.13, 2.14

<u>Week 4</u>	Sound Changes, Letters, and Sounds
Mon. 2-10	Ch.2, 30-6; Workbook, Ex.2.21, 2.22, 2.23; Begin reading Ch.3
Wed. 2-12	Alphabet Developments (Ch.3, 38-45); Workbook, Ex. 3.11
Fri. 2-14	English Spelling and Writing (Ch.3, 45-51); Workbook, Ex. 3.12
<u>Week 5</u>	Later Medieval Writing and Spelling
Mon. 2-17	Holiday – No Class
Wed. 2-19	Workbook, Ex. 3.13; prepare 3.17 and 3.18 for discussion
Fri. 2-21	Short exam #1; Begin Ch.4
<u>Week 6</u>	Indo-European to Germanic to English
Mon. 2-24	Language Families (Ch.4, 53-68); Workbook, Ex. 4.5, 4.6, 4.7
Wed. 2-26	Indo-European to Germanic (Ch.4, 68-78); Workbook, Ex. 4.9, 4.10, 4.12
Fri. 2-28	More Germanic Sound Changes (Ch.4, 79-81); Workbook, Ex. 4.13, 4.14, 4.15
<u>Week 7</u>	Germanic to Old English
Mon. 3-3	History (Ch.5, 84-97); Workbook, Ex. 5.2, 5.3, 5.4; prepare 5.7 and 5.9 for discussion
Wed. 3-5	Words, Words, Words (Ch.5, 97-109); Workbook, Ex. 5.12, 5.14, 5.16
Fri. 3-7	Old English Verbs (Ch.5, 109-116); Workbook, Ex. 5.17, 5.18, 5.19; prepare 5.20 for discussion
<u>Week 8</u>	Old English to Middle English
Mon. 3-10	Reading Old English (Ch.5, 117-119); Workbook Ex. 5.21 (mark up these readings, noting words that strongly resemble their counterparts in Modern English)
Wed. 3-12	History and Dialects (Ch.6, 121-32); Workbook, Ex.6.2 [read ahead if you can]
Fri. 3-14	Language Changes (Ch.6, 132-9); Workbook, Ex. 6.4, 6.5, 6.7
<u>Week 9</u>	Middle English
Mon. 3-17	Grammatical Changes (Ch.6, 139-47); Workbook, Ex. 6.8, 6.9, 6.12, 6.13, 6.14
Wed. 3-19	Reading Middle English (Ch.6, 147-9); Workbook, Ex. 6.17, 6.18 (mark up readings as instructed)
Fri. 3-21	Short exam #2
<u>Week 10</u>	Spring Break – no classes
<u>Week 11</u>	Medieval to Early Modern English
Mon. 3-31	History and the Great Vowel Shift (Ch.7, 151-62); Workbook, Ex.7.2 and 7.3; prepare 7.4 for discussion
Wed. 4-2	Consonants, Pronunciation, and Reading (Ch.7, 162-7); Workbook, Ex. 7.5 and 7.6
Fri. 4-4	Reading Early Modern English: Workbook, Ex.7.10
<u>Week 12</u>	Early Modern English to 1800
Mon. 4-7	Language Codification and Grammar (Ch.8, 169-85); Workbook, Ex. 8.2 (#1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8); Prepare Ex. 8.2 (#1, 2, 7) for discussion
Wed. 4-9	Early Modern Verb Forms (Ch.8, 185-94); Workbook, Ex. 8.5; 8.6 and 8.7.2 (for discussion)
Fri. 4-11	More Early Modern English (Ch.8, 194-5) and handouts
<u>Week 13</u>	Developments in Late Modern English
Mon. 4-14	British and American English (Ch.9, 196-212); Workbook, Ex. 9.3; Prepare 9.4 for discussion
Wed. 4-16	Dialect Variation (Ch.9, 212-22); Workbook, Ex. 9.6, 9.7, 9.8
Fri. 4-18	American Dialects: Workbook, Ex. 9.10 and handouts
<u>Week 14</u>	Foreign Loan-Words
Mon. 4-21	Borrowings (Ch.12, 275-97)
Wed. 4-23	Take-Home Project Due; Course Wrap-Up and Evaluations
Fri. 4-25	Short Exam #3