

This syllabus has been provided as a reference tool for students considering this course. It has been modified to follow Senate regulations. Current students enrolled in any undergraduate course must obtain the most recent syllabus from their course instructor or from their course website. This is not the latest version.



Department of English & Writing Studies

History of the English Language English 3001 (001) Intersession 2014

Instructor: Anne McTaggart

Date/Time: Monday-Friday 11:00am–1:30pm

Location: University College 142

Prerequisites

At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020E or 1022E or 1024E or 1035E or 1036E or both English 1027F/G and 1028F/G, or permission of the Department.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

The history of English begins in the British Isles over 1500 years ago with the fall of the Roman Empire and is still being written, as English continues to evolve in multiple media and global contexts. This course will introduce students to this long and richly varied history, focusing primarily on the dynamic life of the English language: we will explore its instability and diversity, its relations with other languages, and its place in the social and cultural lives of its speakers.

Objectives:

Successful students who complete the course will be able to:

- Acquire the necessary linguistic knowledge (of phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics) to be able to understand and describe the evolution of the English language;
- Increase awareness of how language works generally, which will improve language-learning skills and heighten appreciation of Modern English;
- Offer insight into the origins of English language, literature, and culture;
- Develop further the ability to analyze texts critically.

Course Materials

Required Texts:

Brinton, Laurel J., and Leslie K. Arnovick. *The English Language: A Linguistic History*, 2nd Ed. Oxford: Oxford UP, 20] 1.

[Other readings available online and/or distributed in class]

Methods of Evaluation

Test #1 (May 21)	10%
Assignment #1 (due May 29)	15%
Test #2 (June 4)	10%
Assignment #2 (due June 18)	20%
Attendance and Class Participation	10%
Final Exam	35%

A student must receive a passing grade for both term work and the final examination in order to receive a passing grade for the course. This applies to all courses in all programs offered by the department. Students whose term and final exam grades average 50% or above, even though one of the two is a failure, shall receive a default grade of 48%. **Please note:** The department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/info%20for%20students.html#grade>.

Timetable:

*Unless otherwise indicated, chapter numbers refer to Brinton and Arnovick's *The English Language*. Assigned readings may be subject to change; any changes will be announced via OWL and in class.

May

- 12 Introduction to the History of English (Ch. 1)
- 13 Phonetics and Writing (Ch. 2); Knowles, "Introduction"
- 14 Phonology and Morphology (Ch. 3 up to p. 81)
- 15 Semantics (Ch. 3 pp. 81-94); Knowles, "The Origins of the English Language"
- 16 PIE and Indo-European (Ch. 4)

- 19 Victoria Day - no classes
- 20 Germanic and the Development of Old English (Ch. 5)
- 21 **Test #1**
- 22 OE (Ch. 6 pp. 162-184); Knowles, "English and Danish"
- 23 OE (Ch. 6 pp. 185-193); Burnley, "Old English"

- 26 OE grammar (Ch. 7 pp. 194-230); "Caedmon's Hymn"
- 27 OE grammar (Ch. 7 pp. 230-239); "Dream of the Rood"
- 28 The Great Vowel Shift (Ch. 10, pp. 327-343)
- 29 Middle English (Ch. 8 pp. 240-258); Knowles, "English and French" pp. 46-53;
- Assignment #1 due**
- 30 ME (Ch. 8 pp. 258-280); Chaucer, Prologue to Book II of *Troilus and Criseyde*

June

- 2 ME (Ch. 9 pp. 281-320); Mannyng, Prologue to *The Chronicle*
- 3 Standardization and Print: William Caxton, from *Eneydos*; Fisher's "Chancery and the Emergence of Standard Written English in the Fifteenth Century" (*Speculum* 52 [1977]: 870-899); Knowles, "English and French" pp. 53-62.
- 4 excerpt from Crystal, *Begat: The King James Bible and the English Language*; Bible versions
- 5 **Test #2**; Early Modern English (Ch. 10, pp. 321-27 and 343-66)
- 6 EModE grammar (Ch. 10, pp. 346-366)

- 9 EModE syntax (Ch. 11, pp. 367-381)
- 10 EModE prescriptivism (Ch. 1), pp. 381-403)
- 11 Modern English grammar and lexicon (Ch. 12, pp. 404-422)
- 12 ModE, effects of new media (Ch. 12, pp. 423-430)
- 13 new media cont'd (excerpt from Crystal, *Language and the Internet*)

- 16 Varieties of English (Ch. 13)
- 17 Varieties cont'd (excerpt from Crystal, *English as a Global Language*)
- 18 **Assignment #2 due**
- 19 TBA
- 20 Course Review

Tests and Written Assignments:

Detailed instructions and topics for the formal papers will be distributed in class. Remember that careful editing and proofreading for spelling, punctuation, grammar, usage, and structure are important in all your written work, and shortcomings in these areas will be reflected in your marks.

Late assignments will lose 3% per day (including weekends). Extensions will be granted only in the case of serious, documented illness or emergency and must be accompanied by documentation processed through Academic Counseling. University policy states that I cannot grant extensions; if Academic Counseling determines that you should have an extension, I will comply.

Attendance

To earn a passing participation grade, you must attend class regularly, listen attentively, come prepared to discuss the assigned reading, and participate in in-class ungraded activities. Beyond this, participation credit will also be given for thoughtful questions and comments, and, in general, demonstration of active engagement with the course material in class. Attendance will be recorded on a sign-in sheet every class to help ensure that your participation grade is fair and objective. Please note that students can be barred from writing final exams in cases of frequent absence from class. Read actively, take responsibility for your own learning: take notes, formulate questions, and try to make connections between texts and ideas on your own.

Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The necessary form and further information regarding this policy can be found at http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence. (We will be discussing plagiarism later in the term.)

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.