

## Department of English &amp; Writing Studies

**ENG 3001.001 - History of the English Language**

Mon. 12:30-1:30, Wed. 12:30-2:30 AHB-1B06.

Richard Moll (rmoll@uwo.ca; 661-2111 x85822, email is best!)

Office hours: IGAB 0N05, Tues. 1:00-3:30 (or by appointment, I'm around a lot)

**Course texts**

Brinton, Laurel J. and Leslie K. Arnovick. *The English Language: A Linguistic History*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Knowles, Gerry. *A Cultural History of the English Language*. London: Hodder, 1997.

Moll, Richard. *Course Packet*.

Recommended: Hacker, Diana. *A Canadian Writer's Reference*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston/New York: Bedford, 2008. You probably have a writing handbook from ENG 020/022 or 024. Any will do, but you will find a handbook useful as you read Brinton & Arnovick.

**Learning Outcomes**

The student who successfully completes the course will:

- 1) understand the relationship between the basic components of English (i.e. phonology, morphology, syntax and lexicon)
- 2) be able to discuss those components as they relate to the major changes in the language over time and place
- 3) understand the changing social position of English across time and place
- 4) be able to situate a piece of English writing within its immediate linguistic context
- 5) have access to a vocabulary which allows them to discuss literature within a linguistic context.

**Class schedule**

The Brinton/Arnovick text is highly technical and we will go over the key material in class, but do not rely on lectures alone. Read the assigned chapters, and look for the larger themes and issues which are summarized at the beginning of each chapter. Online material is just as important as the text book and course packet. **There are links to all online material in OWL.**

Mon. Sept. 14 First day of classes/ The basics

Wed. Sept. 16 Basic Concepts  
Read: *English* ch. 1 (to page 28)

Mon. Sept. 21 Basic concepts  
Read: *English*, ch. 2

Wed. Sept. 23 Read: *English*, ch. 3 (to page 75)  
*Cultural*, ch. 1

Mon. Sept. 28 Indo-European and Grimm's Law  
Read: *English*, ch. 4

Wed. Sept. 30 Read: *English*, ch. 5 (to page 151)  
*Cultural*, ch. 2

- Mon. Oct. 5 Old English (technical)  
Read: *English*, ch. 3 (from page 75): This chapter introduces many important concepts which we will use throughout the year. We will talk about them in more detail at relevant points in the year.  
*English*, chs. 5 (from page 151)
- Wed. Oct. 7 Read: *English*, chs. 6 and 7 (to page 217)  
**Test 1 (basic concepts, IPA, Grimm's Law)**
- Mon. Oct. 12 Thanksgiving (eat well, but it doesn't mean you don't have to read)
- Wed. Oct. 14 Old English (technical and cultural)  
Read: *English*, ch. 7 (from page 218)  
Caedmons's hymn: (<http://www.heorot.dk/bede-caedmon.html>)  
Print the Old English and Latin versions and bring them with you! Read the translations of both the Old English and Latin versions (Bede originally wrote in Latin). Don't worry about the appendices of variants.
- Mon. Oct. 19 Old English (technical review and cultural)  
Read: *Cultural*, ch. 3
- Wed. Oct. 21 Read: "Dream of the Rood." Use Mary Rambaran-Olm's website, which I invite you to explore. Print out her translation (NOT the transcription) of the poem: <http://www.dreamofrood.co.uk>
- Mon. Oct. 26 Middle English (which is to say, something you can read)  
Read: *English*, ch. 8
- Wed. Oct. 28 Read: *Cultural*, ch. 4  
**Test 2 (Old English phonology, morphology & grammar)**
- Mon. Nov. 2 Middle English  
Read: *English*, ch. 9
- Wed. Nov. 4 Read: Robert Mannyng, "Prol. to *The Chronicle*" (course pack, lines 1-135)  
Note: There are two versions of this text in the course pack. The first text (excerpts only) has some background material on Mannyng and his text and it is fully glossed. Read it first to help you get into the language. Then read the second version which is edited for academics rather than undergraduates. We'll discuss the text, and the editorial method of the two versions.
- Mon. Nov. 9 Middle English, national identity  
Read: *English*, ch 10 (just pp. 327-334). This is out of order, but understanding the Great Vowel Shift will make Middle English pronunciation much easier.
- Wed. Nov. 11 Read: Turville-Petre, Thorlac. "Politics and Poetry in the Early Fourteenth Century: The Case of Robert Manning's *Chronicle*." *The Review of English Studies* ns. 39 (1988): 1-28. (available online through JSTOR)  
Robert Mannyng, *Chronicle* (course pack, finish this)  
(Turville-Petre talks about this text, so read him first.)  
**Translation exercise due**

- Mon. Nov. 16 Middle English, standardization / print  
Read: Fisher, John H. "Chancery and the Emergence of Standard Written English in the Fifteenth Century." *Speculum* 52 (1977): 870-899. (available online through JSTOR)
- Wed. Nov. 18 No additional reading.
- Mon. Nov. 23 Middle English, standardization / print  
Read: *English*, ch. 9 (pages 310-320 again)  
William Caxton, selections from *Eneydos* (course pack)
- Wed. Nov. 25 No additional reading.
- Mon. Nov. 30 Middle to Early Modern: the Bible  
Read: *Cultural*, ch. 5  
Wycliffite Bible (links and texts in OWL)
- Wed. Dec. 2 No additional reading.  
**Test 3 (Middle English phonology, morphology and grammar)**
- Mon. Dec. 7 Finish up with Biblical translation.
- Wed. Dec. 9 Finish up Middle English / catch up if we're behind.
- Dec. 6-17 Mid-year exams (no mid-year in this course)**
- Mon. Jan. 4 Early Modern English (technical)  
Read: *English*, ch. 10 (to page 343)
- Wed. Jan. 6 Read: *English*, ch. 10 (from page 343)
- Mon. Jan. 11 Early Modern English (technical)  
Read: *English*, ch. 11 (to page 379)
- Wed. Jan. 13 Bring your favourite Renaissance sonnet.
- Mon. Jan. 18 Early Modern English: Thoughts on the Language  
Read: *English*, ch. 11 (from page 379)  
*Cultural*, ch. 6, 7
- Wed. Jan. 20 Read: Daniel Defoe, "Of Academies" in *Essays upon several projects...* (London, **1702**), 227-251 (Available online in *Eighteenth Century Collection Online* (ECCO). Make sure you use the **1702** edition. Instructions in OWL.)
- Mon. Jan. 25 Early Modern English: Self-conscious Language  
Read: *Cultural*, ch. 8
- Wed. Jan. 27 Read: Jonathan Swift, "A proposal for correcting, improving and ascertaining the English tongue" (London, **1712**). (Use the **1712** edition. Available online in ECCO)
- Mon. Feb. 1 Early Modern English: Dictionaries and Reference Works  
Read: Lord Chesterfield, "Letter to The World" (course pack)  
Samuel Johnson, "Preface to A Dictionary..." (course pack)  
*Cultural*, ch. 9
- Wed. Feb. 3 No additional reading.  
**Test 4 (Early Modern phonology, morphology and grammar)**
- Mon. Feb. 8 The proscriptivists (continued)

- Wed. Feb. 10 Finish up pre-modern English
- Mon. Feb. 15 Conference week (Happy Family Day)  
Wed. Feb. 17 Conference week
- Mon. Feb. 22 English in North America  
Read: Noah Webster, Spelling Book, (Link in OWL)
- Wed. Feb. 24 No additional reading.  
**Paper due (Middle English or Early Modern self-consciousness, and no, you cannot write on the banality of “Family Day”)**
- Mon. Feb. 29 English Around the World  
Read: *English*, ch. 12
- Wed. Mar. 2 Read: *English*, ch. 13 (to page 466: skip pp. 442-449, we’ll come back to this)
- Mon. Mar. 7 English Around the World: United Kingdom  
Read: *Cultural*, ch. 9  
Fisher, John H. “The History of Received Pronunciation” (course pack)  
Ross, S.C. “U and non-U: An Essay in Sociological Linguistics” (c. p.)
- Wed. Mar. 9 Read: *Cultural*, ch. 10
- Mon. Mar. 14 English Around the World: United States  
Read: *English*, ch. 13 (pages 466-482)  
*Cultural*, 10  
**Test 5 given out and posted in OWL (due Wed. Mar. 16)**
- Wed. Mar. 16 Zora Neale Hurston, *Mules and Men* (selections in course pack)  
**Test 5 due (take home, due the 16<sup>th</sup>, AAVE)**
- Mon. Mar. 21 English Around the World: United States  
Read: William Labov, “The Logic of Nonstandard English” (course pack)
- Wed. Mar. 23 Read: Oakland County School Board Resolution on Ebonics:  
(<http://www.linguistlist.org/topics/ebonics/ebonics-res1.html>)  
Online Ebonics debate: Start with John Rickford’s “The Ebonics controversy in my backyard”  
<http://web.stanford.edu/~rickford/papers/EbonicsInMyBackyard.html>.  
Do some searching on your own, though, and be prepared to talk about one or two websites that you found (good, bad, and ugly).
- Mon. Mar. 28 Canadian English (technical)  
Read: *English*, ch. 13 (pp. 442-449)
- Wed. Mar. 30 Read: Chambers, J.K. “‘Lawless and vulgar innovations’: Victorian views of Canadian English.” In *Focus on Canada*. Ed. Sandra Clarke. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Pub. 1993. 1-26. (course pack)  
**Etymology assignment due**
- Mon. Apr. 4 Catch-up / review  
Wed. Apr. 6 Catch-up / review
- Apr. 9-30 Final exam period (we WILL have a final exam, so check schedule before making travel plans)**

### **Marks Distribution**

Paper	15%
Translation	10%
Tests (7.5% each, best 4 of 5)	30%
Etymology assignment	10%
Final exam	35%

### **Essay**

The essays must be presented in MLA style. It is due in class (and electronically) on the date assigned. A late essay will lose 3% per day (including weekends). The essay must be submitted to Turnitin (through OWL) on or before the due date. It may be submitted late to the drop box outside the English Dept. (UC 173). Papers stamped “received after 4:00pm” (3:30 on Fridays) will be considered submitted on the following day (so get them in before the collection times).

### **Tests**

Only four of the five tests will be counted. The lowest COMPLETED test grade will be discarded. In other words, you can screw up once, but if you miss a test it **WILL** count towards your final grade as zero. **BUT**, I will allow anyone to rewrite **ONE** of tests 1-4 for a maximum grade of 70%. A missed test may be rewritten under the same conditions (i.e. you only get one rewrite due to either missing or screwing up on a test). Any make-up test must be written within one week of the test being returned **to the class**. Tests will usually be returned the week after they are written.

### **Academic Accommodation**

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth (either alone or in combination) 10% or more of their final grade 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 Student Medical Certificate (SMC) can be found at [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

I **will not** and indeed **cannot** grant accommodation without notification from Academic Counseling.

### **Plagiarism**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text 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 offense (see Scholastic Offense Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). **Plagiarism checking:** The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking (i.e. Turnitin). Students will be required to submit their work in electronic form for plagiarism checking.

**Value of term work and exam**

Students must pass both term work and the final examination in order to pass the course. Students who fail the final examination (regardless of their term mark) automatically fail the course.

**Prerequisites**

Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded and that all course prerequisites have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any antirequisite course(s) that they have taken. If the student does not have the requisites for a course, the University reserves the right to remove the student from the course and to delete it from the student's record. This decision may not be appealed. A student will receive no adjustment to his or her fees in the event that he or she is dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

**Grammar**

This is not a course in grammar. Basic grammatical terms (such as *subject, object, subjunctive, active, passive, past participle, gerund*, etc.) will be used and you should familiarize yourself with this vocabulary. Use the textbook's glossary and look up any unfamiliar terms in your writing handbook. Students will be required to demonstrate facility with basic English grammar before the first assignment will be graded.

**Information for students**

Departmental and university policies related to course work, grades, plagiarism, appeals, etc. are available on the English Department website. Please see:  
<http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergrd/info.html>