

Department of English & Writing Studies

**History of the English Language**  
**English 3300 (650)**  
Fall/Winter 2017-18

**Instructor:** Michael Fox  
Lawson 3270F

**Office Hours:** M 1:30-2:30 pm and Th  
12:30-1:30 pm

**Antirequisite(s):** The former English 3001.

**Prerequisite(s):** At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020E or English 1022E or English 1024E or English 1035E or English 1036E or English 1042E or both of English 1027F/G and English 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

English has a long history which begins in the British Isles around the time of the fall of the Roman Empire and is still in progress across the world. It also has a long prehistory: its earliest reconstructable ancestor was spoken in the approximate area of what is now Ukraine about five thousand years ago. This course will tell the whole story of the language, paying particular attention to reading texts in different varieties of English from a wide chronological and geographical range. Its primary focus will be on the dynamic life of the English language: its instability and diversity; its relations with other languages; and its place in the social and cultural lives of its speakers.

**Objectives:**

- 1) To develop the necessary linguistic skills (in phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics) to be able to understand and describe the evolution of the English language
- 2) To increase awareness of how language works generally, which will improve language-learning skills and heighten appreciation of Modern English
- 3) To offer insight into the origins of English language, literature, and culture
- 4) To develop further the ability to analyze texts critically

Course Materials

Brinton, Laurel J., and Leslie K. Arnovick, *The English Language: A Linguistic History*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017) [required]

[Other short readings and web-based material will be provided via OWL]

### Methods of Evaluation

The grade for the course will be arrived at as follows:

**Assignments (35%):** Students will complete four short written assignments. The number of assignments shall be four: one on phonetic transcription and analysis, one on etymology, one on onomastics, and one on contemporary English usage. Detailed instructions and advice will be given at the appropriate time. However, in the unlikely event you foresee problems with due dates, please be advised that extensions must be negotiated well in advance. Late assignments will be penalized four percent per day late (Saturday and Sunday are two days, so they count as two days) and will not be accepted more than one week after the due date (for the final assignment, not after the final exam). Assignments must be presented in a consistent essay format (that is, according to a manual of style, the choice of which is up to the student); a detailed guide will be provided. Assignments will be graded according to quality of structure, organization, and expression; effectiveness and logic in argument; and, where applicable, depth and originality of thought.

**Quizzes (20%):** We will have six quizzes. The quizzes will be distributed more or less equally throughout the year (meaning roughly one quiz per month). Quizzes will cover our current work and may be based on readings for the week the quiz is given. Quizzes will be open for several days during the ultimate or penultimate week of the month.

**Participation (5%):** Completing tasks assigned in the lessons and being an active participant in the forums will earn the full 5%. An “active participant” in the forums will make at least 1 (one) meaningful contribution per academic week. Meaningful contributions can be well-thought out questions, comments, answers to questions, etc.

**Final Exam (40%):** Students will be asked to give definitions of key terms, write short answer questions, and complete two longer essay-style or analysis questions. A complete overview and review will be provided before the exam.

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/Student%20Information.html>.

**Timetable:**

September 7-15: Lesson 1 (Resources); Lesson 2 (Introduction); Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 1

September 18-22: Lesson 3 (Phonetics); Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 2

September 25-29: Lesson 3 (Phonetics); Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 2; **Quiz 1**

October 2-6: Lesson 3 (Phonology)

October 9-13: Fall Reading Week

October 16-20: Lesson 3 (Morphology); **Assignment 1 due (October 20)**

October 23-27: Lesson 3 (Syntax); **Quiz 2**

October 30-November 3: Lesson 3 (Semantics)

November 6-10: Lesson 4 (Causes and Mechanisms of Language Change); Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 3

November 13-17: Lesson 5 (Language Classification and Proto-Indo-European); Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 4

November 20-24: Lesson 6 (Proto-Germanic); Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 5; **Quiz 3**

November 27-December 1: Lesson 7 (Old English); Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 6

December 4-8: Lesson 7 (OE); Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 6; **Assignment 2 due (December 8)**

January 8-12: Lesson 7 (OE); Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 7

January 15-19: Lesson 7 (OE); Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 7

January 22-26: Lesson 7 (OE); Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 7; **Quiz 4**

January 29-February 2: Lesson 8 (Middle English); Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 8

February 5-9: Lesson 8 (ME); Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 8 (cont.)

February 12-16: Lesson 8 (ME); Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 9; **Assignment 3 due (February 16)**

February 19-23: Reading Week

February 26-March 2: Lesson 9 (Early Modern English); Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 10; **Quiz 5**

March 5-9: Lesson 9 (EModE); Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 11

March 12-16: Lesson 9 (EModE); Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 11 (cont.)

March 19-23: Lesson 10 (Modern English); Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 12

March 26-30: Lesson 10 (World Englishes); Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 13; **Quiz 6**

April 2-6: Lesson 11 (English Today and Tomorrow); **Assignment 4 due (April 6)**

April 9-11: Conclusion and Review

Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 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 UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at [http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

**Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):**

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.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](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.

### **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>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

### 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.