

Department of English & Writing Studies

History of English Language**English 3300 (001)**

Fall/Winter 2018-19

Instructor: Dr. Mark Stephenson
University College, Room TBA

Course Location: Arts & Humanities
Building 1B06

Office Hours: TBA
or by appointment
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Course Date/Time: Mondays 12:30-1:30 pm,
Wednesdays 12:30-2:30 pm

Antirequisites: The former English 3001.

Prerequisites: 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

Students will be introduced to the concepts of linguistic variety and linguistic change, culminating in an outline of the pre-history of the Indo-European family of languages and of English in particular. We will then proceed to an engagement with the development of the English language from the Old English period up to the present day. The course will conclude with some discussion of Canadian English usage.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Know the differences between a Prescriptivist and Descriptive approach to language and language change;
- Have become familiar with the some of the central concepts of the linguistic analysis of language and language change;
- Be able to recognize the principles of morphological, syntactic and semantic change in language, and know their applicability to language change in English;
- Be able to distinguish among the phonemes of English and know about the processes of their articulation and the role of these in language change;
- Know the major identifiable periods in the history of the English language and become familiar with many of the details of the differences between those periods, and how they arose;
- Have knowledge of the development of the science of Linguistics out of the 19th century academic discipline of Philology;
- Become familiar with the varieties of English in the present, and with the linguistic differences amongst them;
- Have developed their own facility with English by studying the history of its grammar.

Course Materials

Required Texts:

Brinton, Laurel J. And Leslie K. Arnovick. *The English Language: A Linguistic History*. Third Edition. Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 2017. Designated “EL” in the “Course Calendar.”

Stephenson, Mark (Richard Moll and Michael Kightley). *Course Readings*. Designated “CR” in the “Course Calendar.”

This course package will be used in the second term of the course; it will not be available for the first half of the course; it will be available at the bookstore before the start of the second term.

I will also shortly make available, on the course website, a link to the *OED (The Oxford English Dictionary)* Online. Use of this resource is indispensable for the course.

There will also be some online material (as indicated in the “Calendar” by “Website”).

Recommended Texts:

Hacker, Diana. *A Canadian Writer's Reference*. Boston/New York: Bedford, 2008.

This can be any writing handbook which you used in your introductory English courses; you will probably find it helpful to have something close to hand which explains basic grammatical points when working through the more technical aspects of the Brinton and Arnovick.

Methods of Evaluation

Tests – 4 best of 5	15%
Cognate Exercise (1 st Term)	10%
Translation Exercise (2 nd Term)	10%
Paper (2 nd Term)	20%
Etymology Exercise (2 nd Term)	5%
Attendance and Participation	5%
Final Exam	<u>35%</u>
	100%

The Readings:

Make no mistake, you are going to find many aspects of the Brinton-Arnovick text (*EL*) difficult, and you are going to find that text particularly difficult-going early on; you should find the Knowles text quite a bit easier. While we will be taking up the readings from *EL* in class in some detail, do be sure to do the readings, and do them as very best you can: the more familiar you are with that text, the better able you will be to follow the lectures and participate in class.

Tests:

There will be 5 tests in the course. Tested material will not be cumulative, i.e. you will only be tested on material *from* that which was covered in class on the day of the previous test (i.e. later in class after that test), *up to* the material covered in the class which immediately preceded the test. The tests will all be one half hour in length, and will all be in-class. Your test-grade for the course will consist of your best 4 grades out of the 5 tests.

Translation Exercise:

The “translation” will be from a passage of Middle English.

Paper:

More information TBA.

Cognate and Etymology Exercises:

More information TBA.

Late Policy:

Written assignments are subject to penalties if turned in later than 4:00 p.m. on their date due. Note also that **electronic submissions of written assignments will not be accepted**. Late papers will be docked 2% per day, including weekends; no paper will be accepted beyond two weeks after the due date. Extensions for assignments must be obtained no later than 4:00 p.m. the day before the assignment is due. If you do not or cannot deliver your paper in class on the due date, you must drop it off in the English Department Drop-Box, located outside the English Office in University College – **do not slip your paper under my office door**.

Participation/Attendance:

Attendance will be taken daily, and your attendance in class will form the bulk of this grade. However, your participation in class – answering and asking questions, engaging in discussions and so forth – will also play a factor in determining the full extent of this grade. **I cannot stress enough how much regular attendance in this class is vital in order to achieve a passing grade, or better**: missing one class is equivalent to missing an entire week in a regularly scheduled course. Also, as will very quickly become apparent (by the second class), the technical aspects of this course require a good deal of attention and concentration in order to come to terms with them – and you will need to come to terms with them in order to pass the course – and the very best foundation for that (beyond keeping up with the readings) is regular, in-class attendance.

Exam:

The exam will cover the entire course; it will be held sometime during the exam period.

Plagiarism:

Be advised that the unacknowledged use of another person's writing or ideas is a serious academic offence and will result, at the very least, in a zero for the assignment. For further information, see the Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar - http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Be aware that if you are caught engaging in plagiarism, it will result, *at the very least*, in a zero for the assignment.

Academic 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.

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Use of Laptops and Phones in Class – Classroom Etiquette:

Laptop use is permitted in lectures; however, they must be used for the purpose of taking notes

only (or other course related activity). **Anyone who employs their laptop for other purposes will be asked to leave the class.** Be sure, also, to turn off your ringers before coming to class.

Furthermore, **if there are any disruptions to the class, and in particular, to my concentration when lecturing, due to excessive talking/whispering, passing of notes, etc., those persons involved will be asked to leave the class.**

Timetable

Note that this "Calendar," including dates for assignments, quizzes, etc., listed both above and below, is subject to change with sufficient advanced notice. Note also that page numbers in *EL* are not, at present, accurate, as this "Calendar" is based on an earlier edition of the textbook; a revised syllabus, with accurate page #s, will be made available before the start of the classes.

FALL TERM

September

Part 1: Basics of Philology/Linguistics and Linguistic History; IPA, PIE

Week 1 – Sept. 10 and 12

Introduction to the course, basic grammar, etc.

Week 2 – Sept. 17 and 19

EL, Chapter 1

Orwell, "Politics and the English Language" (Website)

Week 3 – Sept. 24 and 26

EL, Chapter 2 (to pp. 47)

October

Week 4 – Oct. 1 and 3; Test #1, Oct. 3

EL, Chapter 2 (pp.48-51) and Chapter 3

Week 5 – Oct. 8 and 10, Fall Reading Week – No Classes

Week 6 – Oct. 15 and 17

EL, Chapter 3 (concl.)

Part 2: Grimm's Law, Germanic and Old English

Week 7 – Oct. 22 and 24

EL, Chapter 4

November

Week 8 – Oct. 29 and 31

EL, Chapter 5

Week 9 – Nov. 1 and 3; Test #2, Nov. 3

EL, Chapter 6

Week 10 – Nov. 5 and 6

EL, Chapter 6 (concl.)

Week 11 – Nov. 12 and 14; Cognate Exercise Due, Nov. 12

EL, Chapter 7

Week 12 – Nov. 19 and 21

EL, Chapter 7 (concl.)

December

Week 13 – Nov. 26 and 28

“Caedmon's Hymn” (Website)

Part 3: Middle English

Week 14 – Dec. 3 and 5; Test #3, Dec. 5

EL, Chapter 8

WINTER TERM

January

Week 1 - Jan. 7 and 9

EL, Chapter 9

Week 2 – Jan. 14 and 15

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 (online, JSTOR)
Robert Mannyng, *The Chronicle* (CR)

Week 3 – Jan. 21 and 22

William Caxton, selections from *Eneydos* (CR)

Fisher, John H. “Chancery and the Emergence of Standard Written English in the Fifteenth Century.” *Speculum* 52, No. 4 (1977): 870-899 (online, JSTOR)

Week 4 – Jan. 28 and 30

Cultural, Chapter 5 and 7

Wycliffe Bible (Website)

February

Part 4: Early Modern English and 18th Century Prescriptivism

Week 5 – Feb. 4 and 6; Test #4, Feb. 6

EL, Chapter 10 and Chapter 11 (pp. 345-356 in the latter)

E.K.'s “Prologue” and “January” and “April” from Edmund Spenser's *The Shepheardes Calendar* (Website)

Week 6 – Feb. 11 and 12

EL, Chapter 11 (pp. 357-375)

Daniel Defoe, “Of Academies” in *An essay upon several projects...* (London, 1702), 227-251 (Online, *Eighteenth Century Collection Online* (ECCO))

Week 7 – Feb. 18 and 20 – Winter Reading Week – No Classes

Week 8 – Feb. 25 and 26; Translation Exercise Due, Feb. 25

Defoe (cont.) and Jonathan Swift, “A proposal for correcting, improving and ascertaining the English tongue” (London, 1712) (Online, ECCO)

March

Week 10 – March 4 and 5

EL Chapter 11 (pp. 375-378)

Lord Chesterfield, "Letter to the World" (*CR*)

Samuel Johnson, "Preface to A Dictionary" (*CR*)

Part 5: Modern English

Week 11 – March 11 and 13; Test #5, March 13

EL, Chapter 12 (pp. 381-402)

Week 12 – March 18 and 20

EL, Chapter 12 (cont.) (pp. 407-423)

Fisher, John H. "The History of Received Pronunciation" (*CR*)

Week 13 – March 25 and 27; Paper Due, March 25

EL, Chapter 12 (cont.) (pp. 423-435)

William Labov, "Academic Ignorance and Black Intelligence" (Source TBA)

April

Week 14 – April 1 and 3

EL, Chapter 12 (concl.) (pp. 402-407; 436-442)

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. (*CR*)

Week 15 – April 8 – Last Class; Etymology Exercise Due

Exam Review

Exam: Date TBA

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.

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.