

## Department of English &amp; Writing Studies

**History of the English Language****English 3300-001**

Fall/Winter 2019-20

**Instructor:** Michael Fox  
UC 3429; M 1:30-3:30; W 2:30-3:30

**Course Date/Time:** Monday 12:30-1:30 pm,  
Wednesday 12:30 - 2:30 pm

**Course Location:** PAB 117

**Antirequisites:** The former English 3001.

**Prerequisites:** At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020-1999 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.

Official 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.

Unofficial Course Description

Language is a tool many of us use almost unconsciously, much as we (usually!) breathe without thought. Language use (and which language we use), however, entangles us in a history that is long, complicated, and often charged with meanings we should consider. For example, this class will meet in London, named after the London in England (why?; how should we feel about that?), itself a very old name of uncertain origin, though some have proposed that the city was named after a Celtic person named \**Londinos* (a name meaning “the wild one”). This course won’t cover the history of every word in English, but it will give you the skills to trace those histories for yourselves – everything including pronunciation, bits added to words to change their meaning or role in a sentence, and meaning – and those skills are useful, if not vital, for everyone who is serious about communicating in English.

**Objectives:**

- 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;
- To increase awareness of how language works generally, which will improve language-learning skills and heighten appreciation of Modern English;
- To offer insight into the origins of English language, literature, and culture;
- 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 completed after class should be submitted via the drop box outside the main department offices in UC. 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.

**Mid-term (20%):** In January, we will have a mid-term test on our work to that point in the course.

**Quizzes (10%):** We will have six quizzes. The best five grades will count. The quizzes will be administered on random dates, but distributed more or less equally throughout the year (meaning, most likely, one quiz in each of September, October, November, January, February, and March). Quizzes will cover our current work and may be based on readings for the day the quiz is given (in other words, be prepared for class!).

**Final Exam (35%):** 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 in the final class before the exam.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <https://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>.

### **Additional Information:**

- 1) The best (and only) way to contact me outside of class and office hours is via email. Except in extraordinary circumstances, you can expect a response within 24 hours. Please do not email me using OWL's mail function.
- 2) No e-mails of essays or any assignments will be accepted, unless by prior arrangement.

### 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.

Timetable

September 9-11: Introduction; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 1

September 16-18: Phonetics; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 2

September 23-25: Phonetics; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 2 (cont.)

September 30-October 2: Phonology

October 7-9: Morphology and Etymology; **Assignment 1 due (October 9)**

October 16: Syntax

October 21-23: Semantics

October 28-30: Causes and Mechanisms of Language Change; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 3

November 4-8: Fall Reading Week

November 11-13: Proto-Indo-European; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 4

November 18-20: Germanic and the Development of OE; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 5

November 25-27: OE; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 6

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

January 6-8: OE; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 7 (cont.)

January 13-15: OE; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 7 (cont.)

January 20-22: OE; Mid-term review; **Mid-term test (January 22 in class)**

January 27-29: ME; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 8

February 3-5: ME; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 8 (cont.)

February 10-12: ME; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 9; **Assignment 3 due (February 12)**

February 17-21: Winter Reading Week

February 24-26: EModE; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 10

March 2-4: EModE; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 11

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

March 16-18: ModE; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 12

March 23-25: World Englishes; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 13

March 30-April 1: English Today and Tomorrow: What is the future of English?; **Assignment 4 due (April 1)**