

Department of English & Writing Studies

**History of the English Language**

**English 3300 (001)**

Fall/Winter 2020-21

**Instructor:** Anne Schuurman  
anne.schuurman@uwo.ca

**Course Day/Time:** Asynchronous,  
Wednesdays 1:30 pm-2:30 pm

**Course Location:** Online

**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.

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. The course will begin by introducing students to the components of linguistic analysis; after working our way through a historical survey from Old to Modern English, we will conclude the course by exploring global forms of English and non-standard forms of English.

This course will be offered asynchronously for the most part, with one hour per week of synchronous class discussion held via Zoom. All course content, in the form of written lectures, study guides, written exercises, short readings, quizzes, and assignments, will be available online, via OWL. Zoom discussions will give students an opportunity to share their thoughts, raise questions, and hear from each other and from me about course readings and material. These discussions will be loosely structured by questions distributed in advance but students are also encouraged to bring their own ideas and questions to the “table” and to steer the discussion in the way that best suits their course-related concerns and interests for the week.

**Objectives:**

By the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- acquire the necessary linguistic knowledge (of phonetics, 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

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

Course requirements will include written assignments on etymology and contemporary English usage, among other topics, as well as participation in OWL forums class discussion via Zoom; quizzes, a mid-term, and a final exam. Details on requirements, including grade distribution and due dates, coming soon.

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>.

### Academic Consideration for Missed Work

Students who are temporarily unable to meet academic requirements (e.g. attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) may submit a self-reported absence form online (available on your Student Center) provided that the absence is 48 hours or less and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy are met. Students can self-report only two absences per academic year. See policy here:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/Academic\\_Consideration\\_for\\_absences.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf).

Students whose absences are expected to last longer than 48 hours, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds) to Academic Counselling. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. The Student Medical Certificate is available online at [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation.

### 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

TBA