

English 3001: History of the English Language – Western University – Intersession 2014

Monday-Friday, 11am-1:30pm

UC 142

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Office Hours: Tuesday 1:30-3:30; Thursday 1:30-2:30

Course Description:

The history of English begins in the British Isles over 1500 years ago with the fall of the Roman Empire and is still being written, as English continues to evolve in multiple media and global contexts. This course will introduce students to this long and richly varied history, focusing primarily on the dynamic life of the English language: we will explore its instability and diversity, its relations with other languages, and its place in the social and cultural lives of its speakers.

Learning Outcomes:

- 1) To acquire the necessary linguistic knowledge (of phonology, morphology, syntax, and 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

Required Texts:

Brinton, Laurel J., and Leslie K. Arnovick. *The English Language: A Linguistic History*, 2nd Ed. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2011.

[Other readings available online and/or distributed in class]

Assignments and Grade Distribution:

Test #1 (May 21)	10%
Assignment #1 (due May 29)	15%
Test #2 (June 4)	10%
Assignment #2 (due June 18)	20%
Attendance and Class Participation	10%
Final Exam	35%

Tests and Written Assignments:

Detailed instructions and topics for the formal papers will be distributed in class. Remember that careful editing and proofreading for spelling, punctuation, grammar, usage, and structure are important in all your written work, and shortcomings in these areas will be reflected in your marks.

Late assignments will lose 3% per day (including weekends). Extensions will be granted only in the case of serious, documented illness or emergency and must be accompanied by

documentation processed through Academic Counseling. University policy states that I cannot grant extensions; if Academic Counseling determines that you should have an extension, I will comply.

Class Participation and Attendance:

To earn a passing participation grade, you must attend class regularly, listen attentively, come prepared to discuss the assigned reading, and participate in in-class ungraded activities. Beyond this, participation credit will also be given for thoughtful questions and comments, and, in general, demonstration of active engagement with the course material in class. Attendance will be recorded on a sign-in sheet every class to help ensure that your participation grade is fair and objective. Please note that students can be barred from writing final exams in cases of frequent absence from class. Read actively, take responsibility for your own learning: take notes, formulate questions, try to make connections between texts and ideas on your own.

Final Exam:

Exams are scheduled by the University.

DO NOT MAKE TRAVEL PLANS UNTIL YOU KNOW YOUR EXAM SCHEDULE.

Value of term work and exam:

STUDENTS MUST PASS BOTH TERM WORK AND THE FINAL EXAMINATION (IN COURSES WITH FINAL EXAMINATIONS) IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE. STUDENTS WHO FAIL THE FINAL EXAMINATION (REGARDLESS OF THEIR TERM MARK) AUTOMATICALLY FAIL THE COURSE.

Class Conduct:

All students are expected to conduct themselves according to high standards of respect and civility in the classroom. To that end, students are asked to respect the following guidelines:

1. Frame questions and differences of opinion in a constructive and professional manner.
2. Respect the rights of each student and of the instructor to speak without having to talk over other voices.
3. Turn off cell-phones and headsets before the start of class, and for the duration of the class. Note: this means no texting during class.

4. Refrain from reading newspapers/magazines/books and from doing work for other classes.
5. Only use laptops for note-taking. If it is clear that you are using a laptop for other purposes (Facebook, Twitter, email, etc.), I reserve the right to ask you to stop using your laptop in class. Laptops should not be open during class discussions.

Email Conduct:

Please address and sign all email correspondence appropriately. Typically, emails will be answered within 48 hours, although I do not always answer emails in the evening or on weekends. If you have not heard from me after 48 hours, please re-send your message: do not assume that I have received your email if you do not receive a reply.

Academic Accommodation:

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments must apply to the Academic Counseling 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/handbook/appeals/medicalform.pdf>. 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.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is a major academic offense: see the Scholastic Offense Policy in the Academic Calendar. In sum, plagiarism includes the possession and use of unauthorized materials in examinations, giving to or obtaining from other students in an examination information, representing another student or having oneself represented by another student at an examination, submitting in one course a paper in whole or part already submitted for credit in another course, submitting a paper containing a statement of fact known by the student to be false, submitting a paper in which a reference or source has been fabricated, submitting a paper in which a quotation from another source or a borrowed idea is presented as one's own. If you have any doubt about a particular case, I encourage you to ask me for help.

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.

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>.

Schedule of Readings

*Unless otherwise indicated, chapter numbers refer to Brinton and Arnovick's *The English Language*. Assigned readings may be subject to change; any changes will be announced via OWL and in class.

May

- 12 Introduction to the History of English (Ch. 1)
- 13 Phonetics and Writing (Ch. 2); Knowles, "Introduction"
- 14 Phonology and Morphology (Ch. 3 up to p. 81)
- 15 Semantics (Ch. 3 pp. 81-94); Knowles, "The Origins of the English Language"
- 16 PIE and Indo-European (Ch. 4)

- 19 Victoria Day – no classes
- 20 Germanic and the Development of Old English (Ch. 5)
- 21 **Test #1**
- 22 OE (Ch. 6 pp. 162-184); Knowles, "English and Danish"
- 23 OE (Ch. 6 pp. 185-193); Burnley, "Old English"

- 26 OE grammar (Ch. 7 pp. 194-230); "Caedmon's Hymn"
- 27 OE grammar (Ch. 7 pp. 230-239); "Dream of the Rood"
- 28 The Great Vowel Shift (Ch. 10, pp. 327-343)
- 29 Middle English (Ch. 8 pp. 240-258); Knowles, "English and French" pp. 46-53;
Assignment #1 due
- 30 ME (Ch. 8 pp. 258-280); Chaucer, Prologue to Book II of *Troilus and Criseyde*

June

- 2 ME (Ch. 9 pp. 281-320); Mannyng, Prologue to *The Chronicle*
- 3 "Standardization and Print: William Caxton, from *Eneydos*; Fisher's "Chancery and the Emergence of Standard Written English in the Fifteenth Century" (*Speculum* 52 [1977]: 870-899); Knowles, "English and French" pp. 53-62.
- 4 excerpt from Crystal, *Begat: The King James Bible and the English Language*; Bible versions
- 5 **Test #2**; Early Modern English (Ch. 10, pp. 321-27 and 343-66)
- 6 EModE grammar (Ch. 10, pp. 346-366)

- 9 EModE syntax (Ch. 11, pp. 367-381)
- 10 EModE prescriptivism (Ch. 11, pp. 381-403)
- 11 Modern English grammar and lexicon (Ch. 12, pp. 404-422)
- 12 ModE, effects of new media (Ch. 12, pp. 423-430)
- 13 new media cont'd (excerpt from Crystal, *Language and the Internet*)

- 16 Varieties of English (Ch. 13)
- 17 Varieties cont'd (excerpt from Crystal, *English as a Global Language*)
- 18 **Assignment #2 due**
- 19 TBA
- 20 Course Review