

**English 3001-001: History of the English Language  
Intersession 2015**

Instructor: Michael Fox  
Meetings: MTWThF 11:00-1:30 P&AB 117 (May 11-June 19)  
Office: Lawson 3270F  
Office Hours: no set hours: we see each other every day!  
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Prerequisite: 1.0 course in English at the first-year level

**Official 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.

**Course 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

**Required Texts:**

Brinton, Laurel J., and Leslie K. Arnovick, *The English Language: A Linguistic History*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011)

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

**Grade Distribution:**

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 Lawson 3270. 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%): On May 29, 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 course. 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!). There will be no accommodation for missed quizzes unless arranged through an academic counsellor.

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.

**Please note:**

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 faxes \*or e-mails\* of essays or any assignments will be accepted, unless by prior arrangement. Under no circumstances should you fax essays to the Department.

3) Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author (and this includes websites), they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. All suspected instances of plagiarism are reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. See the "Information for Students" sheet on the Department's home page:  
<http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergrad/info-for-students.html>

4) Students must pass both term work and the final examination in order to pass the course. Students who fail the final examination (regardless of their term mark) automatically fail the course.

5) Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth (either alone or in combination) 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 Student Medical Certificate (SMC) can be found at:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medicalform.pdf>

The full policy is set out here:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)

6) 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.

7) Remember that excessive absenteeism is grounds for debarring a student from taking the final examination (see 2013 Academic Calendar, p. 35). Such action would not be a surprise: due warning will be received by the student.

### Schedule of Classes

May 11: Introduction

May 12: Introduction (cont.); Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 1

May 13: Phonetics; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 2

May 14: Phonetics; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 2 (cont.)

May 15: Phonology

May 18: Victoria Day, no class

May 19: Morphology and Etymology; **Assignment 1 due**

May 20: Syntax

May 21: Semantics

May 22: Causes and Mechanisms of Language Change; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 3

May 25: Proto-Indo-European; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 4

May 26: Proto-Indo-European; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 4

May 27: Germanic and the Development of OE; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 5; **Assignment 2 due**

May 28: Germanic and the Development of OE; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 5

May 29: **Mid-term exam**

June 1: OE; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 6

June 2: OE; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 7

June 3: OE; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 7 (cont.)

June 4: OE; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 7 (cont.)

June 5: ME; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 8

June 8: ME; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 8

June 9: ME; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 9

June 10: ME; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 9 (cont.); **Assignment 3 due**

June 11: EModE; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 10

June 12: EModE; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 11

June 15: ModE; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 12

June 16: World Englishes; Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 13

June 17: Pidgins and Creoles

June 18: English Today and Tomorrow: What is the future of English?

June 19: Conclusion and Review; **Assignment 4 due**

June 22 or June 23: **Final Exam**