

Language Seminar (English) (22566)

Degree: Applied Languages (3344)

Year: third or fourth

Term: third

ECTS credits: 4

Student workload: 100

Course type: elective

GG teacher: Enric Vallduví

Language of instruction: English

1. Course presentation

Topic for 2014-2015: **History of the English Language**

The course focuses on the development of the English language in the context of the Germanic family of Indo-European languages, from its Germanic roots to modern times. It covers the different historical stages of English, describing their main features and the relevant linguistic processes at the level of phonology, spelling, syntax and the lexicon. The course also discusses the socioeconomic and historical scenario of each period and the corresponding transitions. The case of English is used to illustrate typical processes in language change, heuristics in historical linguistics, sociolinguistic principles, and aspects of English phonetics.

2. Skills to be developed

This course helps develop the following generic (G) and specific (E) skills:

1. Analytical and synthetic thinking (G.01)
2. Document search and information resources (G.04; E12)
3. Ability to work solo and in a team (G.13)
4. English reading and listening comprehension (E.02, E.03)
5. English writing and speaking (E.03)
6. Knowledge of foreign cultures and civilisations (E.04)
7. Specialised knowledge on the history of English (E.05)

3. Contents

1. The Germanic language family. Society and culture. Migrations. Linguistic features and language change before the invasion of Britain.
2. Old English (450-1100). Germanic settlement of Britain. Nordic influence. Written language and lexicon. Phonology, syntax. Agreement and case.
3. Middle English (1100-1500). Formal aspects. Period of decline. French influence. Re-emergence as a standard language.
4. Early Modern English (1500-1700). Codification and Reform. Prescriptive grammar. Regional variation.
5. Modern English. Worldwide spread. Varieties and adjustment to different territories. General aspects of English dialectology. Sociolinguistic issues in Modern English.

4. Evaluation and reassessment

Evaluation		Reassessment			
Evaluation activities	Percentage of final mark	It can/cannot be made up	Percentage of final mark	How is it made up?	Prerequisites and observations
Exam	40%	Can be made up	55%	Exam	A mark of 5/10, at least, must be scored on exam at evaluation or reassessment to pass course (1)
Specific in-class task	20%	Cannot be made up	—	—	(2)
Group project	20%	Cannot be made up	—	—	(2)
Other activities and participation	20%	Cannot be made up	—	—	(2)

(1) Whenever the exam score is less than 5/10, then the final mark for the course will be precisely this exam score (even if the weighted average of all the evaluation activities is higher than 5/10).

(2) Whenever the exam is not passed at evaluation time, the scores obtained during term time on the other evaluation activities will be reused at reassessment and will account for 45% of final mark (if the reassessment exam is passed). Evaluation activities not done or submitted during term time will be assigned zero points.

5. Methodology

The course is organized as follows:

- 1 plenary group session/week (GG); 1 seminar/week (GS)
- Reading: An average of 2 hours/week. You will be expected to do the required reading before the class in which it is discussed.
- Homework: There may be weekly exercises, the role of which is to give you the opportunity to make sure you understand the concepts and techniques that are discussed in class, as well as to prepare you for the exam and other assessable tasks. In general, any homework that is to be submitted will be turned in electronically.
- Group project: Groups will work on a project related to particular topics covered by the course. The project will generate a written 4-6 page report and a class presentation.

The plenary GG sessions will consist mostly in the presentation and discussion of the concepts and methods that are necessary to understand the readings and do the exercises. Group project presentations will also take place during plenary

sessions. The GS sessions will be mainly devoted to discussing the weekly exercises and to other in-class tasks. Active participation of the student is essential in both types of classes, but especially in the seminar sessions. The work to be done outside of class will mainly consist of the weekly readings and exercises, work on the group project and study for the exam and other separately assessable tasks.

Class participation is required in order to follow the course adequately. Failure to attend class on days when an in-class assessable task takes place will result in a grade of 0 for that particular task. In general, no late work will be accepted.

6. Essential bibliography

6.1. Core references

- Baugh, Albert C. and Thomas Cable (2012). *A History of the English Language* (6th ed.). Routledge.
- Brinton, Laurel and Leslie K. Arnovick (2011). *The English Language: A Linguistic History* (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press.
- Cable, Thomas (2012). *A Companion to Baugh and Cable's History of the English Language* (4th ed.). Longman.
- Gramley, Stephan (2012). *The History of English: An Introduction*. Routledge

6.2. Additional references

- Algeo, John (2010). *The Origins and Development of the English Language*, 6th ed. Cengage Learning.
- Algeo, J., N. Blake, R. Burchfield, R. Hogg, R. Lass, eds. (1992-2001). *The Cambridge History of the English language*. 6 vols. Cambridge University Press.
- Barber, Charles (1993). *The English Language: A Historical Introduction*. Cambridge University Press.
- Blake, Norman (1996). *A History of the English Language*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Bragg, Melvyn (2011). *The Adventure of English*. Arcade Publishing.
- Burnley, David (2000). *The History of the English Language. A sourcebook* (2nd ed.). Longman.
- Culpeper, Jonathan (2005). *History of English* (2nd ed.). Routledge.
- Fennel, Barbara (2001). *A History of English. A Sociolinguistic Approach*. Wiley-Blackwell.
- Freeborn, Dennis (2006). *From Old English to Standard English* (3rd ed.). Palgrave Macmillan.
- Gelderen, Elly van (2014). *A History of the English Language* (2nd ed.). John Benjamins.
- Hogg, Richard & David Denison, eds. (2008). *A History of the English Language*. New York: Cambridge University Press
- Kemenade, Ans van and Bettelou Los, eds. (2006). *The Handbook of the History of English*. Blackwell.
- McIntyre, Dan (2008). *History of English*. Routledge
- Mugglestone, Lynda, ed. (2012). *The Oxford History of English* (updated ed.). Oxford University Press.
- Pyles, Thomas and John Algeo (2004). *The Origins and Development of the English Language* (5th ed.). Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

Svartvik, Jan and Geoffrey Leech (2006), *English: One tongue, many voices*.
Palgrave Macmillan.