

English 321: The History of the English Language

Contact Information:

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135 Colson (West Virginia Dialect Project)

Office Hours: 2:30-3:30 Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and by appointment.

Purpose: The purpose of this course is to direct you in rigorously studying the history of the English language through examination of diachronic and synchronic variation.

Goals:

1. Develop respect for human language.
2. Understand the nature of diachronic and synchronic language variation.
3. Know the major developments of each period of English history.
4. Understand the results of language change in Modern English.

Text: *The History of the English Language*. Stephan Gramley. Routledge. 2012.

<http://cw.routledge.com/textbooks/gramley-9780415566407/>

Attendance: Without attending class, you cannot perform your role as a student. Personal situations and required university events may arise that, on rare occasions, make it impossible for you to be in class. Remember, however, that is why a few absences are allowed; please reserve absences for such events.

- Each student is allowed up to three (3) absences from this Tuesday/Thursday class.
- Each additional absence will lower your final grade by a letter grade.

In addition, one other situation will count towards your absence total. If you are late to class, it will count as half an absence. This situation is a matter of respect for your peers and the instructor. I will not inform you of when you have been marked down for half an absence; you should be able to figure it out on your own.

If you must miss class, *you* are responsible for obtaining any handouts or assignments for the class. Make sure you talk with me in advance if you are worried about meeting a deadline or missing a class. Please note: If you know you must miss more than three classes during the semester, I strongly advise you to take the class during another term.

Absences, tests, and homework: If you plan to miss a test, you must notify me before the test begins about the reason for your absence. If it is a valid excuse, you may make up the test during the semester. You may make up one and only one test during any given semester.

Homeworks will be assigned throughout the semester. They are due on their due dates. If a homework assignment is late, then it receives a zero. Homework is late when it is not turned in by the 10th minute of the class period it is due.

The Numbers:

Type	Percent of final grade	Date
Homework	20%	Throughout the semester
Wordhoard	20%	See assignment sheet
First test	20%	February 12
Second test	20%	March 12
Third test	20%	May 6

In this class I assign pluses and minuses. The official percentages are 100-97 = A+; 96-93 = A; 92-90 = A-; 89-87 = B+; 86-83 = B; 82-80 = B-; 79-77 = C+; 76-73 = C; 72-70 = C-; 69-67 = D+.

The Plan:

Class	Date	Topic	Reading
1	January 15	Introduction: Finding out what we know	
2	January 17	English in North America	Chapter 10
3	January 22	English in North America	Chapter 10
4	January 22	African and Asia	Chapter 12
5	January 24	African and Asia	Chapter 12
6	January 29	Southern Hemisphere	Chapter 11
7	January 31	Southern Hemisphere	Chapter 11
8	February 5	Pidgins and creoles	Chapter 9
9	February 7	Pidgins and creoles	Chapter 9
10	February 12	Test 1	
11	February 14	Great Britain and Ireland	Chapter 8

Class	Date	Topic	Reading
12	February 19	Great Britain and Ireland	Chapter 8
13	February 21	Early Modern English	Chapter 7
14	February 26	Early Modern English	Chapter 7
15	February 28 Mid-Semester	Early Modern English	Chapter 7 & 6
16	March 5	Early Modern English	Chapter 6
17	March 7	Early Modern English	Chapter 6
18	March 12	Test 2	
19	March 14	Middle English	Chapter 5
20	March 19	Middle English	Chapter 5
21	March 21	Middle English	Chapter 4
	March 22	Friday: Last day to drop a class	
	March 23-31	Recess!!!!!!	
22	April 2	Middle English	Chapter 4
23	April 4	Middle English	Chapter 4
24	April 9	Old English	Chapter 3
25	April 11	Old English	Chapter 3
26	April 16	Old English	Chapter 3 & 2
27	April 18	Old English	Chapter 2
28	April 23	Old English; pre-Old English	Chapter 1
29	April 25	Wordhoard presentations	
30	April 30	Wordhoard presentations	
31	May 2	Review; last day of class	
32	May 6	Test 3, Monday, 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM	