

COURSE TITLE: Història de la Llengua Anglesa I

SEMESTER: A

COURSE TEACHER: Malou Van Wijk

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT: class participation / assignments / final exam

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF CONTENT:

The aim of the course is manyfold: 1) to reinforce the concepts and tools acquired by students in 1st-cycle courses by applying them within a diachronic perspective; 2) to introduce a series of new concepts and tools to understand and describe the dynamic processes of linguistic change required by a diachronic perspective; 3) to provide a linguistic training which helps students to access the language of authors of different periods more easily, both in terms of surface and more subtle differences of language; 4) to enrich the students' conception of language and language evolution and to prepare them for 2nd-cycle subjects where such concepts will be more developed. The central aim of the course is 5) to provide students with an introductory but thorough descriptive grounding in the evolution of the English language in all major areas: phonetics and phonology, morphosyntax and positional syntax, the lexicon (word formation and borrowing), orthography, dialectal development, as well as an initial consciousness of the importance of social factors –not only a macro-but also at micro-levels of social interaction– in language variation and change. History of English I focuses specifically on the origins of the English language and its evolution up to 1500 AD. Theoretical classes are followed up by practical classes (of utmost importance) in which students will be introduced to the linguistic analysis of medieval texts.

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Algeo, J. and Pyles, T. (1982) *Problems in the origins and development of the English language*, New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.
- Baugh, A. and T. Cable (1993) *A History of the English Language*, London: Routledge.
- Freeborn, Dennis (1992) *From Old English to Standard English*, London: Macmillan.
- Görlach, M. (1997) *The Linguistic History of English*, London: Macmillan.
- Graddol, Leith and Swann (1996) *English: history, diversity and change*, London: Routledge.
- Leith, R. (1983) *A Social History of English*, London: Routledge.
- Moore, S. (1960) *Historical Outlines of English Sounds and Inflections* (Revised by A.H. Marckwardt) Ann Arbor: George Wahr.
- Mossé, F. (1952) *A Handbook of Middle English*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Pyles, T. and J. Algeo (1982) *The Origins and Development of the English Language*, New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.
- Strang, B. (1970) *A History of English*, London: Routledge.
- Williams, G. (1982) *The Origins of English*, New York: Macmillan.
- Dictionaries:*
- Hoad, T. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology*
- Onions, C. *The Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology*
- The Oxford English Dictionary*

OBSERVATIONS:

Course material will be provided during the course. No preliminary reading is required, but students interested in finding out what the History of English is about may want to have a look at Barber, Charles (1993) The English Language: a historical introduction, Cambridge, CUP.