

Subject:	HISTÒRIA DE LA LLENGUA ANGLESA I (Old and Middle English)	
Code:	21790	
Credits:	10 (TR) (5 theory + 5 practice)	
Semester:	1	
Group:	1	2
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CONTENT

The aim of the course is manifold: 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; 4) to enrich the students' conception of language and language evolution and to prepare them for other 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 linguistic areas (orthography, phonology, morphology, syntax and vocabulary) leading to dialectal variation, while providing an initial awareness of the importance of social factors in language variation and change. The course focuses specifically on the origins of English 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.

OBJECTIVES

Students should be able to analyze medieval texts in the linguistic areas mentioned above and historically account for the forms and functions encountered in these texts, i.e. to describe how forms and functions evolve diachronically and dialectally during the period covered by the course. They should also be able to interpret the text in terms of content.

ASSESSMENT

The course will be evaluated as follows:

- Final exam (70%).

The students will analyze a medieval text as they answer guided questions on this text (see "objectives" above) and translate part of it into Modern Standard English.

- Homework, assignments and class participation (30%)

The students will be required to take a test on the historical background of the English language and write an essay on a subject related to the external factors that influence the evolution of English. They will also be required to do exercises and prepare texts for the practical sessions and to actively participate during these sessions.

Note: The level of English will be taken into account when assessing hand-in work, exams and in the final grade.

SYLLABUS

1. Introduction: historical linguistics
2. External history: historical background
 - a. Prehistory: Indo-European, Common Germanic, West Germanic
 - b. The Anglo-Saxon period
 - c. The Middle English Period
3. Internal history
 - a. Prehistory
 - i. IE → CG: shared innovations
 - ii. CG → OE: Prehistoric soundchanges
 - b. Old English
 - i. Scripts and spelling
 - ii. Phonology
 - iii. Morphology
 - iv. Syntax
 - v. Lexicon
 - c. Middle English
 - i. Spelling
 - ii. Phonology
 - iii. Morphology
 - iv. Syntax
 - v. Lexicon
 - vi. Dialectology

OBSERVATIONS

The course heavily relies on concepts and tools acquired in 1st-cycle subjects, especially grammar, phonetics and phonology. The level of instrumental English required is the one guaranteed by passing Anglès Instrumental II.

Course material will be provided during the course (part of it through the “Campus Virtual”).

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.

BIBLIOGRAPHY (only main texts are mentioned here)

- Algeo, J. and Pyles, Th. (1982) *Problems in the origins and development of the English language*, New York: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich.
- Baugh, A.C. and Cable, T. (1978) *A History of the English Language* (3rd ed.), Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall.
- Leith, D. (1983) *The social History of English*, London: Routledge and Kegan Paul.
- Pyles, Th. (1971) *The Origins and development of the English Language*, New York: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, Inc.
- The Oxford English Dictionary
- Hoad, T. (1986) *The Oxford Concise Dictionary of English Etymology*, Oxford: OUP.