

Subject:	HISTÒRIA DE LA LLENGUA ANGLESA II : Modern English	
Code:	21791	
Credits:	5	
Semester:	2	
Group(s):	1	2
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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT

This course is a continuation of the programme for the historical study of the language and covers from the beginning of the modern period (with the Renaissance in England - about 1500) to the present day. For practical purposes special emphasis is given to early modern English (1500-1700) given the crucial changes of the period and the greater degree of difficulty for students to understand texts from this period compared to later English texts. In a wider perspective we look at the emergence and consolidation of a standard written English and at the social attitudes and language attitudes that have a hand in molding it, promoting it and regulating it in its process of consolidation, through dictionaries, grammars, education and normative approaches. The primacy of the written language in the formulation of standard English norms, and the consequences for other dialects is looked at.

From a linguistic viewpoint, we will review selected aspects of: the evolution of the lexicon (loans, word formation processes, stylistic marking and semantic change), the development and stabilisation of the spelling tradition, selected sound changes and the influence of literacy on pronunciation, aspects of clause and phrase syntax as well as complex sentence syntax, the evolution of the verbal system and the nominal system. The influence of other languages (both classical and contemporary) on the linguistic systems and resources of English will be taken into account in the description of the evolution of the language.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course the student will be able to:

- Read without excessive difficulty a range of early modern English text extracts
- describe their linguistic features within a historical context
- understand and analyse simple historical data
- understand and describe interrelated social and linguistic factors
- understand and describe different kinds of linguistic change
- work accurately with historical linguistic reference works and be especially competent in the use of historical dictionaries

ASSESSMENT

Class participation 10%

Exercises and project work 30%

final examination 60%

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

SYLLABUS

1. Renaissance: Social context and functional evolution of English
2. Lexical and stylistic enrichment
3. Spelling and writing
4. Grammar
5. Sound changes
6. Social attitudes to language, normativisation and prescription: dictionaries and grammars
7. 1800 on: social and educational evolution.
8. Pronunciation changes. Grammar. Lexical developments.

A detailed class by class syllabus will be distributed with the course material.

BIBLIOGRAPHY / MATERIALS

Those which will involve obligatory readings are marked in bold type; the others involve recommended readings or are basic reference works). A pack of readings will be made available, as will exercises and text extracts. An etymological dictionary is a necessary tool (see the asterisked recommended dictionary below).

- Algeo, J. and Pyles, Th. 1982 Problems in the origins and development of the English language**, New York: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich.
- Barber, C. 1976. *Early Modern English***. London: Deutsch.
- Baugh, A. and Cable, T. 1993 (4th ed.) *A history of the English language***. Routledge.
- Cambridge History of the English Language, vols. 4 and 5*. Cambridge: CUP.
- Freeborn, D. 1998. *From Old English to Standard English***. London: MacMillan.
- Gorlach, M. 1991. *Early Modern English 1500-1700***. Cambridge: CUP.
- Heller, L. et al. 1984. *The private lives of English words*. London: Routledge.
- *Hoad, F. 1986. *A concise dictionary of English etymology***. Oxford: OUP.
- Kisbye, T. 1971. *An historical outline of English syntax*. Aarhus: Akademisk Bogh.
- Leith, D. 1997 (2nd ed.) *A social history of English***. London: Routledge.
- Marchand, H. 1969. *The categories and types of present-day English word-formation: a synchronic-diachronic approach*. München: D.H.Becksche Verlag.
- McCrum, R. et al. 1992. *The story of English*. London: Faber and Faber.
- Oxford English Dictionary. Oxford: OUP
- Pyles, T. and Algeo, J. 1982 (3rd ed) *The origins and development of the English language*. New York: Harcourt Brace and Jovanovich.
- Scragg, D. 1974. *The history of English spelling*. Manchester UP.
- Serjeantson, M. 1935. *A history of foreign words in English*. London: Routledge.
- Strang, B. 1970. *A history of English*. London: Methuen.
- Trudgill, P. 1992. *The dialects of England*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Williams, G. 1982. *The origins of English***. New York: MacMillan.

OTHER COMMENTS

The course relies on concepts and tools acquired in 1st-cycle subjects, especially grammar, phonetics and phonology, and of course relies on the student having the necessary background from having studied "History of English I". The level of instrumental English expected is at least the one required to pass "Instrumental English II".

Material will be provided during the course (part of it through the "Campus Virtual").