

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>HISTÒRIA DE LA LLENGUA ANGLESA</b>
<b>Code:</b>	<b>28460</b>
<b>Credits:</b>	<b>10.5</b>
<b>Semester:</b>	<b>Annual</b>
<b>Groups:</b>	<b>1,2</b>
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## **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT**

This course provides an introductory but quite thorough descriptive grounding in the evolution of the English language in all major linguistic areas: orthography, phonology, morphology, syntax and vocabulary. It is chronologically structured, starting with its prehistoric origin and gradually working through the successive language states of Old, Middle, Modern and Contemporary English. It draws heavily on the skills and concepts obtained through the first cycle subjects of Descriptive Grammar and Phonetics and Phonology, as well as the second cycle subject of Diachronic English. The approach taken is of a rather practical kind: students will be required to apply their theoretical knowledge to exercise work and the analysis of sample texts of the different periods.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The aim of the course in relation to the degree is:

- to apply and develop the concepts acquired in *Diachronic English*.
- to provide more detailed knowledge and understanding of the historical evolution of English in its main varieties.
- to introduce new tools for diachronic linguistic analysis.
- to provide linguistic training to help students access the language of authors from different periods.
- to prepare students for more advanced second cycle subjects such as Linguistic Variation and Change, Dialectology, Socio-linguistics, and Philological Analysis.

Students will learn:

- to recognize and analyze linguistic features which differ from contemporary English.
- to understand and describe the emergence of important linguistic innovations in English
- to understand and describe how linguistic features are maintained or change over time within a perspective of functional systems and subsystems of the language.

- to understand some of the main internal and external factors governing language evolution as applied to the case of English
- to determine the approximate diachronic and dialectal origin of a selection of texts.
- to translate them into contemporary English.
- work accurately with historical linguistic reference works and be especially competent in the use of historical dictionaries

## **SYLLABUS**

1. A review of key working concepts in language variation and change
2. A brief linguistic prehistory of English
  - From Indo-European to Germanic
  - From Germanic to Old English
3. A linguistic overview of Old English
  - Manuscripts and spelling: traditions, scriptoria, styles
  - Sounds and sound change; evidence of spelling
  - Morphology: inflectional systems; syncretism; derivation
  - Syntax: word order patterns and their evolution
  - Lexicon: native and foreign elements; word formation
4. Middle English
  - Dialect evolution
  - Transitional sound-changes
  - Spelling: French input; regional divergence
  - Sounds and spelling
  - Grammar: morphological simplification; synthetic to analytic grammar; word order evolution; evolution of subsystems
  - Lexicon: native and foreign elements; word formation
5. Early Modern English
  - Lexicon: borrowing; word formation
  - Grammar: evolution of subsystems; residual morphology
  - Spelling: neoclassical influence, reforms, printing practice
  - Syntax: word order, sentence structure;
  - Stylistics: rhetoric and text types
  - Sound changes
6. Later Modern English
  - Selection, codification and normativization within/between variants and varieties
  - Spelling: fixing, variation, reforms
  - Grammar: system developments;

- Sound changes; effects of literacy; dialect variation; RP
- Lexicon: borrowing; word formation; science and technology; semantic change.

## 7. English in the UK and overseas: an overview of standard and nonstandard varieties

### ASSESSMENT

The course will be evaluated as follows:

- Mid-term and final exam: 60%
- Homework, assignments, tutorials and class participation: 40%

Note: The level of English will be taken into account when correcting exams and in the final assessment.

### TUTORIALS

Tutorials are coordinated via “Campus Virtual” and will consist of some homework contributions on-line, problem-solving and discussion of aspects of the assignments.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY / MATERIALS

A Middle English Glossary will be made available in photocopy.

A selection of readings will be recommended from the following bibliography. All the works cited are available in the humanities library.

- Algeo, J. and Pyles, Th. (1982) *Problems in the origins and development of the English language*, New York: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich.
- Barber, C. (1993) *The English Language: A historical introduction*, Cambridge: CUP.
- Barber, C. (1976) *Early Modern English*, London: Deutsch.
- Baugh, A. and Cable, T. (1993) *A history of the English language*, Routledge.
- Burrow, J.A. and Turville-Peter, Th. (1992) *A Book of Middle English*, London: Blackwell.
- Freeborn, D. (1992) *From Old English to Standard English*, London: Macmillan
- Görlach, M. (1997) *The Linguistic History of English: An Introduction*, London: Macmillan.
- Görlach, M. (1991) *Early Modern English 1500-1700*, Cambridge: CUP.
- Graddol, D., Leith, D. & Swann, J. (1996) *English: history, diversity and change*, London: Routledge.
- Heller, L. et al. (1984) *The private lives of English words*, London: Routledge.
- Kisbye, T. (1971) *An Historical Outline of English Syntax*, Aarhus: Akademisk Boghandel.
- Lass, R. And Anderson, J. M. (1975) *Old English Phonology*, Cambridge: CUP.
- 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.
  - Pyles, Th. (1971) *The Origins and development of the English Language*, New York: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, Inc.
  - Scragg, D. (1974) *The History of English Spelling*, Manchester: Manchester University Press.
  - Smith, J.J. (1999) *Essentials of Early English*, London: Routledge.
  - Strang, B.M.H. (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.
  - Visser, F.T. (1970) *An Historical Syntax of the English Language*, Leiden: E.J. Brill.
  - Various authors / various years, *The Cambridge History of the English Language*, CUP.

### **Dictionaries**

- The Oxford English Dictionary, Oxford: OUP.
- Hoad, T. (1986) *The Oxford Concise Dictionary of English Etymology*, Oxford: OUP. (recommended)

### **OTHER COMMENTS**

Students who have not passed all first cycle language subjects, and have not already taken the introductory second- cycle subject of *Anglès Diacrònic* are strongly recommended to abstain from enrolment in this subject.