

SUBJECT:	ANGLÈS DIACRÒNIC
Code:	28463
Credits:	6
Semester:	2
Groups:	1, 2
Teacher:	Malou Van Wijk
Tutoria integrada:	Virtual
Office:	B11/120
Telephone:	93 581 23 29
E-mail:	malou.vanwijk@uab.es

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT

The course introduces students to diachronic linguistics. It provides an introductory external history of the language from its origins to the present day from a social, political, religious, demographic and cultural perspective, showing the influence of these factors on linguistic maintenance and change, illustrated through examples and exercises from the different linguistic areas.

OBJECTIVES

The aim of this course in relation to the degree is: 1) to reinforce concepts and tools acquired by students in first cycle linguistics courses by applying them within a diachronic perspective; 2) to introduce new concepts required by the diachronic perspective; 3) to enrich the students' conception of language and its evolution, and 4) to prepare them for the more detailed linguistic content of History of English and other second-cycle subjects such as Linguistic Variation and Change or Socio-linguistics.

Students will learn:

- 1) To understand and apply basic concepts and terminology of diachronic language study.
- 2) To find and present information on the historical background of the language.
- 3) To understand and describe the interrelations between external factors and internal evolution.
- 4) To recognize basic grammatical, phonological, orthographic and lexical features of different language states.

SYLLABUS

1. Introduction: historical linguistics. Comparative method. Language convergence and divergence.
2. General concepts to describe language change: sound change, grammatical change and semantic change.
3. External history: historical background:
 - a. Prehistory: Indo-European, Common Germanic, West Germanic.
 - b. The Anglo-Saxon period.
 - c. The Middle English Period.
 - d. Renaissance: Social context and functional evolution of English.
 - e. Social attitudes to language: emergence of a written standard variety. Normativisation and prescription: dictionaries, grammars, schools.

- f. 1800 on: social and educational evolution.
4. Language change: case studies
- a. Some basic systematic differences between Germanic and other Indo-European languages: verb system; nominal system; Germanic consonant shift.
 - b. Lexicon: language contact: the case of Latin from the continental period to the post-Renaissance.
 - c. Word formation: evolution of WF types –an overview. The case of compounds.
 - d. Grammar: the case of case, gender, number: - syncretism and restructuring.
 - e. Grammar: from synthetic to analytic structure: case and prepositions; prefixes to verb and particle/phrasal verbs; aspects of tense/aspect in the verbal system
 - f. Sound change: cases of assimilatory change; quantity changes and the prosodic system; the Great Vowel Shift, an introduction; socially induced pronunciation changes.
 - g. Writing: an introduction to written representations of speech. The historical palimpsest of English orthography: contact, conservation and change in conventions. Cases of phonetic spelling, morphophonemic spelling, etymological spelling. Manuscripts versus printing.
 - h. Semantic change: a typology of change. Cases of semantic change: internal and external factors.

ASSESSMENT

The course will be evaluated as follows:

- Midterm and final exam (80%)
- Written assignments & class participation (20%).

TUTORIALS

The “tutoria integrada” will be done virtually, using the Campus Virtual. Tutorials will be devoted to practical exercises and to discussions of readings.

BIBLIOGRAPHY / MATERIALS

- Aitchison, J. 1986. *Language change: progress or decay?* London: Fontana.
- Baugh, A. and Cable, T. 1993 (4th ed.) *A history of the English language*. Routledge.
- Culpeper, J. 1997. *History of English*. London: Routledge.
- Freeborn, D. 1998. *From Old English to Standard English*. London: MacMillan.
- Graddol, Leith and Swann. 1996. *English: history, diversity and change*. London: Routledge.
- Hoad, F. 1986. *A concise dictionary of English etymology*. Oxford: OUP.
- Heller, L. et al. 1984. *The private lives of English words*. London: Routledge.
- Leith, D. 1997 (2nd ed.) *A social history of English*. London: Routledge.
- McCrum, R. et al. 1992. *The story of English*. London: Faber and Faber.
- 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.
- Trask, R.L. 1994. *Language change*. London: Routledge.
- Extra material will be provided during the course (part of it through the “Campus Virtual”).

OTHER COMMENTS

The bibliography/materials may be subject to modification.

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

