

## History of the English Language II

Code: 100192  
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500245 English Studies	OB	3	2
2501902 English and Catalan	OT	3	0
2501902 English and Catalan	OT	4	0
2501907 English and Classics	OT	3	0
2501907 English and Classics	OT	4	0
2501910 English and Spanish	OT	3	0
2501910 English and Spanish	OT	4	0
2501913 English and French	OT	3	0
2501913 English and French	OT	4	0

### Contact

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### Use of languages

Principal working language: english (eng)  
Some groups entirely in English: Yes  
Some groups entirely in Catalan: No  
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

### Prerequisites

This course heavily draws on the 1st and 2nd year-courses in synchronic linguistics as well as the course History of English I taught in the previous term.

The course requires an initial level of English **C1** (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment). Students with **C1** can understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts, and recognise implicit meaning; they can express themselves fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions; they can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes; they can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.

### Objectives and Contextualisation

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

- to apply and develop the concepts acquired in History of English I
- 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 elective 4<sup>th</sup>-year subjects such as Variation and Change, Socio-linguistics or Philological Analysis, as well as subjects in the field of early English literature

Upon completing the course, students will be able:

- to recognize and analyse linguistic features which differ from contemporary English
- to understand and describe the emergence of important linguistic innovations in English
- to analyse and describe the phonological, morphological, lexical and syntactic characteristics of every stage of the English language
- to understand and describe how linguistic features are maintained or change over time within a perspective of functional systems and subsystems of the language.

## **Skills**

### **English Studies**

- Demonstrate a comprehension of the relationship between factors, processes and phenomena of linguistics, literature, history and culture, and explaining it.
- Demonstrate a general comprehension of the historical evolution of the English language.
- Demonstrate they know a wide variety of texts in English language of any mean (oral, written, audiovisual) and recognising implicit meanings.
- Utilising new technologies in order to capture and organise information in English and other languages, and applying it to the personal continued training and to the problem-solving in the professional or research activity.
- Working in an autonomous and responsible way in a professional or research environment in English or other languages, in order to accomplish the previously set objectives.

### **English and Catalan**

- Demonstrate a comprehension of the relationship between factors, processes and phenomena of linguistics, literature, history and culture, and explaining it.
- Demonstrate a general comprehension of the historical evolution of the English language.
- Demonstrate they know a wide variety of texts in English language of any mean (oral, written, audiovisual) and recognising implicit meanings.

### **English and Classics**

- Demonstrate a comprehension of the relationship between factors, processes and phenomena of linguistics, literature, history and culture, and explaining it.
- Demonstrate a general comprehension of the historical evolution of the English language.
- Demonstrate they know a wide variety of texts in English language of any mean (oral, written, audiovisual) and recognising implicit meanings.

### **English and Spanish**

- Demonstrate a comprehension of the relationship between factors, processes and phenomena of linguistics, literature, history and culture, and explaining it.
- Demonstrate a general comprehension of the historical evolution of the English language.
- Demonstrate they know a wide variety of texts in English language of any mean (oral, written, audiovisual) and recognising implicit meanings.

### **English and French**

- Demonstrate a comprehension of the relationship between factors, processes and phenomena of linguistics, literature, history and culture, and explaining it.
- Demonstrate a general comprehension of the historical evolution of the English language.
- Demonstrate they know a wide variety of texts in English language of any mean (oral, written, audiovisual) and recognising implicit meanings.

## **Learning outcomes**

1. Analysing and describing the linguistic characteristics of extracts of representative documents from different periods and geographical areas.
2. Applying the acquired methodologies of work planning to work in an environment in the English language.
3. Applying the acquired scientific and work planning methodologies to the research in English.
4. Applying the information in English that is available on the Internet, in databases, etc. to the work and/or research environments.
5. Applying the terminology and basic concepts of the diachronic study of the language.
6. Appropriately interpreting and using the information contained in reference books in terms of (English) historical linguistics, specially in the etymological dictionaries, and in the studies based on the main current historical corpus.
7. Describing and relating the interconnections between external factors and the internal evolution of the English language.
8. Finding and presenting information about historical and sociolinguistic facts that affect the functional and formal evolution of the English language.
9. Interpreting characteristic extracts from different historical periods of documents and texts in English.
10. Locating and organising relevant information in English that is available on the Internet, in databases, etc.
11. Recognising and explaining the grammatical, phonological, orthographic and lexical characteristics of the various historical stages of the English language.

## Content

### UNIT 1. Middle English

- External history
- Phonology
  - Sound-changes: phonological reduction; quantitative and qualitative vowel changes; consonantal changes.
  - Consonants, vowels, diphthongs and their spellings
- Morphology
  - Nouns: changes in gender and case
  - Adjectives: levelling of inflections
  - Pronouns
  - Numerals
  - Verbs: levelling of inflections; dialect variation
- Syntax
- Lexicon: borrowing, word formation, semantic shift and lexical loss
- Analysis of Middle English texts

### UNIT 2. Modern English

- External history
- Phonology: consonants, vowels and their spelling; the Great Vowel Shift.
- Morphology
  - Nouns: plural and genitive
  - Adjectives: comparative and superlative
  - Pronouns
  - Verbs: syncretism; auxiliaries (do); modal verbs; verbal periphrasis.
- Syntax
- Lexicon: borrowing; new word-formation processes
- Analysis of Modern English texts

## Methodology

Directed:

## Lectures

- Middle English
- Modern English

## Practice

- Philological analysis of English texts of different historical periods
- Correction of exercises
- In-class discussion of topics

## Supervised:

### Individual and group assignments

- Analysis, interpretation and discussion of structures and meaning.
- Synthesis of phonological, morphological and syntactic content

### In-class discussion

- Comparison of structures at different stages of the English language.
- Discussion of examples.

## Autonomous:

### Personal study and work on exercises and assignments

## Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
<b>Type: Directed</b>			
Practice	15	0.6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 6, 10, 11, 8
Theory	35	1.4	1, 3, 5, 7, 11, 8
<b>Type: Supervised</b>			
Exams and assignments	25	1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 6, 10, 11, 8
<b>Type: Autonomous</b>			
Study and reading	50	2	1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 6, 10, 11, 8

## Evaluation

### Assessment

- The minimum grade on assignments and exams to form average is **4**.
- The delivery of 30% of assessment items (assignments / exercises / exams) excludes the possibility of obtaining the status of "not submitted" (NA) as a final course grade.
- The level of English will be taken into account in the correction of written work and in the final evaluation.
- Partial or total PLAGIARISM will immediately result in a FAIL (0) for the plagiarised exercise (first-year subjects) or the whole subject (second-, third- and fourth-year subjects). Plagiarism consists of copying text from unacknowledged sources -whether this is part of a sentence or a whole text- with the intention

of passing it off as the student's own production. It includes cutting and pasting from internet sources, presented unmodified in the student's own text. Plagiarism is a serious offence. Students must respect authors' intellectual property, always identifying the sources they may use; they must also be responsible for the originality and authenticity of their own texts.

## Re-assessment

- Items may be re-assessed provided that the student has passed at least 70% of the course and has submitted all items. Only 30% of the course can be re-assessed provided that the student has submitted all items and the final grade is over **4** and below **5**. Group assignments cannot be re-assessed.
- The maximum grade obtainable on a re-assessment exam is **5**.
- Re-assessment exams are scheduled by the Faculty well in advance and no alternative dates can be negotiated.

## Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Exam 1: Middle English: external history (week 3)	10%	2.5	0.1	4, 5, 7, 6, 10, 8
Exam 2: Middle English: internal history (week 9)	30%	7.5	0.3	4, 5, 7, 6, 10, 8
Exam 3: Modern English: external history (week 11)	10%	2.5	0.1	4, 5, 7, 10, 8
Exam 4: Modern English: internal history (week 16)	30%	7.5	0.3	1, 5, 7, 9, 6, 11
Group assignment 1 (week 6)	10%	2.5	0.1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 6, 10, 11, 8
Group assignment 2 (week 13)	10%	2.5	0.1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 6, 10, 11

## Bibliography

- **Algeo, J. (2010) The Origins and development of the English Language. Boston: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning. ISBN: 978-1-4282-3148-1**
- Barber, C. (1976) Early Modern English. London: Deutsch.
- Baugh, A. and Cable, T. (1993) A history of the English language. London: Routledge.
- Freeborn, D. (1992) From Old English to Standard English. London: Macmillan.
- **Hoad, T. (1986) The Oxford Concise Dictionary of English Etymology. Oxford: OUP.**
- Strang, Barbara M.H. (1970) A History of English, London: Methuen.
- Various authors / various years, The Cambridge History of the English Language. Cambridge: CUP.

A wider bibliography will be made available at the beginning of the course.