

History of the English Language I

Code: 100193
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500245 English Studies	OB	3	1
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 introduces the student to English diachronic linguistics. It draws heavily on synchronic linguistics courses taught in the 1st and 2nd years of the degree and prepares students for *History of English II* and 4th-year elective subjects such as *Variation and Change*, *Sociolinguistics* or *Philological Analysis*, as well as subjects in the field of early English literature.

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 aims of the course are:

- To describe and apply the phenomena and processes of historical linguistics.

- To relate the external history of the English language with the most relevant linguistic features of Pre-historical and Old English.
- To analyse and describe the phonological, morphological, syntactic, lexical and orthographic features of Old English
- To apply the knowledge and skills acquired to Old English texts.

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.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.

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.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.

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.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.

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.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.

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.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.

Learning outcomes

1. Analysing and describing the linguistic characteristics of extracts of representative documents from different periods and geographical areas.

2. Applying the terminology and basic concepts of the diachronic study of the language.
3. 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.
4. Communicating in the studied language in oral and written form, properly using vocabulary and grammar.
5. Describe and relate the interconnections between external factors and the internal evolution of the English language.
6. Describing and relating the interconnections between external factors and the internal evolution of the English language.
7. Find and present information about historical and sociolinguistic facts that affect the functional and formal 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. Recognising and explaining the grammatical, phonological, orthographic and lexical characteristics of the various historical stages of the English language.

Content

- UNIT 1. Introduction to historical linguistics.
- UNIT 2. The origins of the English language: from Indo-European to Old English.
- UNIT 3. The external history of the Old English period: social, political, religious, demographic and cultural factors and its influence on linguistic change.
- UNIT 4. Old English: phonology, orthography, lexicon, morphology and syntax.

Methodology

Directed

Theory

- Introduction to historical linguistics
- From Indo-European to Old English: linguistic changes
- The external history and its influence on linguistic evolution
- Old English: sound-changes, phonology and spelling, morphology and syntax, lexicon.

Practical exercises on the theoretical topics

- Correction of exercises
- Discussion of topics

Supervised

Assignments (to be done in groups)

- Analysis, interpretation and discussion of structures and meanings
- Description of the relation between external factors and linguistic phenomena

In-class discussion

- Comparison of the linguistic features at different stages of the Old English period
- Discussion of examples

Autonomous

- Personal study
Identification of the linguistic features of Old English texts

Information search from different sources about the main historical events and their impact on the English language.

- Exercises
Practice in the skills of analysis and synthesis

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Type: Directed			
Practice	10	0.4	1, 2, 6, 9, 3, 10, 8
Theory	35	1.4	1, 2, 6, 9, 3, 10, 8
Type: Supervised			
Exams and assignments	15	0.6	1, 2, 6, 9, 3, 10, 8
Type: Autonomous			
Reading, study and practice	75	3	1, 2, 6, 9, 3, 10, 8

Evaluation

Assessment:

- All exams and assignments are obligatory.
- The date of exams and delivery of assignments are specified in the course program posted on *Campus Virtual*. Any changes in dates (for example, due to unexpected cancellation of class) will be duly notified.
- 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.
- In case of absence on the day of an exam (e.g. due to illness) students must provide a certificate to justify their absence to gain the right to re-assessment.

Review of assessment items:

- Exams and assignments will be collectively reviewed in class. The dates for review will be notified on *Campus Virtual* together with the marks obtained. Students may also come in office hours to review their work individually.

Re-assessment

- Exams may be re-taken 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 obtained an average grade between **3.5** and **4.9**.
- 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
Assignment 1 (week 7)	10%	5	0.2	2, 4, 3, 10
Assignment 2 (week 12)	10%	5	0.2	2, 4, 3, 10
Exam 1 (week 5)	15%	1	0.04	2, 6, 5, 4, 10, 8, 7
Exam 2 (week 9)	15%	1	0.04	2, 6, 5, 4, 8, 7
Exam 3a (week 15)	25%	1.5	0.06	1, 2, 4, 9, 3, 10
Exam 3b (week 15)	25%	1.5	0.06	1, 2, 6, 4, 9, 3, 10

Bibliography

- **Algeo, John (2010) *The Origins and development of the English Language*. Boston: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning. ISBN: 978-1-4282-3148-1**
- Baugh, Albert and Cable, Thomas (1993) *A history of the English language*. London: Routledge.
- **Hoad, T. F. (1986) *The Oxford Concise Dictionary of English Etymology*. Oxford: OUP.**
- Strang, Barbara (1970) *A History of English*, London: Methuen.
- *The Cambridge History of the English Language*, various authors, various years, CUP.

Any edition of these will serve the course. A wider bibliography will be made available at the start of the course. Titles in bold print should be bought.