UAB

Universitat Autònoma
de Barcelona

2019/2020

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 course introduces the student to diachronic linguistics, applied to the English language. It feeds on courses in synchronic linguistics studied in the previous 2 years and prepares for History of English II, as well as for some elective subjects, both in linguistics and literature.

On completion, the student will be able to:

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

Competences

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. Describing and relating the interconnections between external factors and the internal evolution of the English language.
6. Effectively communicating and applying the argumentative and textual processes to formal and scientific texts.
7. Finding and presenting information about historical and sociolinguistic facts that affect the functional and formal evolution of the English language.
8. Interpreting characteristic extracts from different historical periods of documents and texts in English.
9. 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, 5, 8, 3, 9, 7
Theory	35	1.4	1, 2, 5, 8, 3, 9, 7
Type: Supervised			
Exams and assignments	15	0.6	1, 2, 5, 8, 3, 9, 7
Type: Autonomous			
Reading, study and practice	75	3	1, 2, 5, 8, 3, 9, 7

Assessment

Assessment:

- All exams and assignments are obligatory.
- The date of exams and delivery of assignments are specified in the course program posted on *Moodle*. 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.
- If a student commits an irregularity that may lead to a significant variation in the grade obtained on an item of assessment, this item will be qualified with a 0, irrespective of the disciplinary process that may be instructed. In case several irregularities are committed for the same subject, the final grade for the subject will be 0.
- 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 *Moodle* together with the marks obtained. Students may also come in office hours to review their work individually.

Re-assessment:

Re-assessment for this subject will be undertaken on an item-by-item basis, for which the following conditions are applicable:

- The student must previously have submitted a minimum of two-thirds of the course-assessment items.
- Individual exams awarded a grade of less than 4 may be re-assessed provided that 60% of the assessment items have been successfully completed.
- The grade for those items awarded 4 or higher will be included in the calculation of the global averagegrade forthe subject.
- Team assignments are not eligible for re-assessment.

- The maximum grade for re-assessed items is 5.
- The definitive grade awarded for a re-assessed item will be that obtained at re-assessment, even if this is lower than the original grade obtained.
- If the student fails the re-assessed item or items in question, the subject may still be passed provided that their average overall grade is equal to or higher than 5.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Exam 1 (week 5)	15%	1	0.04	2, 5, 6, 4, 9, 7
Exam 2 (week 9)	15%	1	0.04	2, 5, 6, 4, 7
Exam 3a (week 15)	25%	1.5	0.06	1, 2, 6, 4, 8, 3, 9
Exam 3b (week 15)	25%	1.5	0.06	1, 2, 5, 6, 4, 8, 3, 9
Team assignment 1 (week 7)	10%	5	0.2	2, 4, 3, 9
Team assignment 2 (week 12)	10%	5	0.2	2, 4, 3, 9

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.