

ENGLISH 452—HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE (Spring 2XXX)

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Office Hrs.: Mon. 2:00-2:50 & 5:00-5:30, Weds. 2:00-2:50, and Fri. 2:00-4:00

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- Texts:
1. Albert C. Baugh and Thomas Cable. 2002. *A History of the English Language*. Fifth Edition. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc.
 2. Thomas Cable. 2002. *A Companion to Baugh and Cable's A History of the English Language*. Third Edition. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc.

Objectives

By becoming acquainted with historical changes in the English language (changes in pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, and status), you will acquire a better understanding of the following aspects of English and a better ability to explain them: the regularities and irregularities of English, the great similarity of English to certain other languages, and the place of English in the modern world. Also, you will learn facts about earlier forms of English that will help you with studying literature from earlier periods.

Grading

Final Exam.....30%

(The final exam includes a paper that you will write outside of class.)

Four Exams during Semester

(15% each).....60%

Exercises and Participation.....10%

We will discuss answers for most exercises in class. Several times during the semester, I will collect all of the exercises not yet submitted. You should be prepared to share your answers for exercises on the days for which they are assigned.

There will be no make-up exams. If you miss an exam due to an unexcused absence, your grade for that exam will be "F." If you miss an exam due to an excused absence, then for you the in-class part of the final exam will be comprehensive (covering the whole course) and your grade for the missed exam will be the same as your grade for the in-class part of the final exam. I will excuse your absence from an exam only if extenuating circumstances that you can document prevent you from taking the exam at the scheduled hour and only if you let me know about the extenuating circumstances in advance, when that is possible.

Attendance Policy

Your attendance record will not affect your grade directly. Be advised, however, that since later lectures, discussions, and assignments do build on earlier ones, the likelihood of your learning the subject matter well will decrease if you miss classes.

Grading System

Your overall grade for the course will be A, B, C, D, or F (without a plus or minus).

p. 2	Topics & Activities	Reading Assignments	Exercises
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Accommodations for Disabilities

This university abides by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which stipulates that no student shall be denied the benefits of an education “solely by reason of a handicap.” If you have a documented disability that may impact your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please see the instructor as soon as possible to arrange accommodations. In order to receive accommodations, you must be registered with and provide documentation of your disability to the Disability Resource Office, which is located in the Psychology Building, Suite 236.

Schedule

		(Reading assignments are to be read before class)	(Homework is to be completed before class.)
1/16	introduction. major periods of English.		IN CLASS: Start “Language Change and Linguistic Corruption” (handout).
1/18	English sounds.	“The Sounds of English,” workbook, pp. 1-8.	HOMEWORK: “Language Change and Linguistic Corruption” (to be arranged). IN CLASS: Ex. 0.3, “English Consonants.” Ex. 0.4, “English Vowels.”
1/20	status of English in world. transcription of English sounds.	Chapter 1, “English Present and Future.”	HOMEWORK: Ex. 0.5, “Transcription,” first column.
1/23	To be arranged. More transcription practice? Film about international status of English?		HOMEWORK: Ex. 0.5, “Transcription,” second column.
1/25	transcription of English sounds.	Chapter 2, “The Indo-European Family of Languages,” §§13-27, pp. 18-36.	HOMEWORK: Ex. 1.1, “Questions for Review” (for Ch. 1, “English Present and Future”).
1/27	the Indo-European language family.	Chapter 2, §28, “The Home of the Indo-Europeans,” pp. 36-41.	

p. 3	Topics & Activities	Reading Assignments	Exercises
1/30	the Indo-European Urheimat.		HOMEWORK: Ex. 2.2, "Grimm's Law," questions 1, 2, and 3. Ex. 2.3, "The Indo-European Family." IN CLASS: Ex. 2.2, question 4.
2/1	review. discussion of exam.		HOMEWORK: Ex. 2.1, "Questions for Review." (Write answers for all the questions.)
2/3	Exam I: Status of English in the World, English Sound System, and English Prehistory.		
2/6	pre-English Britain.	Chapter 3, §§29-39, pp. 43-53.	HOMEWORK: Read Exercise 3.2, "Old English Consonants." IN CLASS: Start Ex. 3.2, question 1.
2/8	pronunciation of Old English.	Ch. 3, §§40-52, pp. 53-72.	HOMEWORK: Finish Ex. 3.2 (both questions). Read Ex. 3.3, "Old English Vowels." IN CLASS: Ex. 3.3.
2/10	major characteristics of Old English.	Chapter 3, §40, "Some Characteristics of Old English," pp. 53-57.	HOMEWORK: Read Ex. 3.5, "Old English Cases." Read Ex. 3.6, "Old English Nouns." IN CLASS: Ex. 3.5.
2/13	Old English parts of speech.		HOMEWORK: Read handout for "Caedmon's Hymn." Ex. 3.6, "Old English Nouns." Ex. 3.7, "Nouns in Sentences." Ex. 3.9, "Old English Pronouns." IN CLASS: Ex. 3.8, "Old English Adjectives."
2/15	Old English parts of speech, continued.	Ch. 4, §§53-66, pp. 74-92.	HOMEWORK (to hand in): Ex. 4.1—questions 1 (first four names), 3, 4, 5, 6. IN CLASS: Finish Ex. 3.8, "Old English Adjectives." Ex. 3.10, "Old English Strong Verbs."
2/17	foreign influence on Old English.		HOMEWORK: analysis of "Caedmon's Hymn" (to be arranged).
2/20	the Danish period.	Ch. 4, §§67-80, pp. 92-105.	

p. 4	Topics & Activities	Reading Assignments	Exercises
2/22	film <i>Mother Tongue</i> .		
2/24	Scandinavian influence on Old English. discussion of exam.		HOMEWORK: Ex. 4.3, "Scandinavian Loanwords" (individual assignments to be arranged).
2/27	Exam II: Old English		
3/1	Norman Conquest.	Ch. 5, pp. 108-126.	HOMEWORK (to hand in): Ex. 5.1, "Questions for Review." IN CLASS: Start Ex. 7.2.1, "Changes in the Old English Vowels."
3/3	re-establishment of English.	Ch. 6, pp. 127-156.	HOMEWORK: Finish Ex. 7.2.1.
3/6	major changes in Middle English.	Ch. 7, §§111-130, pp. 158-174.	HOMEWORK: Read Ex. 7.2.3, "Lengthening and Shortening." Transcribe OE words in first column of chart in Ex. 7.2.3, Part 1. IN CLASS: Finish Ex. 7.2.3, Part 1.
3/8	major changes in Middle English, continued.	Ch. 7, §§131-151, pp. 174-196.	HOMEWORK: Read "Illustration of Sound Changes and Analogical Leveling" (handout). IN CLASS: Ex. 7.2.3, Part 2. Ex. 7.3, "From Old to Middle English: Consonants."
3/10	major changes in Middle English, continued.		HOMEWORK: Read Ex. 7.5, "Chaucer's Pronunciation." Read Ex. 7.6, "Middle English Nouns." IN CLASS: Exs. 7.5, & 7.6.
3/13	other changes in Middle English. discussion of exam.		HOMEWORK: Write Ex. 7.9, "Strong and Weak Verbs in Middle English." IN CLASS: Ex. 7.7, "Middle English Adjectives." Ex. 7.8, "Middle English Personal Pronouns."
3/15	Exam III: Middle English		

p. 5	Topics & Activities	Reading Assignments	Exercises
3/17	developments of Early Modern English. scholarly problems with the language. major changes in Early Modern English.	Ch. 8, §§152-169, pp. 200-232.	
3/27	early dictionaries. major changes in Early Modern English, continued. grammatical changes.	Ch. 8, §§170-185, pp. 232-251.	HOMEWORK: Write Ex. 8.4, "The Great Vowel Shift," and Ex. 8.6, "Adjectives."
3/29	grammatical changes, continued.		HOMEWORK: Write Ex. 8.3, "Shakespeare's Pronunciation." IN CLASS: Ex. 8.7, "Pronouns."
3/31	ascertainment. Johnson's dictionary. grammatical changes, continued.	Ch. 9, §§186-197, pp. 253-274.	HOMEWORK: Write Ex. 8.5 "Nouns," #3, 4, 5. Write Ex. 8.8, "Prepositions."
4/3	prescriptivism. expansion of the British empire. 18th century changes in English.	Ch. 9, §§198-210, pp. 274-294.	HOMEWORK: Read introduction to Ex. 8.2. Write Ex. 8.9, "Strong and Weak Verbs." IN CLASS: Ex. 8.2, "Dictionaries of Hard Words."
4/5	18th century changes in English, continued. discussion of exam.		HOMEWORK: Ex. 9.2 "Johnson's Dictionary." (Copy the relevant page from the <i>OED</i> and bring it to class.) EXTRA CREDIT: Ex. 8.10, "Questions, Negatives, and the Auxiliary <i>Do</i> ."
4/7	Exam IV: Early Modern English		
4/10	expansion of English since 1800, influences on English since 1800, sources of new words.	Ch. 10, §§211-223, pp. 296-308.	IN CLASS: Ex. 10.2 "Self-explaining Compounds."

p. 6	Topics & Activities	Reading Assignments	Exercises
4/12	sources of new words, continued. meaning change, slang.	Ch. 10, §§224-227, pp. 308-316.	HOMEWORK: Ex. 10.3 "Coinages." (If you can't guess the answer, find the answer in an unabridged dictionary.)
4/14	Watch film <i>The Muvver Tongue</i> .	Read ahead.	
4/17	variants of Modern English.	Ch. 10, §§228-230, pp. 316-334.	
4/19	nineteenth century spelling reform, prescriptivism in nineteenth century, <i>Oxford English Dictionary</i> ; grammatical changes since 1800.	Ch. 10, §§231-237, pp. 334-347.	
4/21	English language in U.S., Webster's influence, U.S. vs. British pronunciation.	Ch. 11, §§238-249, pp. 351-376.	
4/24	•Watch film <i>American Tongues</i> .	Ch. 11, §250, pp. 376-390.	
4/26	•American English dialects. discussion of exam.		HOMEWORK: Ex. 11.3, "Black English Phonology," questions 1-5. Ex. 11.4, "Black English Grammar," questions 6, 9-12.
4/28	catching up		TAKE-HOME PART OF FINAL EXAM IS DUE.
5/1	***FINAL EXAM*** (8:00-10:20, Monday)		