



Course Descriptor
ENGL221: History of English Language

Proposed Academic Year	Spring 2023-24	Last Reviewed Academic Year	
Course Code	ENGL221	Course Title	History of English Language
Credit hours	3	Level of study	Undergraduate
College / Centre	College of Arts and Humanities	Department	Education Department
Co-requisites	None	Pre-requisites	None

1. COURSE OUTLINE

This course aims to survey the development of the English language from past to the present day. The course discusses the attitudes towards language change and mechanisms of linguistic change. The course aims to examine the structure and vocabulary of English through different periods: Old English, Middle English, Early Modern English, and Modern English. The course focuses on changes in phonology, morphology, syntax, orthography, semantics, and lexicon. The course also considers some social and political factors affecting the language.

2. AIMS

The course aims to:

- Familiarize students with the mechanisms and nature of language change.
- Equip students with sound understanding of the origins of the English language as compared to other languages of the world.
- Enable students to understand the major stages and changes in the development of English from a synthetic to an analytic language.
- Enable students to explore the cultural, social and political events that accompanied and influenced the English language.

3. LEARNING OUTCOMES, TEACHING, LEARNING and ASSESSMENT METHODS (Indicative)

Learning Outcomes (Definitive)	Teaching and Learning methods (Indicative)	Assessment (Indicative)
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:		
1. Comprehend the mechanisms and nature of language change.	Lecture modeling	Assignments



Course Descriptor
ENGL221: History of English Language

	group discussion	Participation
2. Understand the origins of English language as compared to other languages of the world.	PowerPoint presentations group discussion	Participation Assignments
3. Recognize the major stages and changes in the development of English from a synthetic to an analytic language.	Lecture modeling Discussion	Mid -term
4. Understand how the current state of the English language has resulted from historical change.	Lecture modeling Discussion	Assignments Participation
5. Explore the cultural, social, and political events that accompanied and sometimes influenced these changes. 6.	Lecture modeling Discussion All teaching and learning methods should utilize e-learning facilities to, further, boost the delivery of the course. Moodle has already been used in teaching and learning, since 2017. Microsoft teams has been used during the breakout of covid 19 pandemic and will continue to be used after the pandemic if online classes are scheduled.	Final written Exams Participation

4. ASSESSMENT WEIGHTING	
Assessment	Percentage of final mark (%)



Course Descriptor
ENGL221: History of English Language

Assignment 1	10%
Assignment 2	10%
Class discussion	10%
Participation	10%
Midterm	20%
Final Exam	40%
Total	100%

4. ACHIEVING A PASS

Students will achieve **3** credit hours for this course by passing **ALL** of the course assessments and achieving a **minimum overall score of 50%**.

*NB *Ensure that ALL learning outcomes are taken into account*

5. COURSE CONTENT (Indicative)

LECTURE TOPIC	TIME (HOURS)
Week1: Introduction to the course	3
Week 2: Why studying the history of English? Component parts of the English language Recognized periods in the history of English Analyzing reasons for language change	3
Week 3: Sound system of English and phonetic transcription History of writing systems and the development of the English alphabet	3
Week 4: Causes and processes of linguistic change	3
Week 5: Classifying languages	3
Week 6: Grammatical, lexical, and phonological changes of the language	3
Week 7: Writing system, phonological system and word stock of Old English	3



Course Descriptor

ENGL221: History of English Language

Week 8: Grammatical categories of the noun and verb Grammar of Old English Syntax of Old English	3
Week 9: Overview of the linguistic situation in England between 1066 and 1500 C.E Social and political events that contributed to the increased use of English	3
Week 10: Changes in Middle English	3
Week 11: Sound changes and spelling reforms from Middle English to Modern English	3
Week 12: Changes in verbal constructions in early Modern English	3
Week 13: The effects of prescriptivism on the English language	3
Week 14: Consequences of the spread of English over a wide geographical area in the modern period	3
Week 14: Revision	3
TOTAL HOURS	45
Plus RECOMMENDED INDEPENDENT STUDY HOURS	90
TOTAL COURSE HOURS	135

6. RECOMMENDED READING

Laurel J. Brinton and Leslie K. Arnovick. (2011). *The English Language: A Linguistic History*. Toronto: Oxford University Press

LOs defined above will further be expanded (with more details) in the Course Syllabus.



Course Descriptor
ENGL221: History of English Language
