

ENG 590: HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Linguistics Section, Department of English Studies, University of Cyprus

Spring Semester 2005: Mondays & Thursdays, 10.30-12.00 — Room E 112

<http://www.punksinscience.org/kleanthes/courses/UCY05S/HOTEL>

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DESCRIPTION

All languages change over time and the English language is no exception. In this course, we will track some of the linguistic changes English has undergone from its inception to today (and possibly beyond), including changes in word and sentence structure, lexicon and meaning, and the sound system. We will look at the major periods of the English language (including its external history), from Old English (ca. 450 to 1066 AD) via Middle English (ca. 1066 to 1450) and Early Modern English (ca. 1450 to 1700) to Modern Standard English (since 1700). We will also consider non-standard varieties of English throughout its history as well as English-based pidgins and creoles. Along the way we will not only consider pre-English origins (pre-historic Indo-European origins and the 2nd century Germanic ancestor language), but also look at the present (accents and dialects, “World Englishes”) and at the future — to the extent possible (incl. some very recent developments, such as “netspeak”).

ASSESSMENT

Regular attendance is strongly advised! Besides the class lectures, there will be:

1. a **presentation** of a topic from the history of English (20%)
2. the improved **handout** of your in-class presentation (30%)
3. one term **paper** on any aspect of English linguistics (50%)
4. presence & active **participation** in class throughout (±x...)

READINGS

There are **no required texts** — all classes will be accompanied by **handouts**. A wonderful read complementing the course is the **excellent Crystal (2004)** — *discounted at Moufflon!* — and **Crystal (2003)** is simply a **must-have** for every student of the English language!

Crystal, David. 2003. *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language* [second edition]. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [paperback, available from Moufflon discounted for £2!]

Crystal, David. 2004. *The Stories of English*. London: Penguin. [hardcover, available from Moufflon: £2!]

In addition, I put a **number of readings on reserve** in the library for short-term loan. **Further references** are provided under **LITERATURE** below. *Feel free to browse them and look for your own reading material relevant to your class presentation and/or your term paper!*

OVERVIEW

	<i>MONDAY</i>	<i>THURSDAY</i>
<i>WEEK 1</i>	course introduction – incl. all formalia –	historical linguistics language families
<i>WEEK 2</i>	Indo-European & Proto-Germanic	The Emergence of English
<i>WEEK 3</i>	Old English	Old English
<i>WEEK 4</i>	Old English	PRESENTATIONS
<i>WEEK 5</i>	PRESENTATIONS [WEEK 13!]	PRESENTATIONS [WEEK 13!]
<i>WEEK 6</i>	From Old English...	...to Middle English
<i>WEEK 7</i>	Middle English	Middle English
<i>WEEK 8</i>	Middle English	PRESENTATIONS
<i>WEEK 9</i>	Corpus Linguistics...	...and Middle English
<i>WEEK 10</i>	Early Modern English	Early Modern English
<i>WEEK 11</i>	Early Modern English	PRESENTATIONS
<i>WEEK 12</i>	Pidgins and Creoles	Pidgins and Creoles
<i>WEEK 13</i>	Modern English(es)	Modern English(es)

PARTICULARS

This course will be **dense** in terms of external history of English and discussion of linguistic phenomena — consequently, you should **read quite a lot** for maximum effect. In addition:

presentation You'll prepare a topic from the history of English and present it in class with a brief handout (20-25 minutes plus discussion). Presentation groups will be set up in the first week, the topics by the end of the third week (=by FEB 10).

handout With feedback from your classmates and myself after your presentation, you have up to one week to revise your handout and extend it a bit. This version will be graded. The presentation/handout groups can be up to five students.

paper Your term paper of up to three collaborators should be a piece of research in which you identify an issue and pursue it from all angles in an appropriate academic manner: it should be properly structured, fully illustrated, well argued, and so on. The length is up to you: if it's really good and to the point, a short paper is fine (4-6 pp.), but I also accept a 10- or 15-page paper (or anything else you come up with). Take your term paper seriously and start working on it early on, possibly in tandem with your presentation.

LITERATURE

This is an **extensive list of readings** for the history of the English language. Those marked with an **asterisk * are particularly good or relevant**. I only include books that are available in the library; **boldfaced books are or will hopefully soon be on short term loan**. Feel free to browse the **library catalogue or the internet for more** references, especially when it comes to preparing your class presentation or writing your term paper.

General History of English

Bailey, R.W. 1991. *Images of English: A Cultural History of the Language*

Barber, C.L. 1993. *The English Language: A Historical Introduction

Bauer, Laurie. 1994. *Watching English Change*

Baugh, A.C. & T. Cable. 1993⁴ / 2002⁵. *A History of the English Language

Bradford, R. 1993. *A Linguistic History of English Poetry*

Burnley, J.D. 1992. *The History of the English Language: A Source Book*

Claiborne, R. 1994. *English: Its Life and Times*

Culpeper, J. 1997. *History of English*

Denison, D. 1993. *English Historical Syntax*

Fennell, B.A. 2001. *A History of English: A Sociolinguistic Approach*

Fischer, O., A. van Kemenade, W. Koopman & W. vd Wurff. 2000. *The Syntax of Early English

Freeborn, D. 1992. *From Old English to Standard English*

Görlach, M. 1997. *The Linguistic History of English*

Hogg, R.M. (gen. ed.). 1992-6. *A History of the English Language*. [six volumes; see below]

Jespersen, O. 1956. *Growth and Structure of the English Language*

Jones, C. 1989. *A History of English Phonology*

Knowles, G. 1997. *A Cultural History of the English Language*

Lass, R. 1987. *The Shape of English: Structure and History*

Leech, G.N. 1969. *A Linguistic Guide to English Poetry*

Leith, D. 1983. *A Social History of English*

MacMahon, A. 1994. *Understanding Language Change

McCrum, R., W. Cran & R. MacNeil. 1992. *The Story of English* [new and revised edition]

Millward, C.M. 1989. *A Biography of the English Language*

Pyles, T. & J. Algeo. 1982. *The Origins and Development of the English Language

Roberts, I.G. 1992. *Verbs and Diachronic Syntax: A Comparative History of English and French*

Robinson, O.W. 1992. *Old English and Its Closest Relatives*

Strang, B.M.H. 1970 (1994). *A History of English*

Vallins, G.H. 1957. *The Pattern of English*

Visser, F.T. 1963-73. *An Historical Syntax of the English Language* [3 volumes]

Wrenn, C.L. 1949. *The English Language*

Old English (ca. 500CE-1100)

Brook, G.L. 1956. *An Introduction to Old English*

Hogg, R.M. (ed.). 1992. *The Beginnings to 1066. Cambridge History of the English Language, vol. 1

Hogg, R.M. (ed.). 1992. *The Grammar of Old English, vol. I: Phonology*

Lass, R. 1994. *Old English: A Historical Linguistic Companion*

Mitchell, B. 1995. *An Invitation to Old English and Anglo-Saxon England*

Mitchell, B. & F. Robinson. 1992. *A Guide to Old English*

Middle English (ca. 1100-1500)

Benson, L.D. (ed.). 1988. *The Riverside Chaucer*

Blake, N.F. (ed.). 1992. *1066-1476. Cambridge HOTEL, vol. 2

McIntosh, A., M.A.L. Samuels & M. Benskin. 1986. *Linguistic Atlas of Late Mediaeval English*

Early Modern English (ca. 1500-1700)

Görlach, M. 1991. *Introduction to Early Modern English*

Lass, R. (ed.). 1999. *1476-1776. Cambridge HOTEL, vol. 3*

Partridge, A.C. & A. Cooper. 1964. *Orthography in Shakespeare and Elizabethan Drama*

Modern English (since ca. 1700)

Algeo, T. 2001. *English in North America. Cambridge HOTEL, vol. 6

Bailey, R.W. & M. Görlach (eds.) 1982. *English as a World Language*

Barber, C.L. 1964. *Linguistic Change in Present-Day English*

Burchfield, R.W. (ed.). 1994. *English in Britain and Overseas. Cambridge HOTEL, vol. 5

Crystal, D. 1997¹ / 2003². *English as a Global Language*

Dillard, J.L. 1992. *A History of American English*

Görlach, M. 1998. *Even More Englishes: Studies 1996-1997*

Gramley, S. & K.-M. Pätzold. 1992. *A Survey of Modern English*

McArthur, T. (ed.). 1992. *The Oxford Companion to the English Language*

Romaine, S. (ed.). 1998. *1776-1997. Cambridge HOTEL, vol. 4*

Schmied, J. 1991. *English in Africa: An Introduction*

Trudgill, P. 2004. *New-Dialect Formation: The Inevitability of Colonial Englishes*

Trudgill, P. & J. Chambers. 1991. *Dialects of English*

**IN ADDITION THERE ARE MANY MORE POSSIBLE TEXTS/GENRES/TOPICS/...—
WHICH YOU CAN / SHOULD EXPLORE FOR YOUR COURSE ASSESSMENT WORK.
THE INTERNET IS A HANDY TOOL TO TRACK DOWN GREAT HOTEL-WEBSITES!**