

# ÜBUNG DER HAUPTSTUFE HISTORY OF ENGLISH

Englisches Seminar, Universität zu Köln

Summer Semester 2003: Fridays, 1.00 - 3.00pm — Room S90

<http://www.punksinscience.org/kleanthes/courses/HOE>

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## DESCRIPTION

This course is going to familiarize students with the principal ideas concerning the **historical development of language(s)**. We will cover sound change, morphological change, syntactic change and semantic/lexical change in the history of the English language, based on central texts from the various periods of English (**internal history**) and within their socio-cultural context (**external history**). The seminar will follow a **predominantly theoretical** line of inquiry.

There is no set textbook, but an **extensive reading list** is available (“Readings” below); some of the books are in the **course-Handapparat**, other material will be made available in xeroxed form.

## REQUIREMENTS

There are **no prerequisites** to attend this seminar. I assume that everybody is familiar with **basic linguistic concepts** (phonology, morphology, syntax), preferably in the **generative** tradition, but that is not so important; depending on one’s preferences, a **less or non-theoretical outlook** to the study of language may be suitable as well (see “Grading” and “Paper Topics” below).

The seminar consists of a series of lectures, in which participation is encouraged. There will be **no exercises or exams**. Students may obtain a **QUAST** or a **Leistungsnachweis** (see “Grading”). It is strongly advised to do the **suggested reading** for each class to allow for a smooth sail.

## GRADING

Anyone is welcome to attend the course and to engage in classroom participation, provided you do the reading. For graded participation, you may go for a **QUAST** on the basis of a short paper or a **Leistungsnachweis** for a short paper plus full-fledged *Hausarbeit*.

The topic of both the short paper and the *Hausarbeit* may but certainly need not be picked from the “Paper Topics” suggested below; you are more than welcome to find your own topic through your readings or perhaps through class inspiration. As a rough guideline for length, I suggest ca. **6-8 pages (3,000 words) for the paper** and **18-20 pages (8,000 words) for the Hausarbeit**.

Your *Hausarbeit* is definitely due at the latest the day before our final class. You are required to **come and see me** to discuss your topic and see you through the research-and-writing process. The same goes for the **QUASTees**: the **short paper** is due on **July 31** and you must discuss your paper with me at various stages. Nothing prohibits the **Leistungsnachweisees** to **extend** their short paper into a *Hausarbeit* (which should, needless to say, be quite an extension), i.e. to pick one topic from the start, write up an ‘interim report’, so to speak, and then develop the ideas further. In this case, the short paper is due way before the end of the semester: **June 26**.

## SYLLABUS

<p><u>April 25: CLASS 1</u></p> <p><b>The External History of English</b> 7000 years of language, definitions, typology</p> <p><u>May 9: CLASS 2</u></p> <p><b>The Pre-History of English</b> From Indo-European to Proto-Germanic</p> <p><u>May 23: CLASS 4</u></p> <p><b>Word Order Changes in English</b> OE word order patterns and changes in ME</p> <p><u>June 6: CLASS 5</u></p> <p><b>Regional Varieties of Middle English</b> ME dialectal variation from orthography to syntax</p> <p><u>June 20: NO CLASS</u></p> <p>POST-CORPUS CHRISTI — NO CLASS! THE FIRST PAPER WILL BE DUE ON JUNE 26 AT 12PM!</p> <p><u>July 4: CLASS 7</u></p> <p><b>Syntactic Features of Middle English</b> Impersonals, auxiliaries, negation, verb second etc.</p> <p><u>July 18: CLASS 9</u></p> <p><b>The Early Modern English Period</b> Chaucer vs. Shakespeare: from LME to ENE</p> <p><u>July 31: FINAL PAPER</u></p> <p><b>YOUR FINAL PAPER IS DUE!</b> <i>Hausarbeit</i>, possibly paper, or else: June 26</p>	<p><u>May 2: NO CLASS</u></p> <p>POST-MAY DAY — NO CLASS! (I WILL NOT BE COMING TO COLOGNE THAT WEEK)</p> <p><u>May 16: CLASS 3</u></p> <p><b>The Main Features of Old English</b> OE phonology, morphology, syntax, and more</p> <p><u>May 30: NO CLASS</u></p> <p>POST-ASCENSION — NO CLASS! (I WILL NOT BE COMING TO COLOGNE THAT WEEK)</p> <p><u>June 13: NO CLASS</u></p> <p>WHIT HOLIDAYS — NO CLASS! (BUT BE SURE TO DO YOUR WORK &amp; READING!)</p> <p><u>June 27: CLASS 6</u></p> <p><b>Breakdown of the Inflectional System</b> OE morphological paradigms, changes in ME/LME</p> <p><u>July 11: CLASS 8</u></p> <p><b>The Great Vowel Shift</b> ENE orthography, sound change</p> <p><u>July 25: CLASS 10</u></p> <p><b>Accents and Dialects</b> NE varieties around the world</p> <p><u>August 1: CLASS 11</u></p> <p><b>Pidgins and Creoles</b> recent developments, language change</p>
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## PAPER TOPICS

- 1 Proto-Germanic is defined as a cluster of innovations as compared to Indo-European. Discuss some of these innovations. What are the possible causes of these?
- 2 What are language types? Critically discuss the view that Old English belonged to a different language type from Modern English.
- 3 What are the difficulties and drawbacks of the surviving Old English corpus? How might these difficulties affect the conclusions we draw about the nature of the language?
- 4 What are the Old English and Middle English origins of regional variation in Modern (British) English?
- 5 Examine the influence of the Norman Conquest on the English language.
- 6 Discuss and evaluate three different theories of sound change.
- 7 What were the main factors in the emergence of Standard (British) English?
- 8 Critically discuss the dialect/language distinction as it applies to the English language (synchronically and diachronically); do take pidgins and creoles into your consideration.
- 9 What is the relevance of an historical examination of English to present-day orthography?
- 10 Come and see me to pick a topic in *phonology*, *morphology*, *syntax*, or *semantics and apply it to historical issues and one or more older stages of English (incl. dialects and creoles)*.

## READINGS

- Bailey, R.W. 1991. *Images of English: A Cultural History of the Language*
- Barber, C.L. 1993. *The English Language: A Historical Introduction*  
\* [PREPARE FOR CLASS 2: chs. 3-4; CLASS 3: ch. 5; CLASS 6: ch. 7; CLASSES 8-9: ch. 8]
- Bauer, Laurie. 1994. *Watching English Change*
- Baugh, A.C. & T. Cable. 2002. *A History of the English Language*  
\* [BACKGROUND ON CLASS 2: ch. 2; CLASS 3: chs. 3-4; CLASS 5: chs. 5-7; CLASS 9: ch. 8]
- Blake, N.F. 1996. *A History of the English Language*
- Brook, G.L. 1958. *A History of the English Language: A Source Book*
- Burnley, J.D. 1992. *The History of the English Language: A Source Book*
- Denison, D. 1993. *English Historical Syntax*
- Erickson, J. & M. Gymnich. 1998. *Grundkurs Anglistische Sprachwissenschaft*
- Fennell, B.A. 2001. *A History of English: A Sociolinguistic Approach*
- Fischer, O., A. van Kemenade, W. Koopman & W. van der Wurff. 2000. *The Syntax of Early English*  
\* [PREPARE FOR CLASSES 3-4: chs. 1-2; CLASS 7: ch. 3]
- Freeborn, D. 1992. *From Old English to Standard English*
- Görlach, M. 1997. *The Linguistic History of English*
- Jespersen, O. 1956. *Growth and Structure of the English Language*
- Jones, C. 1989. *A History of English Phonology*
- Jucker, A.H. 2000. *History of English and English Historical Linguistics*
- Lass, R. 1969. *Approaches to English and English Historical Linguistics*
- Lass, R. 1987. *The Shape of English: Structure and History*
- Leith, D. 1983. *A Social History of English*
- MacMahon, A. 1994. *Understanding Language Change*  
\* [PREPARE FOR CLASS 11: ch. 10]
- Millward, C.M. 1989. *A Biography of the English Language*
- Myers, L.M. 1966. *The Roots of Modern English*
- Nielsen, H.F. 1989. *The Germanic Languages: Origins and Early Dialectal Interrelations*
- Pyles, T. & J. Algeo. 1982. *The Origins and Development of the English Language*  
\* [PREPARE FOR CLASS 2: ch. 4; CLASS 3: ch. 5; CLASS 6: ch. 6; CLASSES 8-9: ch. 6]

- Serjeantson, M. 1935. *A History of Foreign Words in English*
- Sheard, J.A. 1954. *The Words We Use*
- Strang, B.M.H. 1970. *A History of English*
- Visser, F.T. 1963-73. *An Historical Syntax of the English Language*
- Wakelin, M. 1989. *The Archaeology of English*
- Williams, J.M. 1975. *Origins of the English Language*
- Old English (ca. 500CE-1100)*
- Brook, G.L. 1956. *An Introduction to Old English*
- Campbell, A. 1959. *Old English Grammar*
- Hogg, R.M. (ed.). 1992. *The Beginnings to 1066. Cambridge History of the English Language*, vol. 1  
\* [PREPARE FOR CLASS 2: ch. 2; CLASS 3: chs. 3-4; CLASS 4: ch. 4]
- Lass, R. 1994. *Old English*
- Mitchell, B. 1985. *Old English Syntax*
- Mitchell, B. & F. Robinson. 1992. *A Guide to Old English*
- Moore, S.T.A. Knott & J.R. Hulbert. 1977. *The Elements of Old English*
- Moore, S. 1969. *Historical Outline of English Sounds and Inflections*
- Partridge, A.C. 1982. *A Companion to Old and Middle English Studies*
- Middle English (ca. 1100-1500)*
- Benson, L.D. (ed.). 1987. *The Riverside Chaucer*
- Blake, N.F. (ed.). 1992. *1066-1476. Cambridge History of the English Language*, vol. 2  
\* [PREPARE FOR CLASS 5: ch. 3; CLASS 6: ch. 2; CLASS 7: ch. 4]
- Burnley, J.D. 1983. *A Guide to Chaucer's Language*
- Fisher, J.H., M. Richardson & J.L. Fisher. 1984. *An Anthology of Chaucery English*
- McIntosh, A., M.A.L. Samuels & M. Benskin. 1986. *Linguistic Atlas of Late Mediaeval English*
- Mossé, F. 1952. *Handbook of Middle English* (transl. J.A. Walker)
- Mossé, F. 1988. *Mittelenglische Kurzgrammatik* (transl. H. Pilch & U. Siewert)
- Mustanoja, T.F. 1960. *A Middle English Syntax*
- Early Modern English (ca. 1500-1700)*
- Barber, C.L. 1976. *Early Modern English*
- Blake, N.F. 1989. *The Language of Shakespeare*
- Dobson, E. 1968. *English Pronunciation, 1500-1700*
- Ellis, A.J. 1969. *On Early English Pronunciation*
- Görlach, M. 1991. *Introduction to Early Modern English*  
\* [PREPARE FOR CLASS 9: chs. 5-6]
- Lass, R. (ed.). 1999. *1476-1776. Cambridge History of the English Language*, vol. 3
- Modern English (ca. 1700-)*
- Algeo, T. 2001. *English in North America. Cambridge History of the English Language*, vol. 6  
\* [PREPARE FOR CLASS 10: specifications will follow later]
- Bailey, R.W. 1996. *Nineteenth-Century English*
- Barber, C.L. 1964. *Linguistic Change in Present-Day English*
- Burchfield, R.W. (ed.). 1994. *English in Britain and Overseas. Cambridge History of the English Language*, vol. 5  
\* [PREPARE FOR CLASS 10: specifications will follow later]
- Crystal, D. 1997. *English as a Global Language*
- Foster, B. 1968. *The Changing English Language*
- Görlach, M. 1999. *English in Nineteenth-Century England*
- Kökeritz, H. 1953. *Shakespeare's Pronunciation*
- Leisi, E. & C. Mair. 1999. *Das heutige Englisch: Wesenszüge und Probleme*
- McArthur, T. (ed.). 1992. *The Oxford Companion to the English Language*
- Romaine, S. (ed.). 1998. *1776-1997. Cambridge History of the English Language*, vol. 4
- Trudgill, P. & J. Chambers. 1991. *Dialects of English*