

History of the English Language (LING 4070)

Syllabus

Alexander Smith (instructor)

Spring 2019

BASICS

Email: alexander.smith@unt.edu
Office: Language building 409L (Tues/Thurs 1 – 3)
Room: WH 213
Date and Time: Tues, Thurs, 9:30 – 10:45

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course has several goals. They are: i) to give you a clear understanding of the Indo-European language family, of which English is a member, ii) to teach you about the comparative method and how to use it in comparative linguistic research, iii) to give you a clear understanding of the Germanic subgroup of Indo-European, of which English is a member, iv) to give you a clear understanding of the development of English from Indo-European, to Proto-Germanic, to Old English, to Middle English, to Early Modern English, and finally, to Modern English.

There will be a midterm examination, which will mostly cover topics in Indo-European and the comparative method. I may assign homework, but I won't count it toward your grade. It is for your enjoyment (although I might assign homework then have you turn it in and use it for that day's attendance). The final will be a research paper, due by Friday May 10th. Feel free to turn it in early. You should consult books and academic articles and provide robust citation and a list of references. The paper must be between 10 and 75 pages with double space, 1 inch margins, exclusive of references. You may write on any of the following topics:

1. Describe in detail the historical development of any aspect of English. Include at least old, middle, and modern English examples.
2. Describe in detail the historical development of any Germanic language. Include at least Proto-Germanic, and try to include intermediate stages.
3. Directly compare English with at least three other Germanic languages.
4. Use the comparative method to describe the historical development and subgrouping of any language in the world. Must be detailed.

GRADING

Participation	40
Midterm Examination	30
Final Paper	30
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 100

GRADE SCALE

Letter	Number	Letter	Number	Letter	Number
A+	100	B+	89	C+	79
A	95	B	85	C	75
A-	92	B-	82	C-	72

TEXTS

No Text.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is important for this class. This is where we will discuss the readings and other class materials. We will introduce new ideas in the lecture and answer any questions students may have. If a student misses a class, it is the student's responsibility to catch up with what was missed by asking classmates and/or the instructor. The student's efforts in coming to class on time will be duly recognized.

PARTICIPATION

To be successful in this class, students must attend class sessions with proper preparation. Assigned readings must be completed before corresponding lectures. To make the lectures more meaningful, please be prepared to share your questions and comments in class. Students are responsible for all of the information presented in this course, and students' active participation in class and proper preparation for class are also expected. Asking questions is important and will affect grades. Office hours and email are also good ways to get credit for participation if you are not into class participation.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism and cheating. Students who violate the University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course. There is no need to leave information that is taken directly from an outside source uncited, and there is no need to avoid using information from outside sources out of fear of being accused of plagiarism. If you need any help referencing and citing your information, just let me know.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

WEEK	TOPIC
Jan 15, 17	Introduction; Overview of Indo-European (IE)
Jan 22, 24	Continue Overview of IE
Jan 29, 31	History of Scholarship in IE; Comparative Method
Feb 5, 7	Comparative Method
Feb 12, 14	European Language Groups
Feb 19, 21	Germanic
Feb 26, 28	Germanic
March 5, 7	Review; MIDTERM
March 12, 14	SPRING BREAK
March 19, 21	From Proto-Indo-European to English
March 26, 28	Phonological History of English
April 2, 4	Phonological/Morphological History of English
April 9, 11	Morphological History of English
April 16, 18	Syntactic History of English
April 23, 25	Language Contact and Borrowing
April 30, May 2	Modern English
May 10	Final Paper Due

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940-565-4323.