

**ENGL 5389: History and Development of the English Language**  
**TWC 340; Thursdays 6:00-8:50; 3 hours**  
**Fall Semester 2017**

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Office Hours: Main Campus: TR 11-12  
TWC: after class & by appointment

**Course Description:**

In this course you will acquire the tools for linguistic description and investigation, while examining the internal and external factors that have caused the English language to change over time. You will conduct research into a chosen aspect of the history of English and will share your findings with the class in a three-page research proposal with a bibliography (10-15 sources, minimum); feedback from the class and professor on the project will help to inform your final paper (12-15 pages, minimum). You will also conduct an etymology project on a chosen word, and join in various, related exercises, including mid-term and final examinations. Whatever your scholarly interests might be, you will find that this course offers room to explore aspects of English applicable to your field of study.

**Text:** Albert C. Baugh and Thomas Cable. *A History of the English Language*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. (only).

**Recommended:** One binder for supplementary materials

**Course Objectives:**

- To discover the origins of the language and the internal and external factors that have caused it to change from a synthetic language to an analytic one
- To learn how the English language is a linguistic system comprised of subsystems (phonology, grammar, and lexicon)
- To gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of English and, by extension, of English literature and history by tracing the changes in the language
- To define Standard English(es) and explore its relation to English varieties
- To develop research, writing, and analytical skills appropriate to the graduate level

**Requirements & Grading:**

Your full participation and completion of all assignments is the minimum requirement to possibly pass the course. Attendance is, of course, expected, as is submitting assignments on time (and in hard copy). Assignments turned in late will be penalized one full letter grade unless arrangements have been made in advance. Barring extraordinary circumstances, more than once absence will adversely affect your grade, as will coming to class unprepared. Your grade will be based on the following:

<b>Assignments:</b>	<b>Percentage:</b>	<b>Due Dates:</b>
Midterm Examination	20%	10/12
Etymology Project	20%	10/19
Proposal & Critiques	15%	11/2; 11/16
Research Paper	25%	11/30 (topics chosen by 10/5)
Final Examination (cumulative)	20%	TBA

For more information on university policies regarding academic honesty, visitors in the classroom, students with disabilities, and absences for religious holy days, visit [www.shsu.edu/syllabus/](http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/). You will be asked to complete a course evaluation form near the end of the semester.

**Course Schedule:** The following is a tentative plan; deviation may be necessary. §=section

**W1 August 24: Introductions & Course Overview**

The study of the English language; discussion of Etymology Projects

**W2 August 31: IPA, PIE, Germanic Family of IE Languages**

International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), basic linguistics, Proto Indo-European (PIE), IE language families, Proto-Germanic, Grimm's and Verner's Laws §1-26; §35

**W3 September 7: Old English (OE)**

English history, language & culture; dialect regions §27-37

**W4 September 14: OE**

OE grammar, writing systems, literary preservation §38-52

**W5 September 21: International Influences on OE**

Celtic, Latin, & Old Norse §53-62; 67-80

**W6 September 28: A 'Standard' English**

King Alfred & the Benedictine Reform §63-66

**W7 October 5: The Norman Conquest of 1066; Assignments**

Mid-term Review; Discussion of Research Paper Topics §81-83

**W8 October 12: Mid-term Examination (Blue books or paper)**

**W9 October 19: Aftermath of the Norman Conquest and Middle English (ME)**

Leveling of the language; structure, history, & literature, dialect regions, internationalism, §84-113; 117-43; 145; 147-48

*Etymology Projects Due*

**W10 October 26: Transitions into Early Modern English**

The Great Vowel Shift (GVS), Caxton's printing press, language enrichment, & the rise of a standard §149-77; 179-85

**W11 November 2: Making English & the Emergence of New Standards**

Latin grammarians, lexicographers, and other linguistic standard bearers §186-206, 215, 222, 231-32, 234  
*Paper Proposals Due*

**W12 November 9: Global Cultures Conference NO CLASS MEETING**

**W13 November 16: English in the Colonies; World Englishes**

British expansionism: pidgins, creoles, & new Englishes; politics & implications of the new *lingua franca* §2-11; 207-08; 230-25-29; 257-64  
*Paper Proposal Critiques Due*

**W14 November 23: Thanksgiving Break NO CLASS**

**W15 November 30: American Englishes**

Dialect maps, history of regional dialects, nationalism, American Englishes §238-56  
*Research Papers Due*

**Final Examination TBA**