2014 Winter Session (2014-2015 Academic Year)

ENGL 320: History of the English Language (6 credits)

Instructor: Dr. Ina Biermann
Section: 002
Term: 1-2

Course Description:
The English 320 course provides an overview of the historical evolution of English. Overall, the course follows a chronological order, from the Old English Period (449-1100), to the Middle English Period (1100-1500), the Early Modern English Period (1500-1800) and the Late Modern English Period (1800-21st Century). The course starts with a general introduction to the study of language and in particular, the historical study of English, an overview of the current sounds of English and the notion of sound change, the relationship between sound and writing and the place of English in terms of language typology. By following the development of English from its origins, we study areas of linguistic structure in each period, ranging from the level of sound and its relationship with spelling (phonology and graphology), the level of words, including principles of word formation (morphology), and loanwords, relevant aspects of word classes and word meaning (semantics), and the level of sentence structure (syntax) as each level reveals the dynamic, continued development and creative flexibility of the English language.
The approach taken in the course is descriptive and is not situated exclusively in any specific linguistic theory.

Important notes:
Regular class attendance and continued effort are vital. This course involves reading the textbook portions prescribed for each week, but also a substantial amount of analysis of English language examples from the exercises in the textbook as well as other exercises assigned in class. There are twelve chapters in the textbook. On average, two weeks are devoted to a chapter, but the pace may vary in some areas of study during the course.

You will be expected to learn to use the International Phonetic Alphabet when describing the level of sound and to acquire a degree of familiarity with grammar that will allow you to understand changes from one period to the next. I cannot stress enough how important it is that you should maintain a steady working pace throughout the term to ensure that you keep up with the prescribed reading and exercises.

Required textbook:

Recommended reading:

- A Dictionary of Canadianisms on Historical Principles (Avis et al. 1967), which is now available in open access. Please visit http://dchp.ca/DCHP-1/ to access the dictionary.
- *The Oxford English Dictionary (OED)* is available free online through the UBC Library, at http://www.library.ubc.ca. Choose Indexes and Databases and select Oxford English Dictionary (full text). If you are not on campus, you will need to connect through the proxy server before you can access the search screen of the *OED*.

Other resources:
In addition to the video and audio materials referred to in the textbook, the following video has been placed on reserve in the UBC library:

Prerequisites:
Third-year standing and completion of the Writing Requirement. No formal background in language or linguistics is required.

ENGL 321 satisfies requirements for the English language major (Category 2, "Structure of the English Language"), the English language minor, and the English literature major ("Optional Restricted Courses"), but not the English literature minor. It (partially) satisfies admission requirements for the secondary teaching programs in English Education and English as a Second Language in the Faculty of Education.

Course Requirements:
The course mark is based on four monthly tests, the last of which is the final exam, and two assignments. The tests are not cumulative. The four tests and the two assignments contribute equally to the final mark. All tests must be written and both assignments must be submitted to pass the course. A missed test or assignment will result in 0%. In the event that you may have missed a test or assignment because of illness or other serious reasons (see the notes below), you should let me know as soon as possible to make arrangements to make up for the missed work. Apart from tests and graded
assignments, exercises will be assigned to be completed in class and at home during the term. The answers will be discussed in class, but the exercises will not be graded.

Please take note of the following important information:
The departmental attendance policy:

- Students who miss classes because of a disability and who are registered with the Disability Resource Centre are given reasonable accommodation, which is to be negotiated at the beginning of the course between the student, the DRC, and the instructor. Please make sure that you see me as soon as possible after the beginning of term if you are registered with the DRC, preferably within the first week of classes.
- Students missing 40% or more of the classes, regardless of whether their absences are avoidable or unavoidable, will be considered unable to meet the "learning outcomes" of the course and will be excluded from the final examination.
- Instructors are under no obligation to re-teach material that has already been taught in a regularly scheduled class.

Academic concessions regarding observance of religious holidays:
Students are required to provide at least TWO WEEKS prior notice in writing (preferably earlier) of their intention to absent themselves under the university policy on religious holidays. Detailed information is available at http://www.universitycounsel.ubc.ca/files/2010/08/policy65.pdf. Opportunity will be provided for students to make up work or examinations missed without penalty.

SYLLABUS: ENGLISH 320: Section 002
History of the English Language Term 1 (September - December 2014)

Week 1:
Tuesday, Sep. 2: Imagine Day; no class
Thursday, Sep. 4: Introduction to the course: the place of English in the world; definition of language; the levels of language
Reading: Chapter 1

Week 2:
Tuesday, Sep. 9: The concept of language

Week 8:
Tuesday, Oct. 21: The place of English in the world; the Indo-European language family
Thursday, Oct. 23: Reconstruction; Proto-Indo-European
Reading: Chapter 4

Week 9:
Tuesday, Oct. 28: Germanic
change; linguistic change in English
Thursday, Sep. 11: Prescriptive and descriptive attitudes towards language change
Reading: Chapter 1

Thursday, Oct. 30: The development of OE
Reading: Chapter 5

Week 3:
Tuesday, Sep. 16: The sounds of English; the phoneme
Thursday, Sep. 18: The phonetic alphabet; English consonants
Reading: Chapter 2
Sep. 19: Last day for withdrawal without W standing.

Week 4:
Tuesday, Sep. 23: English vowels; accent
Thursday, Sep. 25: The writing of English
Reading: Chapter 2

Week 5:
Tuesday, Sep. 30: The English sound system continued; review for Test #1
Thursday, Oct. 2: Test #1
Reading: Chapters 1-2

Week 6:
Tuesday, Oct. 7: Feedback for Test #1; Language change: causes

Week 10:
Tuesday, Nov 4: Grammatical and lexical changes from PIE to Germanic; Review
Thursday, Nov. 6: Test #2
Reading: Chapters 3-5 up to p. 135

Week 11:
Tuesday, Nov. 11: Remembrance Day: University closed
Thursday, Nov. 13: The development of OE: phonological changes from PIE to Germanic
Reading: Chapter 5

Week 12:
Tuesday, Nov. 18: Grimm's Law
Thursday, Nov. 20: Verner's Law; the second sound shift; historical background: Anglo-Saxon England
Reading: Chapter 5
Nov. 21: Last day for withdrawal with W standing

Week 13:
Tuesday, Nov. 25: The orthographic and phonological systems of OE; sound changes
Thursday, Oct. 9: Mechanisms of language change  
Reading: Chapter 3

Thursday, Nov. 27: OE vocabulary  
Reading: Chapter 6

Week 7:
Tuesday, Oct. 14: Mechanisms of phonological, morphological, syntactic and semantic change
Thursday, Oct. 16: Language classification  
Reading: Chapters 3 & 4

Please note that the schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

SYLLABUS: ENGLISH 320 Section 002  
History of the English Language Term 2 (January - April 2015)

Week 1:
Tuesday, Jan. 6: The grammar of OE; the nominal system  
Thursday, Jan. 8: Presentations of findings from Assignment 1 & written component due  
Reading: Chapter 7

Week 2:
Tuesday, Jan. 13: OE pronouns, nouns and other word classes; the verbal system of OE  
Thursday, Jan. 15: OE syntax  
Reading: Chapter 7

Week 3:
Tuesday, Jan. 20: OE syntax continued; OE illustrated  
Thursday, Jan. 22: ME: significant historical events  
Reading: Chapters 7 & 8

Week 4:

Week 8:
Tuesday, Feb 24: ME word classes; the rise of a standard dialect  
Thursday, Feb. 26: ME changes evaluated and illustrated  
Reading: Chapter 9

Week 9:
Tuesday, Mar. 3: The transition from Middle to Modern English; vocabulary  
Thursday, Mar. 5: The Great Vowel Shift  
Reading: Chapter 10

Week 10:
Tuesday, Mar. 10: EModE: other sound changes; orthography;  
Thursday, Mar. 12: EModE: changes in grammar; EModE illustrated  
Reading: Chapter 10

Week 11:
Tuesday, Jan. 27: ME: vocabulary; the dialects of ME
Thursday, Jan. 29: Changes in orthography and pronunciation: consonants
*Reading:* Chapter 8

**Week 5:**
Tuesday, Feb. 3: ME pronunciation: vowels and diphthongs; Review
**Thursday, Feb. 5:** Test #3
*Reading:* Chapters 7-8

**Week 6:**
Tuesday, Feb. 10: ME: vowel reduction and changes in grammar
Thursday, Feb. 12: Grammatical changes in ME
*Reading:* Chapter 9

**Week 7:**
Feb. 16 - 20: Mid-term Break

Tuesday, Mar. 17: The rise of prescriptivism; preparatory discussion for Assignment 2 (collaborative) on Shakespeare's pronunciation
**Thursday, Mar. 19:** Presentation of findings from Assignment 2; written component of Assignment 2 due
*Reading:* Chapters 10-11

**Week 12:**
Tuesday, Mar. 24: EModE syntax
Thursday, Mar. 26: Grammatical and lexical changes from Early Modern to Modern English
*Reading:* Chapters 11-12

**Week 13:**
Tuesday, Mar. 31: National varieties of English
Thursday, Apr. 2: Regional varieties
*Reading:* Chapter 13

**Week 14:**
Tuesday, April 7: English as a global language
April 8: Last day for booking an exam accommodation for April examinations
**Thursday, Apr. 9:** Review class
*Reading:* Chapters 11-13
Apr. exam period: (Apr. 14-29)
**TEST #4 (=final exam)**

*Please note that the schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.*