

## 27835 - History of the English Language

### Syllabus Information

**Academic Year:** 2020/21

**Subject:** 27835 - History of the English Language

**Faculty / School:** 103 - Facultad de Filosofía y Letras

**Degree:** 416 - Degree in English

**ECTS:** 6.0

**Year:** 3

**Semester:** Second semester

**Subject Type:** Compulsory

**Module:** ---

### 1.General information

#### 1.1.Aims of the course

#### 1.2.Context and importance of this course in the degree

#### 1.3.Recommendations to take this course

### 2.Learning goals

#### 2.1.Competences

#### 2.2.Learning goals

#### 2.3.Importance of learning goals

### 3.Assessment (1st and 2nd call)

#### 3.1.Assessment tasks (description of tasks, marking system and assessment criteria)

### 4.Methodology, learning tasks, syllabus and resources

#### 4.1.Methodological overview

See "Learning tasks " and "Syllabus".

More information will be provided on the first day of class.

#### 4.2.Learning tasks

This is a 6 ECTS course organized as follows:

- Lectures.
- Practice sessions.
- Autonomous work and study.
- Assessment tasks.

#### 4.3.Syllabus

The course will address the following topics:

- Topic 1. INTRODUCTION. The internal and external history of a language. Synchrony vs. diachrony. The importance and diversity of English. The discovery of Sanskrit. Grimm's Law and Verner's Law. English within the Indo-European family. Main characteristics. From Pre-Roman Britain to the Scandinavian invasions.

- Topic 2. THE OLD ENGLISH PERIOD. Early English writing: the Germanic runes, the Anglo-Saxon Roman Alphabet Spelling and pronunciation. Vocabulary. Grammar, concord and inflection. Nouns, modifiers, pronouns, verbs. Syntax.
- Topic 3. THE MIDDLE ENGLISH PERIOD. External History. The Norman Conquest and Settlement. The loss of Normandy. Progressive reestablishment of English and its general adoption in the 14th century.
- General characteristics of Middle English: ME spelling. Foreign Influences on Vocabulary. ME Phonology: changes in pronunciation. ME Morphology: Changes in grammar. The rise of a London Standard.
- Topic 4. THE MODERN ENGLISH PERIOD. Key events in the Modern English Period. Expansion of the Vocabulary. The orthography of Early Modern English. Modern English Phonology. The Great Vowel Shift and other changes. Forms, Syntax and Uses. Some key events in the Late Modern period. National Varieties of English.

## REFERENCES

### Compulsory bibliography:

- BAUGH, A. & T. CABLE. 1993. *A History of the English Language*. London: Routledge
- FREEBORN, Dennis. 1998. *From Old English to Standard English*. Macmillan Press.

### Recommended bibliography:

- BLAKE, Norman (ed.) 1992. *The Cambridge History of the English Language. Vol. II: 1066-1476*. Cambridge University Press
- HOGG, Richard (ed.) 1992. *The Cambridge History of the English Language. Vol. I: The Beginnings to 1066*. Cambridge University Press
- HOGG, Richard & David DENISON (eds.) 2006. *A History of the English Language*. Cambridge University Press.
- MUGGLESTONE, Lynda. (ed.) 2006. *The Oxford History of English*. O.U.P.
- NEVALAINEN, Terttu & Helena RAUMOLIN- BRUNBERG. 2003. *Historical Sociolinguistics: Language Change in Tudor and Stuart England*. London: Longman.
- PYLES, Thomas & John ALGEO. 2010 (6<sup>th</sup> ed.) *The Origins and Development of the English language*. Cengage Learning.

## 4.4. Course planning and calendar

Further information concerning the timetable, classroom, office hours, assessment dates and other details regarding this course, will be provided on the first day of class or please refer to the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts website (academic calendar: <http://academico.unizar.es/calendario-academico/calendario>, timetable: <https://fyl.unizar.es/horario-de-clases#overlay-context=horario-de-clases>; assessment dates: <https://fyl.unizar.es/calendario-de-examenes#overlay-context=>)

## 4.5. Bibliography and recommended resources