

Title and Code of Course: The History of the English Language
ERP-B-MAD 2131

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Credit Point Value: 6	Number of Lessons per Week: 2	Type of Course: Seminar <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Method of Evaluation: Oral Examination <input type="checkbox"/> In-Class Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Course Description:

Both the lecture and the seminar course aim to acquaint students with the prehistory of the English language, as well as with the most important characteristics of Old, Middle and Early Modern English, especially those features which continue to survive in Present-Day English. The main topics covered will be: the concept of relatedness; the Indo-European language family; the main characteristics of Proto-Indo-European; the characteristics of the Germanic languages; the phonology, morphology and syntax of Old English; the orthography, phonology, morphology and syntax of Middle English with special emphasis on Middle English sound changes; the Great Vowel Shift; the phonology, morphology and syntax of Early Modern English. The historical approach will help students to better understand the archaic layers of texts studied in the English literature courses. Students will be assessed based on a written examination.

Note that this course is primarily recommended to students at the master's level.

Prerequisite: a basic course in phonetics and phonology (familiarity with the IPA symbols is a must).

Bibliography:

Compulsory reading:

Pyles, T.–Algeo, J. (1993, 4th ed.; 2004, 5th ed.): *The Origins and Development of the English Language*. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich (4th ed.); Thomson Wadsworth (5th ed.) (Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12).

Handouts

Algeo, J. (1993): *Problems in the Origins and Development of the English Language*. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich (Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7, 8).

Recommended:

Crystal, D. (1995): *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*. Cambridge University Press (selected chapters).

Van Gelderen, Elly (2014, 2nd ed.): *A History of the English Language*. John Benjamins Publishing Company (selected chapters).