

U350-323: History of the English Language

Course Format: Online

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Course Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

Course Level: Intermediate; Appropriate for second-year or higher college students.

Course Description: In this course, you will learn the changes in vocabulary, syntax, spelling, and sounds that the English language has undergone since its beginnings nearly fifteen hundred years ago, as well as the historical reasons that these changes have taken place. You will also learn the principles by which the English language continues to change today and will continue to do so in the future. In addition, you will have an opportunity to classify your own regional dialect and pronunciation of words in the English language.

Required Course Materials

- Algeo, J. (6th Eds.). (2010). *The Origins and Development of the English Language*. Boston, MA: Wadworth, Cengage Learning. ISBN-13: 978-1428231450

Course Learning Objectives

- Recognize the influences and linguistic changes of the English language.
- Classify regional dialect of common used English language words.
- Extend current English language principles to future language.

Course Overview

UNIT #	UNIT TOPIC	EVALUATED ACTIVITIES
1	The sounds of English and the history of linguistic science	Written Assignment
2	The backgrounds of English, leading into Old English	Written Assignment
3	Old English: History and features	Written Assignment
4	Middle English: History and selected features	Written Assignment
5	Middle English vs. Old English vs. English today	Written Assignment
6	Early modern (Shakespearean/Elizabethan) English	Written Assignment
7	Late modern English	Written Assignment
8	The English language today and tomorrow: The principles by which language continues to change	Written Assignment
	Final Exam	Exam

Evaluation Methods

Your final grade will be based on your performance on the following:

- Written Assignments (60%)
- Final Exam (40%)

Written Assignments (60%)

There are eight assignments, requiring both essay responses and short-answer/informational responses.

Exam (40%)

There is one final examination, consisting of short- and long-answer essay questions. Recommended areas of study for effective examination preparation are included in the course.

Exam Method: Online without Proctoring

This course requires all students to complete exams online. Students receive two attempts on each exam. If you elect to take a second attempt, the average score of both exams will be recorded.

Grading Scale

The following grading scale is used to evaluate all course requirements and determine your final grade:

A = 93–100	B = 83–87.9	C = 70–77.9	D = 60–69.9
AB = 88–92.9	BC = 78–82.9		F = Below 60

Pass/Fail Option

Students who enroll in an Independent Learning (IL) course under the pass/fail option will receive a final grade of S in place of a final grade equivalent to an A, AB, B, BC, or C and a final grade of U in place of a final grade equivalent to a D or F.