

<b>Course title: History of the English Language and varieties of British English</b>		<b>Credits: 5</b>	<b>Course code: AN331</b>
<b>Type of the course</b> <u>Lecture</u> <u>Seminar</u> Practice	<b>Assessment:</b> <u>Examination</u> Performance-based grade Approval		
<b>Semester</b> (according to the standard curriculum): 5th			
<b>Course availability</b> (according to the standard curriculum):			
<b>Language of instruction</b> (if not in Hungarian): English			
<b>Prerequisites</b> (according to the standard curriculum): Introduction to Linguistics, English Phonetics, Phonology and Morphology, English Syntax, English Grammar			
<b>Type of the course</b> (compulsory, obligatory elective, free elective): compulsory			
<b>Course schedule:</b> <a href="http://www.kodolanyi.hu/neptun/">http://www.kodolanyi.hu/neptun/</a>			
<b>Course objectives:</b>			
<p>The course deals with the development of English from the earliest period to the present day. The changes, maintenance and spread of English are viewed in historical and sociolinguistic contexts. Structural changes on the levels of pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary during Old English (before 1100), Middle English (12th-15th centuries), Early Modern English periods (16th-18th centuries) are interpreted using the tools of the most important linguistic theories. This course will also deal with earliest and various writing systems (the pictograms, the runes, the Ogham, etc). Some of the linguistic changes English has undergone, i.e. changes in word and sentence structure, meaning and sound system will also be tracked. Furthermore, the course aims at presenting certain theoretical interpretations of language change.</p> <p>The course deals with introducing students to the development of English from the earliest period to the present day. The changes, maintenance and spread of English are viewed in historical and sociolinguistic contexts. Structural changes on the levels of pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary during Old English (before 1100), Middle English (12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries), Early Modern English (16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries), and Present-Day English. During this course students will see that English has undergone some dramatic alterations throughout its life, and they will look at changes in sounds, grammar, meaning, and vocabulary. They will investigate many fundamental changes that English has undergone in terms of morphology, phonology, syntax, semantics, orthography, and vocabulary, moreover they will also explore some social, cultural, and historical forces that affect language transformation. As by nature the course has a strong linguistic component, students are expected to be familiar with English grammar, phonology, phrasal and clausal syntax.</p> <p>Generally, the first part of this course gives a clearer understanding of why we write and speak as we do today. The main aim is to make students aware of the development of the English language and the reasons of its present state. It will help students enlarge their vocabulary, as during this course students will deal with an important issue of borrowings from different languages and alternation of borrowed words to correspond to the accepted</p>			

conventions of the English language. Orthography will also be discussed due to which students will become aware of the structure of words borrowed from Latin, French, Old Norse, etc. Students will understand the importance of semantics and how the meanings of words changed overtime.

The second part explains British English dialects and accents, which discuss how the language reflects British lifestyles and how new words are created. Students will learn about language use; regional, social, and ethnic dialects; and informal speech.

**Learning outcomes** (based on professional competences):

This course will also introduce students to the development of the English language, its upon completion of this course, the students will be able to:

1. understand general principles of etymology and historical reconstruction in linguistics applying the comparative method
2. explain the characteristics of the English language during the various stages of its development, including the cultural and linguistic forces that shape the English language.
3. identify some major dialect distinctions of English and the role they play in the perception of others and ourselves
4. analyse and explain some differences in the fields of phonology, syntax and semantics of the English of earlier periods and Present Day English
5. understand the transition of English from synthetical to analytical language.
6. will learn how to use a historical dictionary when reading any historical text and will know the origins of English and its place among other world languages
8. to explain why borrowings generally occur
9. discuss the place of Germanic languages among other Indo-European languages and their classification
10. explain and trace the changes in function, meaning and form of parts of speech
11. speak on sentence structure, its evolution from SOV to SVO
12. comment on the main principles of orthography.

**Teaching methods:**

Our class time will be a combination of lectures, presentations, in-class tasks, class and group discussions, home assignments (exercises and independent study reading), tests and completing extra tasks.

**Assessment & Grading:**

Evaluation will be accomplished through an examination, the completion of quizzes, attendance and active participation. Only 20% of those students who show profound interest in the subject and do some creative extra tasks will be given a grade without taking the examination.

Regular attendance is mandatory in this course. The student may miss three classes without penalty; in case of further absences the student will be denied the signature necessary for taking the examination.

### *Grading Scheme*

3 Mid-term Tests/Homework	10% (each)
2 Presentations	5% (each)
In-Class Participation	10%
Examination	50%

### *Grade Calculation*

90-100% = 5

80-89% = 4

70-79% = 3

60-69% = 2

1-59% = 1

#### **Pass:**

The student shows a basic grasp of the subject matter but may be poorly focussed or contain irrelevant material. The student has one major error and some minor errors, therefore demonstrates the capacity to complete only moderately difficult tasks related to the subject material (both in class and at the exam).

#### **Satisfactory:**

The student demonstrates a basic grasp of the subject matter, covers the main points but insufficient detail, shows some effort to apply knowledge to the task, as well as little or no evidence of background reading. The students make several minor errors or one major error (both in class and at the exam).

#### **Good:**

The student demonstrates adequate but not complete knowledge of the subject matter, omits some important subject matter or makes several minor errors (both in class and at the exam). The student is capable to apply knowledge appropriately to the task albeit with some errors.

#### **Excellent:**

The student demonstrates extensive and detailed knowledge of the subject matter and ability to apply this knowledge to the task set (both in class and at the exam). The student's answer is clear, fluent with minimal or no errors.

**Department/faculty responsible for the course:** Institutional Departments of English Language and Literature

**Required average students' working hours** (number of credits multiplied by 30): 150

**Individual assignments** (expected number of hours and list of activities):

independent study reading, word/sentence/discourse analysis, looking up terminology in the dictionary, regular home assignments, work on presentation(s), etc.

**Course leader:** Dr. Albert Viktória

**Lecturers:** Dr. Albert Viktória

