

ENGL 4301. 001: History of the English Language
Spring Semester 2015: TR 11.00-12.20
LS 120

Professor J. Stodnick

624 Carlisle Hall (mailbox in Carlisle 204)

Office Hours: TR 12.30-1.30 p.m. (or by appointment at other times).

I hold my office hours in Starbucks. Please interrupt me if I am meeting with another student so that I know you are waiting. stodnick@uta.edu (Due to budget cuts, I have no office phone—I will endeavor to respond to any e-mail queries within 24 hours of receipt)

Course materials—Available at the Bookstore

Seth Lerer, *Inventing English: A Portable History of the Language* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2007)

Additional readings on blackboard

You will also need to activate and use your UTA e-mail address (go to the IT helpdesk, floor 1 of the main library for assistance). All e-mails about this course will be sent ONLY to this address and you will be held responsible for making sure that you receive them.

Course Description and Goals: The goal of this course is to change how you think about English. You will learn how the English language developed into its present form from its earliest recorded appearance as Old English, through Middle English, the Renaissance and modern periods. The course will combine technical information, such as how to make a phonetic transcript and how to parse Old English sentences, with historical background about the events that motivated language change. You will be encouraged to understand the progression of the English language as enmeshed with social and cultural movements, such as the migration of peoples or the political dominance of a region/group.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- The students will demonstrate an ability to think of language, and particularly English, as a complex historical and mutable system
- The students will be able to describe and explain changes in the English language through time, as well as how these changes are involved in historical and social events
- The students will analyze linguistic structures and describe them by means of accurate technical vocabulary
- The students will be able to discuss sociolinguistic issues in an informed and sensitive manner

Requirements/Assessment: Because much of the information provided in this course is technical and cumulative, attendance is vital and will impact your grade. Students with zero or only 1 absence will be exempt from an extra essay question worth 15% on the final—all other students will have to complete this extra essay. Therefore, those students with 0 or 1 absence will walk into the final with 15% of the exam already credited (they will also obviously complete a shorter test).

Excessive lateness will count towards absences at the discretion of the instructor. Excessive absences (more than 4) are grounds for reduction of your overall grade at the discretion of the instructor and possible failure of the course. Please pay attention to your attendance and do not let your number of absences creep up to an unacceptable level. I recommend that you keep in touch with me about your attendance—if I wish to notify you of any issues with your attendance, I will do so via your UTA e-mail account and will assume that you have received my message.

Full and timely completion of assignments will also be reflected in your grade. If you hand in an assignment late, your grade for that assignment will be reduced by a letter grade for each day after the due date. If you fail to hand in an assignment at all, you will receive a grade of 0 for that assignment. All major assignments (papers and exams) must be completed in order to pass the class. Grading will be broken down as follows:

In-class assignments, attendance, and language diary	10%
Paper 1	20%
Paper 2	25%
Round table discussion	5%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%

Attendance: At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I will evaluate attendance as outlined in the previous section.

Americans with Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

Title IX: The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law “Title IX” such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX.

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

WEEK #	DATE	LANGUAGE PERIOD	READING	ACTIVITY	DUE DATES
1	Tu 20 January		"Toolbox" powerpoint	Class introductions. Review syllabus and nature of course. "Meet your Mouth": parts of mouth, place and manner of articulation, diagram of vowels, phonetic alphabet.	
	Th 22 January	Indo-European c. 2500 BC Germanic c. 400 BC	"Linguistic Ancestors" powerpoint	Continue practicing phonetic alphabet; Indo-European; Grimm's Law.	
2	Tu 27 January			Indo-European and Grimm's Law continued.	
	F 29 January	Old English c. 700-1100	"The Beginnings of English 1" powerpoint Lerer 1-24	Historical background to the Germanic invasion	
3	Tu 3 February		Lerer 25-38	Manuscripts; Pronunciation	

	Th 5 February		"The Beginnings of English 2" powerpoint	Case system; definite article; nouns	
4	Tu 10 February			Case system; definite article; nouns	
	Th 12 February			Case system; definite article; nouns	E-mail about topic for paper due
5	Tu 17 February			Pronouns; adjectives; verbs	
	Th 19 February		"The Beginnings of English 3" powerpoint	Verbs; Vikings; Lexicon; the Tenth Century	
6	Tu 24 February		Lerer 39-53	Vikings; the Norman Conquest	
	Th 26 February			Review for midterm	
7	Tu 3 March			MIDTERM EXAM	
	Th 5 March	Middle English c. 1100-1500	"The Middle Road" powerpoint Lerer 54-69	Historical events after Conquest; grammatical effects on English	
8	SPRING BREAK				
9	Tu 17 March		Lerer 70-84	Leveling; analogy; phonological effects on English; orthographical effects on English; lexicon	Paper 1 due
	Th 19 March		Lerer 85-100	Middle English dialects	
10	Tu 24 March	Early Modern English c. 1500-1650	"Spelling and Standardization" powerpoint Lerer 115-52	Inkhorn terms; relation of English to classical languages	
	Th 26 March		Lerer 153-66	Spelling reformers and standardization	
11	Tu 31 March	Modern English c. 1650- present	Lerer 167-80	Dictionaries and grammars	
	Th 2 April		Lerer 181-91; 235-45	Dictionaries and grammars	
12	Tu 7 April		"America and the World" powerpoint	Introduction to dialects American English	

			Lerer 192-234		
	Th 9 April			American English	
13	Tu 14 April		Reading TBA	American English	
	Th 16 April			American English	
14	Tu 21 April			American English	
	Th 23 April		Lerer 258-66	Global English	
15	Tu 28 April			Global English	
	Th 30 April			Global English	Paper 2 due
16	Tu 5 May			Round table discussion of semester projects	
	Th 7 May			Review for final	
FINALS	Tu 12 May 11.00-1.30 p.m.			FINAL EXAM	