**ENGLISH 4301: HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**FALL 2018: MW 1-2:20, PH 200**

**Dr. Kaci McCourt**

**Office and hours:** Carlisle 519; MWF 10-10:50 and by appointment

**Email:** kmccourt@uta.edu; I will strive to answer emails within 24 hours during the week (weekends will be longer). Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions/concerns about the course.

**Faculty profile:** [**https://mentis.uta.edu/explore/profile/kaci-mccourt**](https://mentis.uta.edu/explore/profile/kaci-mccourt)

**Course Description:**

The purpose of this course is to learn about the development of the English language into its present form, tracing the language from Old English, Middle English, and Early Modern English to Modern English. This will be done through both readings from HEL texts and excerpts from pieces of literature from each time period. You will learn technical aspects of the language as well as historical background that influenced the changes in the language.

**Expected Learning Outcomes:**

* The students will be able to think about the English language from both a historical viewpoint as well as a linguistical viewpoint.
* The students will be able to describe major changes in the English language, such as Grimm’s Law and the Great Vowel Shift, and explain how these changes brought the English language to where it is today.
* The students will be able to analyze the language of literature from different time periods.
* The students will have knowledge of how the standardization of the English language came about and what historical events helped to make it happen.
* The students will be able to recognize Old English as a language, and they will be able to recognize and read Middle English as a language.

**Required Texts and Materials:**

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

Readings from Blackboard

Access to a laptop/tablet both in and out of class

**Major Assignments:**

In-class assignments, homework, participation 15%

Semester Project Paper Part I 15%

Semester Project Paper Part II 25%

Semester Project Presentation 10%

Midterm Exam 15%

Final Exam 20%

Final grades will be calculated as follows: A=90-100%, B=80-89.99%, C=70-79.99%, F=69.99%-and below; Z=see the Z grade policy above.

There is NO curve or extra credit in this course. However, if a student has regularly attended class (missed less than 10% of class sessions) and turned in all work (including homework and in-class work and the semester project) on time (i.e. NO late work), they will receive the next higher grade if, and only if, their cumulative score ends in a 9. For example, if a student meets all the above criteria and ends with an 89.0-89.99, they will receive an “A” while another student who does not meet the criteria will receive a “B.”

All parts of the semester project (Parts I and II and the Presentation) must be completed to pass the course. A more detailed sheet of this project will be provided on Blackboard.

All students who have missed only 0 or 1 class period will be awarded an additional 10 points on their final exam.

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels.

**Attendance:** At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. 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 have elected to take attendance but will not factor attendance into your final grade. However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients “begin attendance in a course.” UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

**Participation:** You will be graded daily on class participation, which includes: coming to class prepared (you must have your book each class period and any additional material designated on the course schedule for that day), making thoughtful contributions in response to the readings, asking and answering questions, completing any assigned in-class writings, participating in any in-class activities, and presenting a general attitude of interest in the course content. It is important that you attend class and participate, as being engaged in the course and the course material will help you to best understand the history of the English language. Excused absences include official university activities, military service, and/or religious holidays. Students must inform the instructor in writing at least one week in advance of an excused absence.

Students are given 100 participation points at the beginning of the semester and may lose up to 5 points daily if they fail to participate in class. Participation includes being in class on time, having all necessary books/materials, and being thoughtfully engaged in activities and discussions.

**Turning in Assignments to Blackboard:** Assignments in this course will be submitted to Blackboard. I will not accept any assignments via e-mail. All assignments submitted to Blackboard must be saved as a .doc or .docx file to ensure that I am able to open them on my computer. It is your responsibility to ensure that all of your work is saved in this way and submitted in the correct format. If you submit work in the wrong format, you will receive a zero for the assignment. If you are experiencing issues with Blackboard and are unable to submit an assignment via Blackboard, you must email me with the assignment attached before the due date/time to receive credit.

**Late Assignments.** All assignments are due by the beginning of class on the due date specified (unless otherwise noted on the course schedule). If you turn in an assignment late, you will receive one letter grade reduction (unless I have agreed to late submission in advance of the due date). For each calendar following that the work is late, you will receive an additional letter grade reduction. Work is not accepted after three days late. If you must be absent, your work is still due on the assigned date.

**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://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

**Disability Accommodations:** UTArlington 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), The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA),* and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.* 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 disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of **a letter certified** by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD).Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

**The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD)** [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability).

Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) [www.uta.edu/caps/](http://www.uta.edu/caps/) or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

**Non-Discrimination Policy:** *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit*[*uta.edu/eos*](http://www.uta.edu/hr/eos/index.php)*.*

**Title IX Policy:** The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated.*For information regarding Title IX, visit* [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX) or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or <jmhood@uta.edu>.

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses 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 in their courses by 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. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>.

**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>.

**Campus Carry:** Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” are 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 via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students’ anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Final Review Week:** for semester-long courses**,** 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 individuals with disabilities.

**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](http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/current/academic-support/learning-center/tutoring/index.php), [major-based learning centers](http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/college-based-clinics-labs.php), developmental education, [advising and mentoring](http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/advising.php), personal counseling, and [federally funded programs](http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/current/academic-support/mcnair/index.php). 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](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>.

**Course Schedule.** Assignments are due on the day they are listed by 1 PM (unless otherwise specificed). As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course – K.M.M.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **WEEK** | **DATE** | **READING** | **ACTIVITY** | **DUE DATES** |
| **1** | WED 8/22 |  | Course introduction |  |
| **2** | MON 8/27 |  | Defining terms;  Phonetic alphabet and transcriptions | Student info sheet |
| **2** | WED 8/29 |  | Phonetic alphabet and transcriptions cont. |  |
| **3** | MON 9/3 |  | Labor Day – No class |  |
| **3** | WED 9/5 | BC sections 11-15 (Blackboard) | Indo-European languages and Grimm’s Law |  |
| **4** | MON 9/10 | Lerer 1-24 | Intro to Old English  *Caedmon’s Hymn* | Grimm’s Law Exercise |
| **4** | WED 9/12 | Lerer 25-38 | Old English cont.  *Beowulf* excerpt |  |
| **5** | MON 9/17 |  | Review of Semester Project |  |
| **5** | WED 9/19 |  | Old English grammar |  |
| **6** | MON 9/24 |  | Old English grammar cont. |  |
| **6** | WED 9/26 | Lerer 39-53 | Vikings and the Norman Conquest |  |
| **7** | MON 10/1 |  | Midterm Exam Review |  |
| **7** | WED 10/3 |  | Midterm Exam |  |
| **8** | MON 10/8 |  | Introduction to Middle English |  |
| **8** | WED 10/10 |  | Middle English | Semester Project Paper Part I (Blackboard) |
| **9** | MON 10/15 |  | Middle English |  |
| **9** | WED 10/17 |  | Middle English |  |
| **10** | MON 10/22 |  | Middle English |  |
| **10** | WED 10/24 |  | Middle English |  |
| **11** | MON 10/29 |  | Introduction to Early Modern English |  |
| **11** | WED 10/31 |  | Early Modern English |  |
| **12** | MON 11/5 |  | Modern English |  |
| **12** | WED 11/7 |  | American English |  |
| **13** | MON 11/12 |  | American English |  |
| **13** | WED 11/14 |  | Global English |  |
| **14** | MON 11/19 |  | Txt Spk |  |
| **14** | WED 11/21 | Thanksgiving holiday – No class |  |  |
| **15** | MON 11/26 |  | Project Presentations |  |
| **15** | WED 11/28 |  | Project Presentations |  |
| **16** | MON 12/3 |  | Final Exam Review | Semester Project Paper Part II (Blackboard by 11:55 PM) |

**FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, December 12th, 11 AM – 1:30 PM**