

## History of the English Language

E 364M #34932

LIN 364M #41177

Spring 2010

T TH 2:00-3:30 PAR 206

Dr. Blockley

Parlin 320

471-8362

office hours: T 12-1, W 2-3, aba

No previous study of linguistics is required; a willingness to learn phonetic transcription early in the semester, however, is crucial. There will be weekly homework exercises to give practice in working with different aspects of the kinds of analysis developed for languages. I will preview the material covered in the exercises in class before they are due, and will collect and mark some of them to keep us on course. On some days we will begin class by considering questions about present day English language and literature that the material we cover that hour will enable you to answer.

### Required Texts:

Celia Millward, A Biography of the English Language, 2nd edition (1996)

C. Millward, Workbook to Accompany A Biography of the English Language 2nd ed (1996)

Editors of the American Heritage Dictionary One Hundred Words Almost Everyone

Mispronounces (2008)

Grading: Exercises + quizzes (8-12 assignments in all)	30% total
Attendance and active participation	10%
In-class blue-book exams (75 minutes)	15% first exam 20% second exam
Comprehensive final exam, Saturday afternoon 2-5, May 15th	25% final exam

**Attendance: policy: one unexcused absence is free. For a second and each subsequent unexcused absence, one point will be deducted from your final average, up to one full letter grade. Three tardies count as an absence, and arriving more than 15 minutes late counts as an absence.**

No make-up exams without a proven medical emergency. There will also be no makeup quizzes, but there will be 6-10 quizzes, and the lowest quiz grade will be dropped before averaging.

Grades will be awarded on a scale of 100 and converted into plus and minus letter grades at the end of the semester in accord with departmental policy: 94-100 (A), 90-93 (A-), 87-89 (B+), 84-86 (B), 80-83 (B-), 77-79 (C+), 74-76 (C), 70-73 (C-), 67-69 (D+) and so on.

You are expected to come to every class meeting having completed the assigned reading and the exercises from the workbook. Please bring your textbook and workbook to class, as we will be working closely with them. I highly recommend photocopying your exercises. I will collect exercises from the workbook (and some from me) regularly, so be prepared to hand them in on the day they are due in the syllabus. Late exercises will not be accepted. If you know you are unable to attend class, turn in the homework due for that day at my office (Parlin 320) before 2:00 pm, or have someone bring yours to class.

While most exercises require only the textbook and your sometimes considerable ingenuity, you will also need access to a serious dictionary (i.e. bigger than a paperback or the brief entries on Bartleby) to do the homework exercises marked \*. The best resource you have when on campus or otherwise identifiable as a UT student is the on-line Oxford English Dictionary <http://dictionary.oed.com/entrance.dtl> Be sure you are able to access this resource!

### Schedule of Readings and Assignments

The instructor may modify slightly this schedule over the course of the semester, as for example assigning searches for pertinent examples of particular linguistic phenomena, such as word-formation, to bring in for discussion in class.

#### Week I

January 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>

Introduction in-class exercises from workbook: 1.10 and 1.6; phonetic transcription

Practice accessing OED online by the 21<sup>st</sup>

#### Week II

January 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>

Read Chapters 1 and 2 and complete Workbook exercises 2.6 through 2.10 (which I handed out on the 19<sup>th</sup>). You may wish to warm up with the early transcription exercises 2.3 through 2.5, which will prepare you for quizzes.

#### Week III

February 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>

Workbook exercises 4.3 through 4.7\* and 3.9

Consult the American Heritage Dictionary appendix of Indo-European Roots 4<sup>th</sup> ed, 2000  
<http://bartleby.com/61/IEroots.html>

#### Week IV

February 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>

Chapter 5 (Old English) to p. 92 and

Workbook exercises Chapter 5, numbers 3, 4, 5, and 8, 9, and 10.

#### Week V

February 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>

Complete reading in Chapter 5 and

workbook exercises Chapter 5, numbers 11, 12, 13, 14, 20\*, and 21.

We will do 17 in class, and possibly some of 5.18

Week VI

February 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>

Chapter 6 (Middle English) read in order to do Workbook exercises numbers 6.3\*, 4, 6, 8 (look again at 5.14), and 9 (look again at 5.13).

Week VII

March 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>

Complete Chapter 6 and write out Workbook exercises Chapter 6 numbers 10, 11, 13\*, and especially 16; 6.12\* will have special instructions

Week VIII

March 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>

Catchup and Review **First Exam March 11<sup>th</sup>**; **please bring a blue book**

SPRING BREAK

Week IX

March 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>

begin Early Modern English (EMnE) Chapter 7

Workbook Chapter 7 numbers 3, 4, and 5 to hand in; but also try 7, 9, 11, 12, and 13. We will discuss 16 and 17 in class

Week X

March 30<sup>th</sup>-April 1<sup>st</sup>

Complete Chapter 7 + Spenser exercise (handout) and Manciple's Tale (Chaucer's adjective inflection and iambic pentameter)

Workbook Chapter 7 numbers 10, 14, 15, 18, and 21\*

Week XI

April 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

Chapter 8 Present-Day English

Workbook exercises Chapter 8 numbers 3, 4, 5\*, 6\*, and 8\*, and

Workbook 7.8 (relative pronouns and relative adverbs)

Review: come to class ready to comment on the inflection, pronunciation, and grammar of these annotated reading selections in the Workbook:

7.15 ( pp. 203-5)

7.26 (pp. 223-5)

6.17 (pp. 161-78) especially V-VIII

6.16 (pp. 153-7) revisited

6.11 (pp. 141-3) revisited

Week XII  
April 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>  
**Second Exam this week**

Week XIV  
April 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>  
Read Chapter 9  
Workbook Chapter 9 numbers 4\*, 5, 6, 8, and 9 [9.7 in class]  
7.25 II (pp. 220-21)

Week XV  
May 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>  
The future of English from its past

Review with Workbook exercises 5.24 (pp.109-21), exercise 9.7 (245-9)  
and review sounds, inflections, syntax and semantic change  
via discussion of selected questions on each chapter and usage rules

To read online:

Peter Trudgill (1983) "Acts of Conflicting Identity", and 20 years after NWAV, "Ben" Sadock  
2004 blogspot

<http://isg.urv.es/sociolinguistics/varieties/trudgillonmusic.htm>

<http://www.ling.ohio-state.edu/NWAV/Abstracts/Pap112.pdf>

<http://positiveanymore.blogspot.com/2006/06/trudgill-on-pop-song-pronunciation.html>

J Harrington, et al.,(2000) "Does the Queen Speak the Queens's English?"

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v408/n6815/full/408927a0.html>

Erard, "Engllsh: why the language we know is vanishing fast"

New Scientist 28 March 2008 vol. 197 issue 2649 pp 28-32

(This is not open access; you will have to go through UT/to find the journal)

<http://web.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bZMt6exULek63nn5Kx95uXxjOPpvkutqLJHsKauUZ6puEmusLNQnsbLPvLo34bx1%2bGM5%2bXsgeKzq06vrbBMs6mvTKTi34bls%2bOGpNrgVeSr5j7y1%2bVVv8SkeeyzsUm1p69Otaykfu3o63nys%2baM6%2bLEjeri0n326gAA&hid=108>

## **FINAL EXAM**

**Saturday afternoon, May 15<sup>th</sup> 2-5 room TBA**