

ENG608 History of the English Language

(3 credit hours)

Course Syllabus

Course Description

This course studies the history of English and how the language has evolved from the Old English period through to modern English. Students will analyze the purpose of language and how language changes over time and place, including dialects, pidgins, and creoles. The course will begin with a brief review of modern prescriptive English grammar and introduction to the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). The course will also require some translation from Old and Middle English.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Trace the history of English through the Old English period through the modern English period
2. Evaluate language based on its purpose and usage in context rather than on prescriptive values
3. Create an etymology project that traces the history of one word through English

Required Textbook(s) and Resources

Smith, K. A., & Kim, S. M. (2017). *This Language, A River: A History of English*. Broadview Press.

Be sure to also review the weekly **Explore** sections for additional library or web resources. For access to databases, research help, and writing tips, visit the [Tiffin University Library](#).

Time Commitment

Effective time management is possibly the single most critical element to your academic success. To do well in this online class you should plan your time wisely to maximize your learning through the completion of readings, discussions, and assignments. Because of our accelerated, seven-week term, TU online courses are designed with the expectation that you dedicate a little over **six (6)** hours per credit hour to course activities and preparation **each**

week. For example, for successful completion of a three-credit, seven-week online course you should reserve roughly **twenty (20) hours per week.**

To help plan your time and keep on track toward successful course completion, note the distinctive rhythm of assignment due dates:

1. All times assume Eastern Time (GMT-4).
2. Weeks begin at 12:00 a.m. ET on Monday and end at 11:55 p.m. ET on Sunday.
3. Unless otherwise noted, initial assignments or discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Wednesdays.**
4. Additional assignments or follow-up discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Saturdays, and**
5. Major assignments and reflections are typically due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Sundays.**

Learning Activities

In this course, you will be completing activities that will help you understand the changes English has undergone from its early beginnings to the present. The exercises are based on information found in the textbook, so use the textbook to help you complete them. They ask you to apply the information from each chapter to outside activities in order to practice what you have learned.

Grading

The chart below identifies the individual contributions from each type of activity, per week.

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Total
Forums Activity 1.1 (n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)	(n/a)
Assignments Activity 1.2 (50)	Assignments Activity 2.1 (100)	Assignments Activity 3.1 (100) Activity 3.2 (100)	Assignments Activity 4.1 (50) Activity 4.2 (100)	Assignments Activity 5.1 (50) Activity 5.2 (100)	Assignments Activity 6.1 (50) Activity 6.2 (200)	Assignments Activity 7.1 (50) Activity 7.2 (50)	1000
50	100	200	150	150	250	100	1000

Grading Scale

A: 90-100% | B: 80-89% | C: 70-79% | F: <69%

Course Schedule and Weekly Checklist

Start Here

- MON: Activity 1.1: Look At Me!

Week 1

- SUN: Activity 1.2: Chapter 1 Exercises

Week 2

- SUN: Activity 2.1: Chapters 3 & 5 Exercises

Week 3

- SUN: Activity 3.1: Old English
- SUN: Activity 3.2: Nightingale Riddle Translation

Week 4

- SUN: Activity 4.1: Early Middle English
- SUN: Activity 4.2: Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales Translation

Week 5

- SUN: Activity 5.1: Chapter 9 Exercises
- SUN: Activity 5.2: EModE Translation

Week 6

- SUN: Activity 6.1: Chapter 9 Exercises
- SUN: Activity 6.2: Etymology Timeline

Week 7

- SUN: Activity 7.1: Chapter 10 Exercises
- SUN: Activity 7.2: DARE Questionnaire

Tips for Success

Online learning requires self-discipline and self-direction. As seekers of the truth, we should be willing to challenge one another's academic work in a spirit of respectful comradery. Your course is a place for you to grow as you benefit from the expertise, experience, and diverse

perspectives of your instructor and peers. Constructive feedback will challenge you to stretch your own thinking, thereby expanding your knowledge and understanding.

To get the most out of your learning experience, you should actively engage (participate) in **ALL** course activities. Course elements are arranged chronologically. To complete a week, simply work your way "down the page" through all of the course materials and activities.

For More Information:

Be sure to review the [Support, Policies, and Procedures](#) addendum.