

COURSE INFORMATION SHEET

University: Catholic University in Ružomberok	
Faculty: Faculty of Arts and Letters	
Course code: KA/Au-M012A/22	Course title: Historical Development of the English Language
Type and range of planned learning activities and teaching methods: Form of instruction: Lecture / Seminar Recommended study range: hours weekly: 1 / 1 hours per semester: 13 / 13 Teaching method: on-site	
Credits: 3	Working load: 75 hours
Recommended semester/trimester: 3.	
Level of study: II.	
Prerequisites:	
Requirements for passing the course: Mid-term test: 50%, End-term test: 50%, Pass mark: 60%	
Learning outcomes of the course: Knowledge outcomes: Students gain specialized knowledge of the cultural and historical shifts that generate language change in an Anglophone context. The course relies on a systematic analysis of textual realia and data from both synchronic and diachronic linguistic corpora. The course offers a systematic overview of pertaining concepts and theoretical frameworks of the intersections of cultural history and historical linguistics. Special emphasis is given to transcultural influences and the impact of cultural legacy on contemporary understandings of language change. Skills outcomes: Develop the linguistic skills required in the close analysis of individual words and other texts. Demonstrate a critical understanding of different and sometimes conflicting approaches to the study of the history of the English language. Demonstrate the ability to use the primary and secondary sources provided and collected through independent reading as supportive documents in exploring evidence of language change and/or the ideology that has influenced the development of the English language. Competences: Upon completion of this course, students will: have a fair knowledge of the main lines of development of written English from approximately 500 AD to modern times; have an understanding of the most important changes in the fields of phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics; have a recognition of the major stages in the language and important changes in the development of English from a synthetic to an analytic language; understand the most central characteristics of language change and language contact in relation to cultural, political, economic shifts; be able to describe and date linguistic changes. Assessment: Mid-term test: 50%, End-term test: 50%, Pass mark: 60%	
Course contents: The course offers introduction into the basic concepts and theories related to the history and development of the English language, and into the most fundamental theoretical approaches to	

the study of language as a culture-producing phenomenon. Apart from the chronological and synchronic distribution of certain linguistic phenomena (sound changes or the development of certain syntactic features), we also look at language from a cultural-studies perspective, where points of discussion include the relationship between language and writing, communication, language and thought-processes, speech acts and rhetoric. Topics covered: The Origins of English, Old English, Middle English, Early Modern English, Modern English, World English – Regional, Social and Personal Variations, The Linguistic vs. the Pictorial Sign, Language and Communication, Language and Writing, Speech Acts and Rhetoric, Language and the Thought Process.

Recommended or required literature:

Core textbook: David Crystal. The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language. CUP, 1995.

Laurel J. Brinton and Leslie K. Aronovick, The English Language: A Linguistic History. 2nd ed. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Language of instruction:

English

Notes:

Course evaluation:

Assessed students in total: 13

A	B	C	D	E	FX
100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Name of lecturer(s): Mgr. Katalin Anikó Balogné Bérces, PhD.

Last modification: 15.11.2022

Supervisor(s):

Guarantor:

Administrátor Systému

People responsible for the delivery, development and quality of the study programme:

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