

TESL 560.002 Where English Came From

Mondays 5:30 – 8:00 pm

1 credit

Professor N.S. Baron

Fall 2002

OFFICE HOURS

Location: McKinley 156

Times: Mondays 1:00 – 2:00 pm; Thursdays 1:30-3:00 pm,
Tuesdays 8:00 – 11:30 am

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READING

Texts to Purchase (available in campus store):

Robert McCrum, William Cran, and Robert MacNeil (1993). *The Story of English*.
Richard Bailey (1991). *Images of English*.

Additional Text (to be distributed in class):

Robert Geist and Gladys Veidemanis (1970). *A Short History of English*.
Naomi Baron (article or chapter TBA)

Additional Recommended Reading:

David Crystal (1997). *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*.

NOTE: This book is recommended but is not required for the course. The book was not ordered for the campus store but is readily available from on-line booksellers such as Amazon or Barnes and Noble. You can also find the book in the Reference Stacks of Bender Library (PE1072 .C68)

COURSE MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, August 27

Tuesday, September 3

Tuesday, September 10

Tuesday, September 17

Tuesday, September 24

BLACKBOARD SITE

This course will make use of a class Blackboard site. It is critical that you check to be sure you are signed up for the site the first week of class. You also need to be sure that you are receiving email from the site. AU will automatically send your email to your AU email address. (Be sure you have an active EagleNet account!) However, you can arrange to have your email forwarded to another email address if you wish. If you have any problems with establishing an EagleNet Account or signing on to Blackboard, please call Jim McCabe at x2553.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

During its 1500 year history, English evolved from a fledgling Germanic language serving a handful of invaders into a rich, eclectic system used by a billion people worldwide. This course surveys development of the language, with special attention to historical varieties of English, sources of change, speech versus writing, prescriptivism, and effects of technology on language.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- (1) Etymology assignment (15 %)
- (2) Reading notes (20%)
- (3) Class Blackboard postings and class participation (20%)
- (4) Final project (45%)

WEEKLY SYLLABUS

NOTE: Reading assignments should be completed before the class date under which they are listed.

Tuesday, August 27

Topics:

Course Overview
 In the Beginning: Situating the Emergence of English
 Germanic origins
 Waves of borrowing: Latin (phases 1 and 2); Norman French
 Historical Periods

Video:

The Story of English: Part 2 “Mother Tongue” (VHS 1681)

Assignments:

- (1) Work on etymology assignment
- (2) Reading notes I

Tuesday, September 3

DUE:

Reading notes I

Topic:

Evolution of Language Components: How We Got Here from There
 Words
 Meanings
 Noun inflections
 Verb inflections
 Pronouns etc.

Reading:

McCrum *et al.*: Introduction, Chapters 1 and 2
 Geist and Veidemanis: Chapters 2 through 8

Assignments:

- (1) Blackboard posting I (by 8 pm, Sunday September 8)
- (2) Reading notes II
- (3) Plan topic for final project

Tuesday, September 10

DUE:

Etymology project
 Reading notes II
 Topic for final project

Topics:

Reform Movements / Language Refinement: The Triumph of English
 Making English more eloquent
 The impact of Shakespeare
 The rise of dictionaries
 Prescriptivism, language standardization

Video:

The Story of English: Part 3 “A Muse of Fire” (VHS 1682)

Reading:

McCrum *et al.*: Chapter 3

Bailey: Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, and 10

Assignments:

(1) Blackboard posting II (by 8 pm, Sunday, September 15)

(2) Reading notes III

(3) Work on final project

Tuesday, September 17**DUE:**

Reading notes III

Topics:

English in America: Democratic Eloquence

Origins

Tocqueville, Mencken, Webster’s Third

Dialects, Formality, Standards

Video:

The Story of English: Part 6 “Pioneers! O Pioneers” (VHS 1683)

Reading:

McCrum *et al.*: Chapters 6 and 7

Bailey: Chapter 3

Assignments:

(1) Blackboard posting III (by 8 pm, Sunday September 22)

(2) Reading notes IV

(3) Work on final project

Tuesday, September 24**DUE:** Final project

Reading notes IV

Topics:

Language and Technology: Does Medium Matter?

The printing press / the rise of print culture

The telephone

Email / Instant Messaging

Cell phones / Short Text Messaging

Handwriting

Reading:

Baron: TBA