History and Development of the English Language
SEGL 453 – Online

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Office Hours: 8:30 - 9:00 MWF (other times by chance or appointment) 12:00 - 1:00 MWF

Course Description
• History and evolution of the English language reflecting changes in phonetics, semantics, morphology, and syntax, as well as the assembly of dictionaries.

Course Goals
• Broaden students’ perspective of the English language in use and encourage independent thought on the nature of language and language change in context as accentuated through historical investigation.

Required texts
• Additional readings may be assigned as the semester progresses.

Evaluation
• Exception Exploration Reports (10%): Many exceptions to grammatical rules are actually residual effects of rules of a previous period of English which have now been lost. Students will write a short report on one such exception for each time period covered.
• Etymology Paper (10%): Students will analyze the historical development of one word in terms of phonetics, semantics, morphology, and syntax from Old English to the present day.
• Semester Research Project: (20%): Students will explore a class concept well beyond the scope of the required text.
• Quizzes, and other assignments (20%): Quizzes to encourage/ensure preparation for class discussion may be given on a random basis. "Review" quizzes are given at the conclusion of every one or two chapters. There will be no opportunity to make-up missed quizzes. The lowest chapter quiz score, however, will be dropped. Responses to two of your peers’ projects will also be included in this category as will other ad hoc assignments.
• Examinations (40%): There will be two exams: midterm (before drop day) and final exam. Each exam is worth 20% of the course grade. You must be present on exam day; make-up exams are rarely given and if given carry a grade related penalty.

Grading

A: 90%–100%
B: 80%–87.99%
B+ 88%–89.99%
C: 70%–77.99%
C+ 78%–79.99%
D: 60%–67.99%
D+ 68%–69.99%
F: below 60%

Class participation may be rewarded with 2 bonus points (e.g. 86 \(\rightarrow\) B+) at the instructor’s discretion.
Attendance

- In classes where attendance is recorded regularly, Perfect attendance will be rewarded with 2% added to your final grade, and nearly perfect attendance (1 absence) will be rewarded with 1% added to your final grade. Students who are absent in excess of \( \frac{1}{3} \) of the classes will not be able to pass the course. Tardies and early departures will count as \( \frac{1}{2} \) an absence. *There will be no distinction between “excused” and “unexcused” absences.*
- Students are responsible for all material presented in class, including announcements about course procedures. Exams, quizzes, and homework often include questions on material presented only in class, so attendance may also be reflected in other assessments.

Plagiarism

- Formal papers must be submitted to Blackboard for an automated plagiarism check. Posting of the papers at least 24 hours in advance of the deadline to self-check for unintentional plagiarism is recommended. This tool may be employed at the instructor’s discretion for any other assignment (quiz, test, etc.) as well. All Bb deadlines are 8AM of the designated day.
- Ignorance of the guidelines for avoiding plagiarism is not an acceptable excuse.
- Penalties for plagiarism, even if it’s unintentional, range from failure on an assignment to failure of the course with an F+, signifying academic dishonesty. Intentional plagiarism (circumventing the check above) will be dealt with in the most severe manner possible.
- While it is appropriate to ‘build’ on work you have done previously, final submitted work should be original and written specifically for this course (*it is possible to plagiarize yourself*).

Accommodations

- Any student with a disability may contact the Office of Disability Services at 503-5195 for a confidential appointment. Students requesting accommodations must present to the instructor a letter from this office as promptly as possible. Accommodations cannot be provided retroactively.

*** This syllabus is subject to change ***