

ENGL 313: The Development of Modern English
Department of English
School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Clafin University
Fall 2019

Instructor: Dr. Jonathan Evans

Office: GTK, room 208 (inside the English Department, GTK 209)

Phone Ext.: x5699

E-mail: jonevans@clafin.edu or jonathan.c.evans1980@gmail.com

Office Hours: MWF 1 – 3 PM, TR 12 – 2 PM or by Appointment

Class Blog: www.sequentialnarratives.com



I. Course Description

Prerequisites: English 102, English 225 (formerly 201), or English 226 (formerly 225).

The study of language change from the perspective of historical linguistics, as it has affected English. The course examines the development of the language from Old English through Middle English to Modern English. The examination includes major changes that have occurred in sound and grammar. Three semester credit hours.

II. Resources

Textbooks:

Baugh, Albert Croll, and Thomas Cable. *A History of the English Language*. 6th ed. London, United Kingdom: Longman, 2012.

A good dictionary

A writer's handbook

A flash drive on which you keep your document files

Selected readings and handouts

III. Purpose of the Course

This course introduces students to the history of the English language, from its origins as a dialect of Germanic-speaking peoples, through the literary and cultural document of its 1,500-year span, to the state of American speech of the present day and the present status of English as the world's dominant language.

IV. Course Outcomes

- Students will participate in small and large group discussions of the spoken and written forms of the English language.
- Students will read thoughtfully by writing responses to texts, paraphrases of texts, summaries of texts, and answers to several workbook exercises.
- Students will analyze the social, cultural, and historical impact of language through class discussions on the status of Standard English in American society.
- Students will explain the history of the English language and the geographical journey of the development of English in short answer quizzes.
- Students will demonstrate the four outcomes listed above in a three-page research paper.

V. Course Requirements and Assessments

The study of the development of the English language requires students to make a serious time commitment outside of class to engage in reading, thinking, reflecting, discussing, and writing activities. Classes are designed to provide opportunities for students to ask questions, contribute to class discussions, and share relevant experiences. Internet resources will provide interactive background information necessary to familiarize students with the broad geographical and historical journey of the English language from its inception to its present day usage.

Quizzes and Examinations

I plan to give periodic quizzes on the chapters which we shall cover, and I shall give an examination in each month. Each examination or quiz shall be based on the content that we cover in the assigned text-readings and the assigned handouts.

Class Participation

Learning requires an active engagement on the part of both the students and the teacher. You simply cannot sit back and expect to receive knowledge like “manna from heaven.” At the very least, you must pay close attention and participate in everything that goes on in class. Ideally, you should also ask questions and risk exposing your ideas to your classmates. An upper level English course, especially, is a cooperative venture--as much a workshop as a class--and it cannot be conducted totally by lecture. Excellent class participation will result in a bonus to your final course grade.

Attendance

A healthy percentage of success in life depends simply on showing up where and when you are expected. If you are the kind of student who has trouble showing up, you will struggle in any class, especially this one. On the other hand, students who never miss a class tend to do well in my classes. Note that absences on the days you are to exchange assignments with your peers or on the days which a peer group meets are particularly disastrous.

Students will attend class in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the university catalog. Unexcused absences in excess of the allowable number (four) will result in the deduction of three points per absence from the final semester average. Students are responsible for all material covered during absences.

Policy on Late Work

Assignments are due when specified. Much of this course is conducted as a workshop, which means that your peers depend upon you. For that reason, the penalties on assignments for lateness are severe. Consistent lateness will virtually guarantee failure of the course.

Evaluation

Attendance/Participation/Quizzes	25%
Assignments	20%
Monthly Exams (four of them)	30%
Research Paper	25%