English 414: History of the English Language

Texts:
2. *A Companion to Baugh & Cable's History of the English Language*.
3. A dictionary which includes etymologies – preferably the *Concise Oxford English Dictionary*.

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the History of the English language. We will begin with Indo-European and work our way through Old English, Middle English, Early Modern English, and end with contemporary American English. The content of this course is fascinating as well as challenging, and we will be moving along at a steady clip this term, so be sure to keep up with the readings and to attend all the classes. Be aware that you will be expected to do all the readings and exercises from both the textbook and the *Companion* (though we will be doing most of the exercises in the *Companion* in class). You will also be required to research and write up two 3-5 page MLA format papers. The first paper will be on onomastics (the study of names) and the second on etymology (the study of word origins). You will give a short oral presentation from one of your research papers to the class.

Everyone needs to prepare for class, come to class, engage the material, and respect other class members. I expect your punctual and faithful attendance. Since this class meets only once a week, after three (3) absences, you can not expect to earn a grade higher than C. Unless we make prior arrangements, I will not accept late work. Excessive tardiness and/or failure to participate in class discussion will also limit your semester grade.

Course Goals and Objectives: by the end of the course, you should be able to:
1. Explain the major stages in the development of the English Language
2. Identify the probable period of composition of prose pieces in English.
3. Define the difference between synchronic and diachronic linguistics
4. Define the difference between a synthetic and analytic language
5. Critically evaluate claims concerning the origin of words in English
6. Identify similarities and differences in dialects and periods of English
7. Explain, at least in part, what the English language is and why it is what it is.

Course Requirements:
1. Research papers 25%
2. Midterm 25%
3. Final 25%
4. Quizzes/Workbook/ Presentation 25%
Course Schedule

[BC = Baugh and Cable text and companion]

Week 1 (9/23) [BC chapter 1]
  Overview
  Phonetics

Week 2 (9/30) [BC Chpts 2]
  Indo-European background
  British and Irish prehistory
  Essay 1 due 6/19
  Romans in Britain

Week 3 (10/7) [BC Chpts 3-4]
  Germanic Languages and Peoples
  Anglo-Saxons and Britons
  Old English Literature

Week 4 (10/14) [BC Chpts 5-6]
  Essay 2 due 7/3
  Religious conversions
  The Vikings
  The Normans Middle English Literature
  Early Modern English: Sixteenth Century Texts
  Early Modern English: Seventeenth Century Texts

Week 5 (10/21) [BC Chpt 7]
  Middle English

Week 6 (10/28) [BC Chpt 8]
  Midterm
  The Renaissance

Week 7 (11/4) [BC Chpts 9&10]
  Appeal to Authority
  Language of Empire
  19th century

Week 8 (11/11) Holiday

Week 9 (11/18) [Chpts 10& 11]
  Slang
  Dialect
  American English

Week 10 (11/25) Review

Week 11 (12/2) Final
Fall Quarter, 2002

May 06 - 17  Academic Advising for Continuing Students (for Fall Quarter)
May 11     Orientation and Advising for All Students (for Fall Quarter)
May 13–Aug 15 Registration for Continuing Students (for Fall Quarter)
July 13     Orientation and Advising for All Students (for Fall Quarter)
July 20     Orientation and Advising for Antelope Valley Students (for Fall Quarter)
August 10   Orientation and Advising for All Students (for Fall Quarter)
August 24   Orientation and Advising for Antelope Valley Students (for Fall Quarter)
September 02 HOLIDAY - Labor Day - Campus Closed
September 03 Fees Due (for Fall Quarter)
September 16 ALL FACULTY DUE ON CAMPUS
September 16 Late Registration Begins (for Fall Quarter) ($25 fee)
September 20 Orientation and Advising for All Students (for Fall Quarter)
September 20 Registration and Class Schedule/Administrative Adjustments
September 21 Orientation and Advising for Antelope Valley Students
September 23 First Day of Classes
September 30 Last day to Add classes
September 30 Last day to change between audit and letter grading
September 30 Last Day of Late Registration (for Fall Quarter) ($25 fee)
October 04   Last day to apply for Fall Graduation
October 07   Deadline to apply for refundable part of Student Services fees
October 11   Census Day
October 11   Last day to change between credit/no-credit and letter grading
October 11   Last day to withdraw from classes without a "W" being recorded; withdrawals from classes after this date and continuing through the next four-week period will be permitted only for serious and compelling reasons and require written approval by the Dean or Department Chair
Oct 28–Nov 08 Academic Advising for Continuing Students (for Winter Quarter)
October 29   Campus-wide Emergency Evacuation Day
October 31   Orientation and Advising for All Students (for Winter Quarter)
November 02  Orientation and Advising for Antelope Valley Students (for Winter Quarter)
Nov 04 - 15 Registration for Continuing Students (for Winter Quarter)
November 11  HOLIDAY - Veterans Day – Campus Closed
November 12   Last day to withdraw from classes for a serious and compelling reason
Nov 18 - 22  SOCI Week
Nov 28 - 29  HOLIDAY - Thanksgiving – Campus Closed
December 03  Last Day of Classes
December 03  Last day to submit completed Master’s Thesis to Graduate Studies and Research
omitted
Dec 04 - 07 Examination Period
December 04  Fees Due (for Winter Quarter)
December 09  Grades Due

Fall Quarter Break: December 10, 2002 - January 2, 2003