

Syllabus for
WRT 355—History of the English Language
3 Credit Hours
Spring 2019

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Acquaints students with the evolution of the English language. Presents various aspects of the history of the language, including changes in pronunciation, grammar, syntax, vocabulary, spelling, orthography, and meaning. Focuses on linguistics tools as well as concepts such as the interaction of society, thought, culture, and language. (This is a writing-intensive course.)

Prerequisites: None

Lab fee: None

II. COURSE GOALS

This course is designed to acquaint students with linguistic theory—such as how language and culture and thought intertwine and how all languages change—thus equipping students with a better understanding of various cultures and with a better ability to “go into every person’s world.” It helps students have a better understanding of modern English by studying how English has changed. Learning this can enable students to understand more fully earlier literature written in English and the historic events that have influenced the English language. The course also seeks to improve the student’s writing skills and/or to improve student learning through writing.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

Terminal Objectives

By the end of the course, the successful student will be able to identify and discuss the following:

1. Prevalent linguistic theories
2. The International Phonetic Alphabet
3. The origins and development of English
4. Specific characteristics in Old English, Middle English, and Modern English
5. Current issues in English language studies
6. The origin, development, and present state of English grammatical theory
7. Significant semantic changes
8. The expansion of English around the world
9. The Sapir-Whorf hypothesis
10. The development and distinctions of various English dialects today
11. Major events that shaped the English language

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

Required Materials

1. Textbook
Graddol, David, et.al. *Changing English*. 2nd ed. New York: Routledge, 2007.
ISBN 978-0-415-37679-2
2. Other
Course materials available online at <http://d2l.oru.edu>

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
 - b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
 - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
 - d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
 - e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.
2. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.
3. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
4. Students are to be in compliance with University, school, and departmental policies regarding the Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the Whole Person Assessment handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
 - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an artifact is a zero for that assignment.
 - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

B. Department Policies and Procedures

1. **Class Assignments**
 - a. Students need to come to class with the appropriate textbooks, course materials, and other supplies as designated by the professor.
 - b. Professors may refuse to accept an assignment if it has inappropriate content, does not meet the assignment's criteria (e.g., not typed, incorrectly documented), is incomplete, is suspected of plagiarism, or is turned in too late.
2. **Tardies**—Tardies are an inconvenience to the other class members and the professor, and they prevent the late student from obtaining maximum value from the class. Therefore, excessive tardies may adversely affect the semester grade.

It is to the student's advantage to make sure that the professor is informed immediately following the close of the class that the student was tardy and not absent. It is not the professor's responsibility to stop the class to mark the tardy; the student is the one responsible for conveying that information immediately following that class, not at a later time.

3. **Late Work**

- a. The student is responsible for obtaining class assignments and material covered during an absence, and all work is expected to be completed as scheduled. Late work may result in a lower grade. An absence is not an excuse for turning in late work or for being unprepared with assignments for the class following the absence. Computer or printer malfunction does not constitute an excuse for late work; students should have their work prepared in time to ensure that they can get it proofread, edited, and printed prior to the instructor's due date. These responsibilities assist the student in professional development.
- b. Any test taken late (except if the absence is administratively excused) incurs the ORU late exam fee (\$15), which must be paid before the late test can be taken.
- c. Assignments missed because of administratively excused absences are accepted with no penalty. Generally, assignments missed from an excused absence, such as sickness or family crises, can be made up and the instructor should be notified as soon as possible to reach an agreement on due dates and possible penalties. Each instructor has his or her own late-work policy that is given to students at the beginning of a course, so a teacher may decide that work missed because of an unexcused absence cannot be made up. Instructors use their own judgment in accepting late work resulting from all other absences. In cases where absences can be anticipated, such as for non-University sponsored mission trips, the work should normally be submitted prior to the absence.

4. **Attendance**

- a. **Excused and Unexcused Absences**—Class attendance is mandatory, but because unavoidable circumstances can prevent perfect attendance, each student is allowed to miss class the number of times per week a class meets. This allowance is intended for illness, personal business, and emergency. Work missed because of an excused absence (e.g., illness, family emergency) can be made up; however, it is up to the teacher's discretion whether or not to accept work missed due to an unexcused absence (e.g., oversleeping, skipping class). Exceeding this number of absences may reduce a student's semester grade or even be cause for not receiving credit for the course if the student's grade is an F. Extended illnesses are handled on an individual basis and require verification from a doctor.
- b. **Administratively Excused Absences**—Only absences that are required by approved University activities are given administrative excuses. Students who must miss class for University-sponsored activities must follow these procedures:
 - (1) Inform the professor before the event and make arrangement for the work to be submitted prior to the absence or at a mutually agreed upon deadline.
 - (2) Present an administrative excuse form with appropriate signatures

- when he or she returns to class. Doctors' or nurses' notes, or letters from groups sponsoring mission trips or activities do not qualify a student for an administratively excused absence.
- (3) Obtain information covered during an absence. All work must be completed as scheduled.
 - (4) Not commit to class presentation (oral reports, speeches, group presentations, etc.) on a date that the student will be gone. Makeup work is not permitted if the student voluntarily committed to a performance on the date of an administratively excused absence.
5. **Plagiarism**—Each student attending Oral Roberts University is required to do his or her own academic work and must not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments.
- a. Students must document all sources and ideas that are not their own original information by following correct MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation procedures. Failure to do this produces a plagiarized paper, which results in an F for the paper. Flagrant cheating results in an F for the course.
 - b. Students may be asked to submit their assignments to Turnitin.com (an online anti-plagiarism program) or have their work submitted to D2L, which also submits work to Turnitin.com.
6. **Incompletes**—As stated in the University catalog, incompletes are granted only for “good cause,” such as extended hospitalization, long-term illness, or a death in the family. Students must petition for an incomplete using the form available in the English and Modern Languages Department. Very few incompletes are granted.
7. **Whole Person Assessment**—If this course requires a WPA assignment/artifact, this assignment is listed in the next section (“Course Policies and Procedures”) and explained in the WPA Handbook. Students need to comply as indicated in this syllabus, by the instructor, and in the WPA Handbook.
- (1) Inform the professor before the event and make arrangement for the work to be submitted prior to the absence or at a mutually agreed upon deadline.
 - (2) Present an administrative excuse form with appropriate signatures when he or she returns to class. Doctors' or nurses' notes, or letters from groups sponsoring mission trips or activities do not qualify a student for an administratively excused absence.
 - (3) Obtain information covered during an absence. All work must be completed as scheduled.
 - (4) Not commit to class presentation (oral reports, speeches, group presentations, etc.) on a date that the student will be gone. Makeup work is not permitted if the student voluntarily committed to a performance on the date of an administratively excused absence.
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7. **Whole Person Assessment**—The Whole Person Assessment (WPA) handbook explains the English and Modern Languages Department’s policies concerning required WPA artifacts.
http://www.oru.edu/current_students/my_academics/resources/whole_person_assessment/handbooks.php

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures
 - a. This course consists of lecture/discussion, research, essays, DVDs, class presentations, various homework assignments, quizzes, and tests. Grades are given based on points earned for each of the assignments.
 - b. Possible points for assignments and tests are as follows:
 - Essays=50-100 points each
 - Quizzes=10-20 points each
 - Tests=50-100 points each
 - Worksheets, exercises, homework=5-20 points each
 - Class attendance, participation, and preparation=50 points total
 - c. Because this course is a writing intensive course, writing is an important factor in evaluation. Students complete at least four major written assignments. Writing and writing-related activities comprise at least 30% of the final grade.
 - d. Students receiving a grade lower than C on course work may, with the professor’s permission, revise the work for a higher grade. The revision or retake needs to be completed within a week of the course work being returned to the class. This policy applies only to work turned in on time.
 - e. There is no WPA assignment for this class.
2. Grading Scale
A=90-100% B=80-89% C=70-79% D=60-69% F=59% and below
3. Class Assignments
 - a. Because the quantity of the material for this course is significant, students need to keep up with the reading assignments in order to be adequately prepared for class discussions and activities. Points are given for reading assignments, as indicated by writing summaries of the readings.
 - b. Students need to come to class with the appropriate textbooks and course materials.
 - c. Some assignments involve Internet research. Specific Websites and assignments used for this class are listed at <http://d2l.oru.edu>.
 - d. Students absent when work is returned should pick up their work from the blue folder in “out box” on the professor’s office door.
4. Attendance
 - a. Attendance is taken at each class session. Points are deducted for absences beyond what is allowable, as stated in the department policies above.

- b. Many class sessions involve PowerPoint and videos—presentations, discussions, and activities that students cannot adequately duplicate if they miss class. Therefore, class attendance is very important.
- 5. Faculty Contact
Students need to keep in contact with the professor, especially if they are absent or if some problem arises. Contact information and office hours are listed on D2L; however, students are welcome to contact the teacher anytime.

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

Weeks 1-4	Unit I. General Linguistics: The Nature of Language Textbook <i>Changing English</i> chapters 1, 5, 6 Essay # 1 and Unit Test
Weeks 5-8	Unit II. Old English: Germanic Origins of English Textbook <i>Changing English</i> chapter 2; DVDs on reserve Essay # 2 and Unit Test
Weeks 9-12	Unit III. Middle English: Chaucer's English Textbook <i>Changing English</i> chapters 2; DVDs on reserve Essay # 3 and Unit Test
Weeks 13-15	Unit IV. Early Modern English: Elizabethan English Textbook <i>Changing English</i> chapters 3, 4; DVDs on reserve Essay # 4 and Final exam (comprehensive)

Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes

WRT 355 WI—History of the English Language Spring 2019

This course contributes to the ORU student learning outcomes as indicated below:

Significant Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

No Contribution – Does not address the outcome.

The Student Learning Glossary at <http://ir.oru.edu/doc/glossary.pdf> defines each outcome and each of the proficiencies/capacities.

OUTCOMES & Proficiencies/Capacities		Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
1	Outcome #1 – Spiritually Alive Proficiencies/Capacities				
1A	Biblical knowledge			X	
1B	Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit				X
1C	Evangelistic capability			X	
1D	Ethical behavior			X	
2	Outcome #2 – Intellectually Alert Proficiencies/Capacities				
2A	Critical thinking		X		
2B	Information literacy		X		
2C	Global & historical perspectives	X			
2D	Aesthetic appreciation		X		
2E	Intellectual creativity		X		
3	Outcome #3 – Physically Disciplined Proficiencies/Capacities				
3A	Healthy lifestyle				X
3B	Physically disciplined lifestyle				X
4	Outcome #4 – Socially Adept Proficiencies/Capacities				
4A	Communication skills	X			
4B	Interpersonal skills		X		
4C	Appreciation of cultural & linguistic differences	X			
4D	Responsible citizenship			X	
4E	Leadership capacity				X

(Revised 9/15/06)