Summer Institute in the Arts and Humanities (SIAH) 2021
School of English

Course code	ENGL2112
Course Title	Introduction to the History of English
Course Description	The English language began as a set of obscure dialects on a small island at the edge of the world. Today, it is spoken by almost two billion people, and functions as the *lingua franca* of a vast global network. This course offers students an introduction to the history of English, covering the development of its grammar and vocabulary, and also addressing the wide array of factors that have influenced the language across the centuries of its growth. The story of the growth and spread of English is also the story of politics, power, religion, gender, technology, commerce, music and literature, the oppressor and the oppressed. This course examines the history of the Englishes that populate our globe, and the technologies that have shaped and facilitated them. The course begins at the end, with modern varieties of English, and traces the language back through the centuries. How has English changed? How can we recognize and interpret the English of a given place or time? And what do the words we use reveal about ourselves?
Learning Outcomes	Students will gain a sense of the development and spread of the English language, and the phonological, orthographic, morphological, syntactic, and semantic features of its varieties across time and place. The course aims 1. To give students an overview over the main periods of English and an understanding of some of its major structural developments. 2. To acquaint students with the various approaches to language and change as espoused by different schools of linguistics. 3. To familiarise students with many of the key socio-cultural and political debates which have accompanied the historical development and spread of English. 4. To provide students with the opportunity to research aspects of the history of English of particular interest to them.
Study Load	45 contact hours + 105 learning hours
Assessments	Class Participation – 10% Coursework (1 written assignment and 2 homework tasks) – 60% In-class tests (three weekly tests) – 30%
Required Texts	Selections from a range of primary sources are provided on Moodle; selections from the two textbooks below will also be provided. No book purchase necessary.

	Main texts: R. McCrum, *Globish: How English Became the World's Language.* New York: Norton, 2010. L. Mugglestone, *The Oxford History of English* (updated edn.). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006.
Course Outline	The three weeks of the course (15 teaching days) is divided into 30 1.5-hour seminar topics. Two seminar topics are covered each teaching day. **UNIT 1 (WEEK 1): "ENGLISH AROUND THE WORLD"** **Day 1** Part One: The Oddness of English • What is 'The History of English Language'? • What makes English odd? • Language and Gender: An Introduction • English Voices: Speaking Where You're From • Course Overview and Course Requirements Part Two: From Google to Globish: English as a World Language • Symbolic English: Pictograms and Ideograms • English after the Internet • Global Trade and English • Decorative English: English as a Symbol of Fashion and Status around the World • Englishes and Multilingualism Among Us **Day 2** Part One: A Glory of Englishes I: Colonization and its Aftermath • Introduction to 'Varieties of English' • Language and Colonialism • A Whistle-Stop Tour of World Englishes: Irish, Australian, New Zealand, South African, Indian, Singaporean, Hong Kong, Nigerian, Ghanaian, West Indian. • Case Study: Australian Englishes Part Two: A Glory of Englishes II: English in the Mix • Introduction to Pidgins and Creoles • A Case Study: Jamaican Patois • Introduction to Linguistic Terms • Introduction to Online Dictionaries and Databases **Day 3** Part One: RP and the Rest: British Regional Dialects • Introduction to the Dialects of the British Isles • RP and Non-RP • Dialects of the North • Dialects of the South • The International Phonetic Alphabet and How to Use It Part Two: Introduction to Research Essay Writing on the History of the English Language

	• Undertaking research
	• Planning your essay
	• Using evidence – what kind, how to include it
	• Technicalities of essay writing
	
	Day 4
	Part One: Introduction to American Englishes
	• Introduction to English in North America: from Pilgrims to the American Century
	• Noah Webster and American English
	• English Language and the US Identity
	• General American English
	• Language Change in Our Lifetime
	
	Part Two: Women's Voices in the American South
	• A Mix of Influences: Variation and Change in the South
	• Dialects of US English II: Appalachia and the South
	• 'Its bases broad and low': Gendered Language, Politics, and Language Change
	
	Day 5
	Part One: Varieties of American English
	• African American Vernacular English
	• Spanglish: A New American English
	• Native American Languages and their Influences on US English
	• 'And Yet I Needs Must Curse': Profanity and Language Change
	
	Part Two: American Voices on Page and Screen: The 19th-Century Novel and Early Hollywood
	• American English in the 19th-Century Novel
	• English goes to Hollywood: Radio, Film and the Trans-Atlantic Accent
	  o In-class quiz 1.
	  o Homework 1 due.
	
	UNIT 2 (WEEK 2): "ENGLISH 1100-1900"
	
	Day 6
	Part One: 19th-Century British English and the Novel
	• The 19th-Century English Novel
	• Victorian English and the Art of the Euphemism
	• Grammar and an English Education: What makes Dickensian Syntax?
	
	Part Two: Language and Authority in 18th-Century British English
	• Samuel Johnson, Ignatius Sancho, and Appeals to Authority
	• The History of English Pronouns: from the birth of *she* to the near-death of *thou*
	• Vocabulary of the 18th century
	
	Day 7
	Part One: British Women's Correspondence in the 17th Century
	• Language and Gender: Female Literacy, Gendered Deference, and Family Politics

- How to be Polite in the 17th century: Terms of Address, Endearment, and Deference
- How to Read Secretary Script

Part Two: Language Anxiety and Linguistic Diversity in Early Modern English
- The English Language and Nationalism
- The Old and the New: Archaism and Inkhorn Terms
- Language and Gender: Sexual Insult and Women's Opprobrious Language
- The Birth of the (English) Dictionary

Day 8
Part One: Shifting Sounds in the Early Modern Period
- Language Change 1550-1700
- The Great Vowel Shift?
- How to Speak like Shakespeare

Part Two: The Renaissance Roots of Modern English: Shakespeare, the King James Bible and the
- Book of Common Prayer
- Shakespeare's English
- Rhetoric and Language in The King James Bible and The Book of Common Prayer

Day 9
Part One: William Caxton's Printing Press and the Taming of English
- 'Ye Olde (Print-)Shoppe': Language Change and the Technology of Print
- Orthographic Variation in Middle English

Part Two: Middle English Dialects and Vocabulary
- An Introduction to Middle English
- Middle English Dialects
- The *Canterbury Tales* and the *Gawain* Poet
- Wycliffe, Tyndale, and the Translation of the Bible

Day 10
Part One: The French Connection
- French Influence on English: An Overview
- Macaronic English Songs
- The Language of the Law in Medieval England
- Middle English Morphology

Part Two: Early Middle English:
- Orm and the *Ancrene Riwle*
- Early ME Vocabulary
- Early ME Morphology and Syntax
- Language and Gender: Religious Women and the Vernacular
    - In-class quiz 2.
    - Homework 2 due.

UNIT 3 (WEEK 3): "ENGLISH 550-1100 & ENGLISH PRE-HISTORIES"

Day 11

	Part One: Old English: A Very Short Introduction • Old English Grammar I • Old English Pronunciation • Reading English Vernacular Minuscule Part Two: Old English: A Very Short Introduction, II • Old English Grammar I • Old English Pronunciation • Old English Prose and Poetry **Day 12** Part One: Processes of Standardization in Old English: King Alfred & the 10th Century • Old English Dialects and Diversity • West Saxon in the 9th century • West Saxon in the 10th century • The Continuity of Old English Words Part Two: Vikings and English: Norse Influence across the Centuries • Late Old English/Early Middle English and the Influence of Norse • Old Norse Loanwords • Latin Influences on Old English **Day 13** Part One: Before English: Proto-Germanic and PIE • Proto-Germanic and Early Sound Changes • Indo-European Languages Part Two: English in the (Proto-European) Mix: • Sound Change Laws • Proto-Indo-European • The Politics of Studying the History of English **Day 14** Part One: Mini-presentations on Research Topics • 5-minute research presentations • Class feedback Part Two: Essay Writing Workshop • Research for Language Essays • Paragraph construction and evidence use in essays **Day 15** Part One: Mini-presentations on Research Topics • 5-minute research presentations • Class feedback Part Two: Essay Writing Workshop • Research for Language Essays • Paragraph construction and evidence use in essays ○ In-class quiz 3. Final essay due after the end of the teaching period.

Requirements and Prohibitions	There are no pre-requisites for this course. Students who have taken “ENGL2112 Introduction to the History of English” or “ENGL3041 Senior colloquium in English studies (capstone experience) Sub-group A: Topic: The History of the English Language” are NOT eligible to take this course.