

ENG1CO3 History of English Language (5 credits)

Course Description

The course offers an overview of the History of English Language from its origin to the present.

Section A.

Language families - The Indo-European family of languages; Germanic Family of languages and the origin of English - The early history of English language; Old English Period - Scandinavian invasions - Middle English Period: The Impact of the Norman Conquest on the English Language; - Middle English Literature. Modern English Period – Latin and Greek influence – Loan words - The impact of the Renaissance – Bible Translations. Sound changes in English – The Great Vowel Shift - Changes in Grammar, vocabulary, phonology and morphology – Semantics – word formations

Section B.

Foreign influences on English in the Seventeenth, Eighteenth and the Nineteenth Centuries – Colonialism and the English language – Expansion of Vocabulary – Semantic change- Pidgins and Creoles. Contributions of major writers to the growth of English vocabulary.

Section C.

The discrepancy between spelling and pronunciation - Attempts to reform English spelling – Evolution of Standard English - Dialects of English: British and American – English in India – English in the postcolonial world – English as a global language — The rise of ‘englishes’ – impact of Science and Technology – English in the digital age.

Recommended Reading:

F. T. Wood	: An Outline History of the English language
C. L. Wrenn	: The English Language
A. C. Baugh	: A History of the English Language
David Crystal	: English as a Global Language
David Crystal	: The English Language: A guided Tour of the Language
Bill Ashcroft, et al	: The Empire Writes Back
Christian Mair	: The Politics of English as a World Language

Andreas Sedlatschek : Contemporary Indian English: Variation and Change
Pingali Sailaja : Indian English
Michael Hanrahan &
Deborah L Madsen (Ed.) : Teaching, Technology, Textuality:
Approaches to New Media

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Textuality:

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