

Introduction to English Linguistics

B.EP.01.2

Term:	Winter 2019/2020	Instructor:	Dr P. S. Langeslag
Time:	Wed 10–12	Office:	SEP 2.306
Room:	AUDI 11	Phone:	0551 39 19706
Credits:	2 for the course, 6 for the module	Office hours:	Tue 11–12
Prerequisites:	none	E-mail:	planges@uni-goettingen.de

Course Description

This introductory course is intended to give an overview of the different fields of diachronic and synchronic linguistics (phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, lexicon and semantics), its terminology and methods. It introduces the basic terms and tools for analyzing and describing the central grammatical structures of Old, Middle and Modern English to make the basic principles of language development and language change visible. Parts of the course will feature case studies in which students start making linguistic generalizations of their own.

Assessment

Four take-home assignments distributed over the course of the term. Passing the first three is a prerequisite for writing the fourth, which is marked pass/fail.

Textbooks and Resources

We will primarily draw on two textbooks:

Barber, Charles, Joan C. Beal, and Philip A. Shaw. *The English Language*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.

Mair, Christian. *English Linguistics: An Introduction*. 3rd ed. Tübingen: Narr, 2015.

Barber may be borrowed from the [SEP library](#) (43 copies in the *Lehrbuchsammlung*); Mair had best be purchased right away in hardcopy or ebook format. Additional readings, as well as slides, handouts, and links to further resources, will be provided on [StudIP](#).

Schedule

wk	date	topic	reading	work due
1	23 Oct	Introduction		
2	30 Oct	Phonetics and Phonology	Mair chs. 1–2	
3	6 Nov	Morphology and Word Formation	Mair ch. 3	
4	13 Nov	Grammar and Syntax I	Mair ch. 4	Assignment 1
5	20 Nov	Grammar and Syntax II	Mair ch. 5	
6	27 Nov	[Buffer week]		
7	4 Dec	Semantics and Lexicology	Mair ch. 6; Hughes	
8	11 Dec	Indo-European and Germanic	Barber chs. 3–4	Assignment 2
9	18 Dec	Old English	Barber ch. 5	
10	8 Jan	Languages in Contact	Townend	
11	15 Jan	Middle English	Barber chs. 6–7	Assignment 3
12	22 Jan	[Buffer week]		
13	29 Jan	Early Modern English	Barber ch. 8	
14	5 Feb	Wrap-Up		
	16 Feb			Assignment 4

Diversity Statement

This course is run with the understanding that students bring a variety of backgrounds into the classroom in such domains as socioeconomics, appearance, culture, religion, disability, gender, age, family situation, and sexual identity. With different backgrounds come different needs. If you feel your needs or those of a fellow student require special attention or are being compromised, please feel free to make this known to me by whatever channel seems most appropriate. (For more serious concerns, the Department, Faculty, and University each have their own points of contact as well.) I will treat all requests seriously and with confidentiality, and will seek to make accommodations within my abilities and reason. At the same time, you too owe it to your fellow students to treat them with respect regardless of their background, identity, and identity expression.

Course Readings

- Barber, Charles, Joan C. Beal, and Philip A. Shaw. *The English Language*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.
- Hughes, Geoffrey. "A History of the English Lexicon." In *A Companion to the History of the English Language*, edited by Haruka Momma and Michael Matto, 69–80. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2008.
- Mair, Christian. *English Linguistics: An Introduction*. 3rd ed. Tübingen: Narr, 2015.
- Townend, Matthew. "Contact and Conflicts: Latin, Norse, and French." In *The Oxford History of English*, edited by Lynda Mugglestone, 61–85. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Further Reading

- Baker, Peter S. *Introduction to Old English*. 3rd ed. Malden, MA: Wiley–Blackwell, 2012.
- Crystal, David. *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*. 1st ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995.
- Görlach, Manfred. *Einführung in die englische Sprachgeschichte*. 5th ed. Heidelberg: Winter, 2002.
- Herbst, Thomas. *English Linguistics: A Coursebook for Students of English*. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton, 2010.
- Herbst, Thomas, Rita Stoll, and Rudolf Westermayr. *Terminologie der Sprachbeschreibung*. Ismaning: Hueber, 1991.
- Hogg, Richard, ed. *The Cambridge History of the English Language*. 6 vols. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992–2001.
- Hogg, Richard, and David Denison, eds. *A History of the English Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.
- Klavans, Judith. "Computational Linguistics." In *Contemporary Linguistics: An Introduction*, 2nd ed., edited by William O'Grady, John Archibald, and Francis Katamba, 581–619. Harlow: Pearson, 2011.
- Kortmann, Bernd. *English Linguistics: Essentials*. Berlin: Cornelsen, 2005.
- Lass, Roger. *Old English: A Historical Linguistic Companion*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994.
- Momma, Haruko, and Michael Matto, eds. *A Companion to the History of the English Language*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2008.
- Mugglestone, Lynda, ed. *The Oxford History of English*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006.
- O'Grady, William, and John Archibald, eds. *Contemporary Linguistics: An Introduction*. 7th ed. Boston: Macmillan, 2017.
- Plag, Ingo, Sabine Arndt-Lappe, Maria Braun, and Mareile Schramm. *Introduction to English Linguistics*. 3rd revised and enlarged ed. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter, 2015.