

## 27835 - History of the English Language

### Syllabus Information

**Academic year:** 2024/25

**Subject:** 27835 - History of the English Language

**Faculty / School:** 103 - Facultad de Filosofía y Letras

**Degree:** 416 - Degree in English

**ECTS:** 6.0

**Year:** 3

**Semester:** Second semester

**Subject type:** Compulsory

**Module:**

### 1. General information

The aim of the subject Historia de la Lengua Inglesa is to provide the student with basic knowledge about the origins and evolution of the English language. Through theoretical and practical sessions the students will learn the fundamental changes through the different stages of English: Old English, Middle English and Modern English. They will also develop a critical vision on the uses of Standard English and will improve their knowledge of Present Day English.

These approaches and objectives are aligned with the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda (<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>). The acquisition of the learning outcomes of the module provides training and competence to contribute to their achievement. Specifically, objectives 4, 5, 10, 16 and 17 are addressed.

A level of English C1.2, according to the CEFR guidelines is required. It is also recommendable to have successfully passed the subject English Phonetics and Phonology, I.

### 2. Learning results

In order to pass this module, students must demonstrate the following outcomes:

The student distinguishes the different periods of the English language, from its origins to our days.  
Argues the division of the stages, following the historical context and the changes experienced by English in each period.

Identifies, in each period, the essential internal and sociopolitical changes which promoted the development.

Learns to be critical about the uses and the norms of Present day Standard and non-Standard Englishes, departing from a historical knowledge of the English language.

Is able to write or give an oral presentation (at a C1.2 level) about various aspects of the evolution and linguistic variation of the English language.

Uses bibliography to obtain information about a specific topic related with the evolution of English; selects and summarises the information and presents it in a clear and well-structured fashion.

### 3. Syllabus

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

English within the Indo-European family. From Pre-Roman Britain to the Scandinavian invasions.

#### 2. THE OLD ENGLISH PERIOD

Spelling and pronunciation. Vocabulary. Grammar. Nouns, modifiers, pronouns, verbs. Syntax.

#### 3. THE MIDDLE ENGLISH PERIOD

External History. The Norman Conquest and Settlement. The loss of Normandy. Progressive reestablishment of English and its general adoption in the 14th century.

ME spelling. Foreign Influences in Vocabulary. ME Phonology and Morphology.

#### 4. THE MODERN ENGLISH PERIOD

Key events. Expansion of the Vocabulary. The orthography of Early Modern English. Phonology. The Great Vowel Shift and other changes. Some key events in Late Modern English.

### 4. Academic activities

Theoretical sessions

Practical sessions: exercises and tasks that prove that the student understands the subject  
Individual and group tutorials: guidance on learning techniques and supervision/feedback on tasks  
Individual, autonomous study  
Team and individual work for the preparation of the essay.  
Assessment tasks/ tests.

## **5. Assessment system**

### **FIRST CALL**

#### **OPTION A**

- 1) Written exam, which will assess theoretical and practical contents (70 %).
  - 2) The grade of the exam is complemented with an essay (team work) (30 %).
- A minimum grade of 40% in the exam is required to add the grade of the essay

#### **OPTION B**

The global assessment will consist of a written exam including theoretical contents (70%) and practical questions (30 %).

### **SECOND CALL**

The student will have two options:

1. Keep the grade of the essay handed in the first call (30 %) and take the written exam, as in the first call (70 %).
2. Take the written exam on theoretical (70%) and practical contents (30%), as established in Option B of the first call.

#### **ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

In the written exam, on theoretical contents, the student must prove their assimilation of the fundamental notions on the evolution of linguistic changes in English, providing clear explanations, using a C1.2 level (CEFR)

In the practical part, the student is expected to show a good argumentative capacity and maturity in the explanations, using a C1.2 level (CEFR)

Plagiarism in the essay will be punished with a failing grade.

## **6. Sustainable Development Goals**

- 4 - Quality Education
- 10 - Reduction of Inequalities
- 17 - Partnerships for the Goals