

27844 - Modern English

Syllabus Information

Academic year: 2024/25

Subject: 27844 - Modern English

Faculty / School: 103 - Facultad de Filosofía y Letras

Degree: 416 - Degree in English

ECTS: 6.0

Year:

Semester: First semester

Subject type: Optional

Module:

1. General information

The aim of the subject Modern English is to provide the student with the information and analytical tools required for the understanding of English texts written from the 16th century, as well as to teach them to recognise the main geographical varieties in the UK, departing from a diachronic perspective.

Through theoretical and practical sessions the students will learn the most important linguistic changes in the Modern English period.

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.

2. Learning results

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

The student distinguishes the different subperiods in Modern English

Justifies the division of the substages (Early and Late Modern English), following the historical context and the changes experienced by English in each subperiod.

Identifies, in each subperiod, the essential internal and external changes which promoted the linguistic development.

Is able to distinguish the main features of the geographical varieties in the United Kingdom.

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. The Early Modern English period: characteristics.

2. Early Modern English phonology, grammar and vocabulary.

Changes in morphology. The expansion of the English vocabulary. Orthography

The Great Vowel Shift, other vowels and consonants. Changes in morphology and syntax.

3. Late Modern English: Logic and prescription. Dictionaries and grammars.

The rise of Polite usage. Purists and linguistic correction. 'Talking Proper'.

Robert Lowth's Grammar. Dictionaries and spelling books.

4. Standard accents and others.

Images of accents. Symbols of the social divide. Educating accents.

5. Standard and non-standard grammatical variation. Genteel vs. vulgar language.

Lexical variation.

6. Geographical variation in the United Kingdom.

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

For the students that do not submit an essay, 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 and correct interpretation of the fundamental notions on the evolution of linguistic changes in Modern English, providing clear explanations, using a C1.1 level (CEFR)

. In the practical part, the student is expected to show a good argumentative capacity and maturity in the explanations, using a C1.1 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