

B.EP.01 Basismodul (EPS): Introduction to Historical Linguistics

Term: Winter 2014–2015
Time: Thu 08:30–10:00
Room: KWZ 0.606
Credits: 3
Prerequisites: none

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Course Description

What are the building blocks of language? How far back can we trace the origins of Present-Day English? And what can we learn from a historical approach to the English language?

These are some of the questions we will address in this introductory seminar. Its central objective is to familiarize students with the main facets of language study today, but with an emphasis on the historical development of English. We will deal in turn with the sound of language (phonetics and phonology), how language elements fit together (grammar, syntax, and morphology), forces of language innovation and change, the historical periodization of English, the foreign influences it sustained, and a variety of approaches to the study of language. The course trains students in the analysis of linguistic variation and prepares them for their further studies in historical and/or modern linguistics.

Assessment

Written exam (90 minutes, pass/fail).

Textbook and Resources

Barber, Charles, Joan C. Beal, and Philip A. Shaw, eds. *The English Language: A Historical Introduction*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009. (43 copies in the SEP library's *Handbuchsammlung*; also available on StudIP)

Additional readings are provided on StudIP. Slides, handouts, and links to further resources can be found at studium.langeslag.org/histling14a/

Schedule

wk	date	topic	reading
1	23 Oct	Introduction	
2	30 Oct	Phonetics & Phonology	Barber ch. 1; Crystal ch. 17 (StudIP)
3	6 Nov	Grammar & Syntax	Baker chs. 3–4; O'Grady (StudIP)
4	13 Nov	Morphology & Word Formation	Kortmann ch. 3 (StudIP)
5	20 Nov	Language Change	Barber ch. 2
6	27 Nov	Indo-European & Germanic	Barber chs. 3–4
7	4 Dec	Old English	Barber ch. 5
8	11 Dec	Languages in Contact	Townend (StudIP)
9	18 Dec	Middle English	Barber chs. 6–7
10	8 Jan	The Lexicon	Hughes (StudIP)
11	15 Jan	Early Modern English	Barber ch. 8
12	22 Jan	Approaches to Linguistics	Kortmann ch. 1; Klavans (StudIP)
13	29 Feb	Wrap-Up	
14	5 Feb	EXAM	

Bibliography

- Baker, Peter S. *Introduction to Old English*. 2nd ed. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2007. Print.
- Crystal, David. *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*. 1st ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995. Print.
- Görlach, Manfred. *Einführung in die englische Sprachgeschichte*. 5th ed. Heidelberg: Winter, 2002. Print.
- Herbst, Thomas, Rita Stoll, and Rudolf Westermayr. *Terminologie der Sprachbeschreibung*. Ismaning: Hueber, 1991. Print.
- Hogg, Richard, ed. *The Cambridge History of the English Language*. 6 vols. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992–2001. Print.
- Hogg, Richard and David Denison, eds. *A History of the English Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006. Print.
- Hughes, Geoffrey. "A History of the English Lexicon." *A Companion to the History of the English Language*. Ed. Haruka Momma and Michael Matto. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2008. 69–80. Print.
- Klavans, Judith. "Computational Linguistics." *Contemporary Linguistics: An Introduction*. Ed. William O'Grady, John Archibald, and Francis Katamba. 2nd ed. Harlow: Pearson, 2011. 581–619. Print.
- Kortmann, Bernd. *English Linguistics: Essentials*. Berlin: Cornelsen, 2005. Print.
- Lass, Roger. *Old English: A Historical Linguistic Companion*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994. Print.
- Momma, Haruko and Michael Matto, eds. *A Companion to the History of the English Language*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2008. Print.
- Mugglestone, Lynda, ed. *The Oxford History of English*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006. Print.
- O'Grady, William, John Archibald, and Francis Katamba, eds. *Contemporary Linguistics: An Introduction*. 2nd ed. Harlow: Pearson, 2011. Print.
- Townend, Matthew. "Contact and Conflicts: Latin, Norse, and French." *The Oxford History of English*. Ed. Lynda Mugglestone. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006. 61–85. Print.