

Department of English & Writing Studies

**ENG 3001.001 - History of the English Language**

Mon. 12:30-1:30, Wed. 12:30-2:30 AHB-1B06.

Richard Moll (rmoll@uwo.ca; 661-2111 x85822, email is best!)

Office hours: IGAB 0N05, Tues. 1:00-3:30 (or by appointment, I'm around a lot)

**Course texts**

Brinton, Laurel J. and Leslie K. Arnovick. *The English Language: A Linguistic History*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.  
Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Knowles, Gerry. *A Cultural History of the English Language*. London: Hodder, 1997.

Moll, Richard. *Course Packet*.

Recommended: Hacker, Diana. *A C* . 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston/New York:  
Bedford, 2008. You probably have a writing handbook from ENG 020/022 or 024. Any  
will do, but you will find a handbook useful as you read Brinton & Arnovick.

**Learning Outcomes**

The student who successfully completes the course will:

- 1) understand the relationship between the basic components of English (i.e. phonology, morphology, syntax and lexicon)
- 2) be able to discuss those components as they relate to the major changes in the language over time and place
- 3) understand the changing social position of English across time and place

- Mon. Oct. 5 Old English (technical)  
Read: *English*, ch. 3 (from page 75): This chapter introduces many important concepts which we will use throughout the year. We will talk about them in more detail at relevant points in the year.  
*English*, chs. 5 (from page 151)
- Wed. Oct. 7 Read: *English*, chs. 6 and 7 (to page 217)  
**Test 1 (basic)**
- Mon. Oct. 12 Thanksgiving (eat well, but it doesn't mean you don't have to read)
- Wed. Oct. 14 Old English (technical and cultural)  
Read: *English*, ch. 7 (from page 218)  
Caedmons's hymn: (<http://www.heorot.dk/bede-caedmon.html>)  
Print the Old English and Latin versions and bring them with you! Read the translations of both the Old English and Latin versions (Bede originally wrote in Latin). Don't worry about the appendices of variants.
- Mon. Oct. 19 Old English (technical review and cultural)  
Read: *Cultural*, ch. 3
- Wed. Oct. 21 Read: "Dream of the Rood." Use Mary Rambaran-Olm's website, which I invite you to explore. Print out her translation (NOT the transcription) of the poem: <http://www.dreamofrood.co.uk>
- Mon. Oct. 26 Middle English (which is to say, something you can read)  
Read: *English*, ch. 8
- Wed. Oct. 28 Read: *Cultural*, ch. 4  
**Test 2 (Old English phonology, morphology & grammar)**
- Mon. Nov. 2 Middle English  
Read: *English*, ch. 9
- Wed. Nov. 4 Read: Robert Mannyng, "Prol. to *The Chronicle*" (course pack, lines 1-135)  
Note: There are two versions of this text in the course pack. The first text (excerpts only) has some background material on Mannyng and his text and it is fully glossed. Read it first to help you get into the language. Then read the second version which is edited for academics rather than undergraduates. We'll discuss the text, and the editorial method of the two versions.
- Mon. Nov. 9 Middle English, national identity  
Read: *English*, ch 10 (just pp. 327-334). This is out of order, but understanding the Great Vowel Shift will make Middle English pronunciation much easier.
- Wed. Nov. 11 Read: Turville-Petre, Thorlac. "Politic 1





**Marks Distribution**

Paper	15%
Translation	10%
Tests (7.5% each, best 4 of 5)	30%
Etymology assignment	10%
Final exam	35%

**Essay**

The essays must be presented in MLA style. It is due in class (and electronically) on the date assigned. A late essay will lose 3% per day (including weekends). The essay must be submitted to Turnitin (through OWL) on or before the due date. It may be submitted late to the drop box outside the English Dept. (UC 173). Papers stamped “received after 4:00pm” (3:30 on Fridays) will be considered submitted on the following day (so get them in before the collection times).

**Tests**

Only four of the five tests will be counted. The lowest COMPLETED test grade will be discarded. In other words, you can screw up once, but if you miss

**Value of term work and exam**

Students must pass both term work and the final examination in order to pass the course. Students who fail the final examination (regardless of their term mark) automatically fail the course.

**Prerequisites**

Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded and that all course prerequisites have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any antirequisite course(s) that they have taken. If the student does not have the requisites for a course, the University reserves the right to remove the student from the course and to delete it from the student's record. This decision may not be appealed. A student will receive no adjustment to his or her fees in the event that he or she is dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

**Grammar**