

ELS 215-HISTORY OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE
(CREDIT UNITS 2)
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES (ENGLISH UNIT)
FACULTY OF ARTS
UNIVERSITY OF DELTA, AGBOR, NIGERIA

Lecturer: Mrs. Okiemute J. Uge
Office location: Faculty of Arts complex
Phone: 08035705748
Office hours: Monday, Tuesday and Friday 8am- 1pm
Contact time and place: Monday 8am - 9am,
Friday 9am – 10am
Faculty of Arts Block- 1 Hall A2

Attendance: All classes must be attended, it is expedient you notify the instructor in advance, if you are going to be absent from any class

Method of Instruction: The course content contains a survey of what will be covered in class. Assignments will be given in class and should be submitted through the class coordinator.

Overview:- History cannot be separated from the evolution of English language. The English language is an Indo-European language in the West Germanic language group. Modern English is widely considered to be the lingua franca of the world and is the standard language in a wide variety of fields, including computer, coding, international business and higher education. This course presents a synopsis of the various stages in the

development of English and the fact that social events, political changes and scientific developments usually leave their marks on the language especially in the vocabulary. This is peculiar to the present day situation because as the world experiences changes, new words and expressions are bound to evolve as part of those development processes. There will be a highlight of how socio-political changes in England influenced the language and thereby display those factors that have been responsible for the growth and spread of English Language across the world.

Objectives: The objectives of this course are to (i) introduce the history of the English language from its earliest development to its present status as a world language (ii) to highlight some significant events that influenced the emanation and growth of English (iii) to be familiarized with the major changes in the Grammar, vocabulary, orthography and pronunciation of English from the old English to Modern English and (iv) to attain a preparation for further studies in English as a world language.

Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students should be able to: (i) trace the history of English Language from old English period to the present; (ii) identify some major landmarks and stages in the development of English; (iii) describe the events that were responsible for the emergence and development of English; (iv) explain the factors that influenced the growth of English as a world language; (v) discuss major changes in the grammar, vocabulary, orthography and pronunciation of English from old English to the modern period, and participate in further studies and research in the development of English as a world language.

Course Content:

English Language: the roots, the language situation in England before English. The Roman conquest. Anglo-Saxon conquest, the origin and status of Old English, some features of the old English. The Danish invasion and the Vikings Age, influences on the old English. The Norman conquest and the birth of the middle English period. The fusion of French and English, Re-instatement of English. Some characteristics of middle English: Grammar, Vocabulary, Orthography and Pronunciation. The emergence of Dictionaries. The rise of the middleclass in England. The great vowel shift and the 18th century grammarians. The dispersal of English across the world and the development of World Englishes. The effects of socio-political changes in England and its influence on the language. Factors responsible for the growth and spread of English across the World.

Lecturer Schedules

Week	Content	Lectures Notes
1	English Language: The roots, the language situation in England before English, The Roman Conquest.	
2	Anglo-Saxon conquest, the origin and status of old English, some features of the Old English.	
3	The Danish invasion and the Vikings Age; influences on the Old English.	
4	The Norman conquest and the birth of the middle English period.	

5	The fusion of French and English; Re-instatement of English.	
6	Some characteristics of middle English: Grammar; vocabulary, orthography and pronunciation	
7	The emergence of Dictionaries.	
8	The rise of the middle class in England.	
9	Test	
10	The great vowel shift and the 18 th century grammarians	
11	The dispersal of English across the world and the development of World Englishes.	
12	The effects of socio-political changes in England and its influence on the language.	
13	Factors responsible for English across the world.	
14	Revisions	
15	Final exam.	

Examination Schedule

- Attendance
- Assignment
- Class Test
- End of Semester Exam.

Grading

- Assignment: 10% of grade
- Test: 20% of grade
- Final Exam: 70% of grade

Text and References

- George Y. (1996), The Study of Language.
- Nneka U. (2009), The English language: Origin, History and varieties
- Baugh A. C. & Cable T. (2001), A History of the English language.

Students Conduct:

All Students enrolled at the University shall follow the terms of common decency and acceptable.

Behaviour conducive to a positive learning environment. The code of student conduct is described in detail in the student handbook or University website.

Academic Honesty:

All Students enrolled at the University shall follow the terms of common decency and acceptable.

Behaviour conducive to a positive environment. 'It is the policy of the University, that no form of plagiarism or cheating will be tolerated. Plagiarism is defined as the deliberate use of another's work and claiming it as one's own. This means ideas as well as text or code, whether

paraphrased or presented verbatim (Word for word) Cheating is defined as obtaining assistance on any assignment. Proper citation of sources must always be utilized thoroughly and accurately. If you are caught sharing or using other people's work in the class you will receive a 0 grade and a warning on the first instance. A subsequent instance will result in receiving an F grade for the course, and possible disciplinary proceedings. If you are unclear about what constitutes academic dishonesty, ask.