

## **English 3300 – History of the English Language**

J. Doelman

Office: St. James 301B

### **Office hours:**

Mondays 2:45-4:15 P.M.

Wednesdays 11:30 – 1:00

(519) 432-8353 x28248

[jdoelman@uwo.ca](mailto:jdoelman@uwo.ca). E-mailed assignments will **not** be accepted.

**Delivery:** This is an in-person course.

**Important Note:** while this is an in-person course, students *must* be able to access Owl online for readings, some assignments, and some quizzes.

### **Class Times:**

Mondays, 12:30-2:30, BR 202

Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30, BR 202

**Calendar Description:** A study of the historical development of English phonology, morphology, orthography, and syntax from Old English to the modern period. At the same time, we examine the changing roles of English (commercial, literary, and administrative) and the different varieties of the language available to its many speakers.

**Prerequisite(s):** At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020-1999 or permission of the Department.

**Extra Information:** 3 hours.

**Course Weight:** 1.00

### **Longer Description:**

This section of the course offers both a traditional *linguistic* history and a more topical *cultural* history of the English language. The former is based on readings from the main textbook, Brinton and Arnovick's *The English Language: a Linguistic History*; the latter by shorter supplementary readings (mostly on Owl) and lectures. Quizzes and assignments will be based on both of these dimensions of language history, and each week's materials will involve both dimensions. Some of the topics included in the cultural history part of the course are: French loan-words and medieval chivalry, the Scots language and national identity, the British Empire and the English Language, dictionaries and controversy, Ontario accents, working-class accents and English fashion, new media and language change, etc.

## Course Goals

The major overarching goal of the course is for students to develop as rich, broad, and deep an understanding of the history of the English language as is possible within the limits of an 8-month course.

These goals are suggested by our textbook (I paraphrase).

In the course students will acquire:

- an understanding of the processes of language change in the past and present
- an understanding of the roots of the English language and its relationship with other languages
- an understanding of the major stages in the development of the English language over the centuries
- an understanding of the historical roots of varieties of English today

Under those broad aspirations, some further specific objectives can be identified.

By the end of the course successful students will be able to:

- discuss how the English language has developed from the Anglo-Saxon invasions to the present day (*Critical Thinking; Inquiry and Analysis; Communication*)
- trace the shifting senses of a word over time (*Critical Thinking; Inquiry and Analysis; Communication*)
- explain the changes in the English language in relation to major political and social developments (*Social Awareness and Engagement, Critical Thinking; Inquiry and Analysis; Communication*)
- describe the major features of phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics at different points in the history of the language
- extend their understanding of the history of the language to the reading of literary texts and other aspects of culture (*Critical Thinking; Inquiry and Analysis; Communication*)
- extend their understanding of the history of the language to debates about the English language today (*Social Awareness and Engagement, Critical Thinking; Inquiry and Analysis; Communication, Self-Awareness and Development*)
- use language in a conscious and deliberate way, based upon an awareness of the history and usage of individual words and phrases and the broader changes within the English language. (*Communication, Self-Awareness and Development*)

- develop well-organized, effective, and rich arguments on the history of the English language (*Critical Thinking; Inquiry and Analysis; Communication*)
- write clearly and concisely on complex topics. (*Communication*)

(Italicized text in brackets identifies the relevant Brescia competencies.)

## Evaluation

Quizzes	10%
Exercises/short assignments	20%
Research project/paper ( <b>due, March 15</b> )	20%
Midyear Exam (in December exam period)	15%
Final Exam	25%
Participation (including exit questions)	<u>10%</u>
	<b>100%</b>

## Policy on Late Assignments

For tests and assignments worth 5% or more, the student must meet with an academic advisor to provide documentation for accommodation. Late essays that have not been approved for academic accommodation will be penalized at a rate of three percent per day. Late essays will not be accepted after the end of term.

## Textbook

Brinton, Laurel J., and Leslie K. Arnovick. *The English Language: a Linguistic History*. Third edition., Oxford University Press, 2017. (ISBN-13 978-0-19-901915-1)

(Important Note: Certain other required materials connected with the text are found at

[https://learninglink.oup.com/access/brinton-3e-student-resources#tag\\_study-guide](https://learninglink.oup.com/access/brinton-3e-student-resources#tag_study-guide))

Other readings will be made available through Owl and Library Reserve.

## Schedule of Classes and Readings\*

While we generally follow the textbook, which moves chronologically through the history of English, each class will also involve a brief (5 to 10 minute) special topic that may involve the history of the language at any point. Some of these are indicated in the schedule below; others will arise from our discussion in the course itself.

## Semester 1

### Week of Sept. 12 (Week 1)

Introduction to the course

Oxford Words of the Year

<https://languages.oup.com/word-of-the-year/>

### Week of Sept. 19 (Week 2)

Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 1, "Studying the History of English"

A selection from Johnson's "Preface" to *A Dictionary of the English Language*

(<https://jacklynch.net/Texts/preface.html>)

Reading from John Simpson, *The Word Detective* [on Brescia Library Reserve]

### Week of Sept. 26 (Week 3)

Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 2 "Sounds and Sound Change in English"

Reading: Orwell, "[Politics and the English Language.](#)"

(available online: <https://www.orwellfoundation.com/the-orwell-foundation/orwell/essays-and-other-works/politics-and-the-english-language/>)

**Mon. Sept. 26:** Quiz 1 [all quizzes will take place at the beginning of class]

### Week of Oct. 3 (Week 4)

Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 2 "Sounds and Sound Change in English"

Special Focus: What's in a Name: An Introduction to Onomastics

### Week of Oct. 10 (Week 5)

Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 3 "Causes and Mechanisms of Language Change"

Special Topic: C.S. Lewis, *Studies in Words*, pp. 326-8 on pejorative language

### Week of Oct. 17 (Week 6)

Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 3 "Causes and Mechanisms of Language Change"

Special Topic: The Controversy over Webster III

Short article:

file:///C:/Users/Acer/Dropbox/teaching/History%20of%20the%20Language/Doelman%20Globe.pdf

**Mon. Oct. 17:** Quiz 2

### Week of Oct. 24 (Week 7)

Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 4 "The Indo-European Language Family and Proto-Indo-European"

Special Topic: "A little learning...": Hypercorrection

**Fall Reading Week: October 31-November 4**

### Week of Nov. 7 (Week 8)

Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 5 "Germanic and the Development of Old English"

Helpful video on Grimm's Law: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jpb8XSM1FMU>

Special Topic: Coleridge and "desynonymizing"

### Week of Nov. 14 (Week 9)

Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 5 “Germanic and the Development of Old English”

A helpful video on Verner’s Law: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aal9VSPkf5s> [watch all 3 parts]

Tom Leonard’s “Six O’Clock News”

**Week of Nov. 21 (Week 10)**

Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 6 “The Words and Sounds of Old English”

**Mon. Nov. 21:** Quiz 3

**Week of Nov. 28 (Week 11)**

Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 6 “The Words and Sounds of Old English”

**Week of Dec. 5 (Week 12)**

Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 7 “The Grammar of Old English”

Special Topic: Working-class accents and English fashion?

**Semester 2**

**Week 1 (Week of Jan. 9)**

Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 8 “The Rise of Middle English: Words and Sounds”

*International Dialects of English Archive*

<https://www.dialectsarchive.com/> and assignment (homework?)

**Week 2 (Week of Jan. 16)**

Special Topic: English as an “absorbent” language

**Mon. Jan. 16:** Quiz 4

**Week 3 (Week of Jan. 23)**

Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 9 “The Grammar of Middle English and Rise of a Written Standard”

**Week 4 (Week of Jan. 30)**

Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 9 “The Grammar of Middle English and Rise of a Written Standard”

**Week 5 (Week of Feb. 6)**

Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 10 “The Words, Sounds, and Inflections of Early Modern English”

Special Topic: “Inkhornism” then and now

**Mon. Feb. 6:** Quiz 5

**Week 6 (Week of Feb. 13)**

Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 10 “The Words, Sounds, and Inflections of Early Modern English”

**Feb. 20-26 Reading Week**

**Week 7 (Week of Feb. 27)**

**Special Topics in Early Modern English**

**Special Topic:** James I and the Scottish tongue

**Week 8 (Week of March 6)**

Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 11 “Early Modern English Verbal Constructions and Eighteenth-Century Prescriptivism”

Special Topic: Loan words and synonyms

**Mon. March 6:** Quiz 6

Reading: selection from Anne Curzon, *Fixing English?*

**Week 9 (Week of March 13)**

Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 11 “Early Modern English Verbal Constructions and Eighteenth-Century Prescriptivism”

Special Topic: Playing with Words

**Research Project/Essay due, Wed. March 15**

**Week 10 (Week of March 20)**

Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 12 “Modern English”

Reading from David Crystal, *English as a Global Language*

**Week 11 (Week of March 27)**

Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 13 “Varieties of English”

Special Topic: Digital English (selection from David Crystal, *Txtng: the Gr8 Db8*)

**Week 12 (Week of April 3)**

Brinton and Arnovick, ch. 13 “Varieties of English”

Special Topic: Regional Variation in Canadian English

**Monday April 10** last day of classes

**Accommodation Policies**

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

PLAGIARISM of any kind is a serious academic offence. Be advised that electronic plagiarism-detection programmes will be used and essay banks checked, if the professor has any suspicion of plagiarism. Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing both in the body and at the end of the assignment. Any borrowings from secondary sources, whether wordings or ideas, must be acknowledged BOTH in the main body of your essay AND at the end in a bibliography or works cited! If you have any doubts about how to document your work correctly, check with your professor prior to handing in your essay. For further information, see the Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar and appended to this outline.

## 2022-23 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

### 1. POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

The complete policy regarding Accommodation for Illness - Undergraduate Students can be found at

[https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_135](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_135)

Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions which may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities should seek Academic Accommodation through Student Accessibility Services

([https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_10](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_10)).

Personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are **not** grounds for academic accommodation.

Students who experience an illness or extenuating circumstance sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

1. For medical absences, submitting a **Student Medical Certificate (SMC)** signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner;
2. For non-medical absences, submitting **appropriate documentation** (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to their Academic Advisor. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Advisor to clarify what documentation is acceptable.

### Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation.

Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete their academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated.

The following conditions apply for students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds:

1. Students must submit their Student Medical Certificate (SMC) along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. An SMC can be downloaded from [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf);
2. In cases where there might be an extended absence or serious issue, students should submit their documentation promptly and consult their Academic Advisor for advice during their recovery period;
3. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, scheduled tests or examinations, and other academic requirements;
4. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by the SMC to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence;
5. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office/Academic Advisor in consultation with the course instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements, arranging Special Exams (make-ups), re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawal without academic penalty.

## 2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal challenge that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds are not normally considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor

([https://brescia.uwo.ca/enrolment\\_services/academic\\_advising/book\\_an\\_appointment.php](https://brescia.uwo.ca/enrolment_services/academic_advising/book_an_appointment.php)). If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines; please contact your Academic Advisor or see the list of sessional dates in the Academic Calendar

(<https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>).

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

## 3. ABSENCES

**Short Absences:** If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are



not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Please note that for asynchronous online courses, attendance or participation requirements may be different than for synchronous or in-person courses.

**Extended Absences:** If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work, and arrange academic accommodations if appropriate and warranted.

It is important to note that the Academic Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory ([https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_64](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_64)).

#### 4. SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence at: [https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_20](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20).

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Academic Dean's Office, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

#### **Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

#### **Computer-marked Tests/exams:**

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

## **5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS**

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal is to be sent to the School Chair. If the response of the Chair is considered unsatisfactory to the student, they may then submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, they may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA), if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal and if the matter falls within the jurisdiction of the SRBA. For information on academic appeals consult your Academic Advisor or see the Student Academic Appeals – Undergraduate in the Academic Calendar [https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_14](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14).

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices.

## **6. PREREQUISITES**

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written Special Permission from the Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisite(s).

## **7. SUPPORT**

### **Support Services**

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/>. Students can access supports through Brescia's Student Life Centre (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/student-life/>) and Learning Development & Success at Western (<https://www.uwo.ca/sdc/learning/>).

### **Mental Health and Wellness**

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can obtain information about how to obtain help for yourself or others through **Health & Wellness at Brescia**, [https://brescia.uwo.ca/student\\_life/health\\_and\\_wellness/index.php](https://brescia.uwo.ca/student_life/health_and_wellness/index.php) and **Health and Wellness at Western**, [http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/index.html](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html).

## **Sexual Violence**

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at [https://brescia.uwo.ca/safe\\_campus/sexual\\_violence/index.php](https://brescia.uwo.ca/safe_campus/sexual_violence/index.php).

---

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy, and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.

---