Linguistics 4070  History of English Language  Spring 2016

Instructor: Dr. Sadaf Munshi  Email: sadafmunshi@unt.edu
Office: E296A at Discovery Park  ...........................................
Class meets: Tue/Thu 12:30-1:50pm in WH 116
Office hours: Thursday 2:15-4:15 and by appointment

Course Description
This course is about the history and development of the English language through time, its present situation and position in the world. Students will learn about the various components of the language (viz. phonology, morphology, lexicon, and syntax), its history, genetic affiliation (with Germanic and other Indo-European languages), historical reconstruction (through linguistic comparison based on materials and data from English and other languages related to it), dialectal variation (in terms of social, regional and national varieties), and different types of linguistic changes it has undergone over the course of its development (both language-internal changes as well as changes resulting from contact with other languages, such as, French, Latin, and many other languages as sources of borrowing of lexicon, morphological and grammatical features in English). Please refer to the course schedule for important dates and topics to be covered during the course.

Grading Policy
Homework Assignments... ...........40%
Tests............................50%
Attendance & Participation...........10%

Homework and Tests:
You will be graded for a total of 4 homework assignments (each worth 10%) and two tests (mid-term and final, each worth 25%).

Attendance and Participation:
Your attendance and participation in class is very important. Regular and consistent attendance is required to earn full credit for the course. DO NOT miss a class unless you have a genuine excuse to do so. Unexcused absences will be penalized. If you have 3-7 unexcused absences, your grade will be lowered by one letter grade. If you have 8 or more unexcused absences, you will receive an F. I generally notice students who come to class and nap, read rather than listen to the lecture, surf the web on their laptop, and so forth. Your grade will be affected by your attendance record and by how you conduct yourself when you attend. The students, who have few absences, come to class prepared and contribute regularly to discussion and in-class problem solving will be awarded full credit. Please switch off your cell phone or other electronic devices before class starts.

Textbook (Recommended)
Course materials will be made available through the semester.

Other Suggested Readings and References
More readings are provided on the Course Schedule.
English Language History Online Resource (ELHOR): http://pages.towson.edu/duncan/hellinks.html
COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Jan 19-21 ….Introduction: Linguistics and Phonetics Review, Sounds of English

Week 2: Jan 26-28 ….. Historical Background: Indo-European and Germanic Languages

Week 3: Feb. 2-4…… Historical Background (contd.)

Week 4: Feb. 9-11 ..... History of Writing
* Assignment #1 due Feb 16

Week 5: Feb 16-18… Old English Period

Week 6: Feb 23-25….Old English Period (contd.)

Week 7: Mar. 1-3… Between Old and Middle English
* Assignment 2 due Feb 27

Week 8: Mar 8-10........Review and Test 1

*March 10 TEST 1

(March 14-20 SPRING BREAK)

Week 9: Mar 22-24…Middle English Period

Week 10: Mar 29-31…Middle English Period (Contd.)

* Assignment 3 due March 31

Week 11: Apr. 5-7…… Modern English Period

Week 12: Apr. 12-14…… Modern English: Dialectology
* Assignment 4 due April 19

Week 13: Apr 19-21……Modern English: Words, Meanings and Word Formations

Week 14: Apr. 26-28……Language Contact and Lexical Borrowings

Week 15: May3-5….Wind up and Review for Test 2
Video: History of English Language 8: Many Tongues Called English
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PfswuoC3tDw

May 10: TEST 2
IMPORTANT:
I. The Linguistics Program at UNT cooperates with the Office of Disability Accommodation to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you have a disability, which requires accommodation under the terms of the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please provide your request by email within the first week of class.

II. EACH STUDENT IS EXPECTED TO DO HIS OR HER OWN WORK. Plagiarism and cheating - academic dishonesty - are serious offenses and will not be tolerated in this class. STUDENTS WHO PLAGIARIZE OR CHEAT WILL BE REFERRED TO THE OFFICE OF STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND WILL RECEIVE A FAILING GRADE IN THE CLASS. For more information on the university's policy on academic dishonesty please consult the UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline at http://www.unt.edu/catalogs/2004-05/upolicies.html.