Purpose of the Course:
The purpose of ENGL 4133 – The History of the English language is to discover the origins of
the English language and how it evolved over time. Habits of pronunciation that developed in
England led to profound changes in the way English speakers framed sentences; that is,
phonology affected the word forms (morphology) upon which English syntax once depended.
English, formerly a synthetic language (one that uses inflections, endings of words, to indicate
what those words are doing in a sentence), became an analytic language (one that uses word
order and auxiliaries such as prepositions and adverbs to stitch “meaning” words into coherent
statements).

Course Description:
Traces the development of the English language from its Indo-European origins through its
present state. Special attention will be paid to changes in grammar and vocabulary.

Course Objectives:
As a student in this course you will:

- Describe how to make and represent the sounds of English.
- Explain the concept of “sound laws,” especially those affecting English.
- Describe how the English language was altered throughout the different historic time
  periods.

Required Text & materials:
Albert C. Baugh and Thomas Cable. A History of the English Language. 5th ed. Upper Saddle River: Prentice

You will also need an English language dictionary. You can use http://www.merriam-webster.com.

Lesson Assignments:
There is substantial information in the lessons, some of it not in the textbook. To make efficient
use of the textbook, you should read the lesson first, especially the questions of the written
assignment. Also, make use of Baugh’s Table of Contents and Index.

NOTE: You will not see the next assignment until you have completed the current
assignment and the instructor has graded it. For example you will not see Lesson 2
Assignment until Lesson 1 Assignment has been submitted AND graded.
EXAMS:
You must take two exams to complete this course. The time limit for each will be 2 hours; no aids will be allowed. The first, the “midterm,” will cover material introduced in Lessons 1-4, probably the more difficult (technical) portion of the course, that which surveys the prehistory and the early history of English and requires familiarity with certain linguistic concepts. These concepts are discussed both in the textbook and in my introduction to the individual lessons.
You may not take this exam before submitting Lessons 1-4; ideally, you should wait to take it until you have received lesson 4 back from me. The second exam will be comprehensive but give more attention to material introduced in Lessons 5-10. You may not take this exam before submitting Lessons 5-10. Each exam will pose 25 questions designed to elicit short answers. Many of the questions will ask, not for a memorized formula of a principle, but for an application of the principle to a specific case. For example, rather than ask what i-umlaut is, I will ask why the plural of goose is geese and not gooses. You will need to know that i-umlaut is the cause, and you must be able to show how it works. Some questions, of course, will involve simple matters of fact, such as when William the Conqueror invaded England. You will need to remember a lot of information, but all that you need to remember is addressed in the relevant lesson plans. You are free, of course, to include any other relevant information that the textbook (Baugh/Cable) provides, and such information will help your grade on an exam, but you can earn an A in the course without it. The use of the textbook or any other source is strictly forbidden during the exams.

Course Evaluation & Grading criteria:
There are two (2) exams and ten (10) assignments. Each assignment is worth 10 points; each exam is worth 100. The total number of points for the class is 300.

A maximum of 300 points can be earned in this course.

Assignments (10): 100pts 25%
Exams (3): 200pts 75%

300pts 100.0%

GRADING SCALE:
Percent Points Grade
90% - 100% 270 – 300 A
80% - 89% 240 – 269 B
70% - 79% 210 – 239 C
60% - 69% 180 – 209 D
59% and Below Less than 179 F

Syllabus subject to change with notice.

Academic Integrity
As a student taking a course at the University of Oklahoma you are expected to uphold the academic integrity code. Please visit http://integrity.ou.edu and familiarize yourself with the standards you will be held to while taking your course.

Religious Observance
It is the policy of the University to excuse the absences of students that result from religious observances and to reschedule examinations and additional required classwork that may fall on religious holidays, without penalty.
Reasonable Accommodation Policy
Students requiring academic accommodation should contact the Disability Resource Center for assistance at (405) 325-3852 or TDD: (405) 325-4173. For more information please see the Disability Resource Center website http://www.ou.edu/drc/home.html Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities.

Title IX Resources and Reporting Requirement
For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on call 24/7. To learn more or to report an incident, please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office at 405-325-2215 (8 to 5, M-F) or OU Advocates at 405-615-0013 (24/7). Also, please be advised that a professor/GA/TA is required to report instances of sexual harassment, sexual assault, or discrimination to the Sexual Misconduct Office. For more information, please see http://www.ou.edu/eoo.
Course Plan ENGL 4133

Lesson 1
1. Read Lesson 1: English Phonology
2. Complete Assigned Reading
3. Complete Lesson 1 Assignment

Lesson 2
1. Read Lesson 2: The Indo-European Family of Languages
2. Complete Assigned Reading
3. Complete Lesson 2 Assignment

Lesson 3
1. Read Lesson 3: Old English
2. Complete Assigned Reading
3. Complete Lesson 3 Assignment

Lesson 4
1. Read Lesson 4: Foreign Influences on Old English
2. Complete Assigned Reading
3. Complete Lesson 4 Assignment

Exam 1
1. Schedule Exam 1
2. Take Exam 1

Lesson 5
1. Read Lesson 5: English from the Norman Conquest (1066) to 1500
2. Complete Assigned Reading
3. Complete Lesson 5 Assignment

Lesson 6
1. Read Lesson 6: Middle English
2. Complete Assigned Reading
3. Complete Lesson 6 Assignment

Lesson 7
1. Read Lesson 7: The Renaissance
2. Complete Assigned Reading
3. Complete Lesson 7 Assignment

Lesson 8
1. Read Lesson 8: The Appeal to Authority, 1650-1800
2. Complete Assigned Reading
3. Complete Lesson 8 Assignment
Lesson 9
1. Read Lesson 9: The Nineteenth Century and After
2. Complete Assigned Reading
3. Complete Lesson 9 Assignment

Lesson 10
1. Read Lesson 10: The History of English in America
2. Complete Assigned Reading
3. Complete Lesson 10 Assignment