

English 221: The English Language

(Guidelines subject to change)

Fall 2006

Instructor: John Black

Classroom: Memorial 302

Class schedule: MW 12:50-2

Email: jrb1@moravian.edu

Office: Zinzendorf 303

Office Hours: MW 2:15-3:45,

and by appointment

English Dept. Phone: 861-1390

Required text:

Millward, C. M., *A Biography of the English Language*. 2nd ed. Boston: Thomson Wadsworth, 1996. (On syllabus as *BEL*.)

Other course materials:

 (These may be found in the reserves or reference sections in Reeves Library.)

The Adventure of English: 500 A.D. to 2000 A.D. 8 parts. Narrated by Melvyn Bragg. Princeton, N.J.:

Films for the Humanities and Sciences. (DVD videorecordings on reserve; 'AOE' on syllabus.)

The Oxford English Dictionary. Oxford: Clarendon, 1989-. (20 vols. in Reference; referred to as *OED*.)

In Search of the First Language. Boston: NOVA/WGBH Educational Foundation, 1994. (Videorecording on reserve.)

American Tongues. Dir. by Louis Alvarez and Andrew Kolker. New York: Center for New American Media, 1986. (Videorecording on reserve.)

Course Description, Objectives, and Format: Welcome to English 221! As a required course for English majors and minors at Moravian, this class is designed to engage students in tracing the evolution of the English language from its origins in the fifth century to the present day. After briefly considering the origins and expression of language in general, we will examine the development of English from the Old English period, through the Middle English and Early Modern English periods, up to Present-Day English or 'Englishes'. In our journey through the chronology and biography of English, we will examine both the 'outer' and 'inner' histories of the language, looking at how social, historical, political, and intellectual contexts have influenced the development of the language in its phonology, graphics, morphology, syntax, lexicon, and semantics. The examination of changes and forces involved in the development of the language will help us understand and appreciate more fully the richness and vigor of English in its many forms and uses. For our study of the history of the language, we'll rely on a mix of short lectures, audio-visual aids, presentations, and, most importantly, discussion: *preparation and participation are, therefore, essential to the success of the class and to your success in it.*

Assignments: You will have three exams based on our chronological study of the development of the language. Each exam will consist of short answer and essay questions. None of the exams is cumulative. As part of a group, you will make a presentation, based on one of the videos we view and discuss for the class. In addition, you will complete several other shorter exercises and projects. Specific requirements for the assignments will be discussed in advance of each assignment. Assignments are due in class on the due dates noted on the syllabus. **I do not accept or read late assignments, except under very unusual circumstances.**

Extra Credit: Students may earn up to a total of three points of extra credit through confirmed participation in various activities related to language, literature, and writing. A student whose attendance is verified at the MC Undergraduate Conference in Medieval and Early Modern Studies, at the Dodge Poetry Festival, at a MCTC production, or at a MC poetry or fiction reading will earn one point for each activity. Attendance at performances and readings at other Lehigh Valley institutions may also be eligible for extra credit. Similarly, any student for whom submission of creative work to *Manuscript* or other literary journal is verified will have one point added to his/her final grade. Also, any student for whom a session with the Writing Center is verified will have one point added to his/her final grade. Total extra credit may not exceed three points. One hundred points is the maximum total for the course.

Attendance and Participation:

Be here: I will take roll regularly. You are expected to attend each day. **Be prompt:** Class begins at 12:50 pm sharp. **Be prepared:** Your first responsibility is to read carefully and be prepared to discuss, both orally and in writing, all assignments. You should expect to devote several hours to preparing for

each class. **Participate:** Classes become more meaningful the more you engage yourself in them. You are expected to make comments or ask questions on the readings and topics each day. I will not hesitate to call on you if you are not contributing. Class time allotted for group work, group discussion, draft feedback, etc. is instructional time; you are expected to remain focused on the assigned activity for all of the allotted time.

If you know you will be absent from class, please talk to me beforehand. If you are sick, please notify me as soon as possible. *Your absence from more than three classes may affect your final grade. Every three times you come to class late or leave early without talking to me first will also count as an unexcused absence. Missing more than five classes may result in your failing the course. If you are absent, it is wholly your responsibility to determine what was covered in class and what revisions, if any, were made to the syllabus in your absence.*

One of the qualities I appreciate most in students is **professionalism**. Students who exhibit this quality are alert, responsive, and tactful in class, turn in thoughtful assignments, meet deadlines, and keep me informed of any difficulties or successes they have while in my class.

Note: Please refrain from bringing food and drink into the classroom. Also, please turn off all cell phones and beepers before coming into the classroom. Please arrange to go to the restroom before or after class.

Office Hours: Students are always welcome in my office. My office hours are times that I have set aside specifically to talk with you – not only about class and assignments, but also about life at Moravian, about something fun and exciting you've done, or whatever. I'm also available by appointment.

Other Resources:

- The Writing Center <http://home.moravian.edu/public/eng/writingCenter/appointments.htm>
- Reeves librarians and the library webpage (<http://home.moravian.edu/public/reeves>)
- Learning Services (1307 Main St., 861-1510) <http://home.moravian.edu/public/stusvc/learning/>
- Counseling Ctr (1307 Main St., 861-1510) <http://home.moravian.edu/public/stusvc/counseling/>
- Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Learning Services Office (1307 Main St., 861-1510) as soon as possible to enhance the likelihood that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism, intentionally representing someone else's work as your own, is a breach of personal integrity and a violation of the College's Academic Honesty Policy: see pp. 26-31 in the *Student Handbook* or consult <http://www.moravian.edu/studentLife/handbook/academic2.htm> **Read this policy in its entirety.** I take the provisions of the Academic Honesty Policy very seriously and am obliged to report any suspected cases of plagiarism, the consequences of which may be failure, suspension, or dismissal from the College. If you plagiarize, you will receive a 'zero' on the plagiarized assignment, which will very likely result in your failure for the course. Ignorance of what constitutes plagiarism will not be accepted as an excuse. If at any time you have any questions about documenting sources properly (MLA style) or as to whether or not the aid you are receiving is authorized, don't hesitate to ask me. The Reeves Library online research tutorial also addresses the issue: <http://home.moravian.edu/public/reevestutorial/pages/index.htm>

Evaluation:

(The instructor will apply both quantitative and qualitative assessments in determining grades for assignments and for the course. Final grades calculated on 10-pt. scale: 90=A-, 80=B-, etc.)

Exam on Old English	20%
Exam on Middle English	20%
Exam on Early Modern and Present-Day English.....	20%
Group Presentation.....	20%
Exercises and minor projects.....	10%
Attendance and class participation.....	10%

You must complete all these requirements in order to be eligible to pass the course.

English 221

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(Syllabus subject to change)

Aug.	28	M	Introduction; policies; syllabus; view <i>American Tongues</i> video
	30	W	Introduction, Phonology, and Writing: <i>BEL</i> Chapters 1, 2, & 3
Sept.	4	M	No class – Labor Day
	6	W	Overview of English
	11	M	<i>In Search of the First Language</i> (video) – group presentation
	13	W	Language Families and Indo-European: <i>BEL</i> Chpt. 4
	18	M	Overview of resources for the study of the English language; exercises
	20	W	<i>AOE 1 – Birth of the English Language</i> (video) – group presentation
	25	M	Old English: <i>BEL</i> Chpt. 5, part I (pp. 75-106)
	27	W	Old English: <i>BEL</i> Chpt. 5, part II (pp. 107-140)
Oct.	2	M	Old English exercises
	4	W	Exam – Old English
	9	M	No class – Fall Break
	11	W	<i>AOE 2 – English Goes Underground</i> (video) – group presentation
	16	M	Middle English: <i>BEL</i> Chpt. 6, part I (pp. 141-180)
	18	W	Middle English: <i>BEL</i> Chpt. 6, part II (pp. 181-222)
	23	M	Middle English exercises
	25	W	<i>AOE 3 – Battle for the Language of the Bible</i> (video) – group presentation
	30	M	Exam – Middle English
Nov.	1	W	<i>AOE 4 – “This Earth, This Realm, This England”</i> (video) – group presentation
	6	M	Early Modern English: <i>BEL</i> Chpt. 7, part I (pp. 223-259)
	8	W	<i>AOE 5 – English in America</i> (video) – group presentation
	13	M	Early Modern English: <i>BEL</i> Chpt. 7, part II (pp. 260-299)
	15	W	<i>AOE 6 – Speaking Proper</i> (video) – group presentation
	20	M	Present-Day English: <i>BEL</i> Chpt. 8
	22	W	No class – Thanksgiving break

	27	M	<i>AOE 7 - The Language of Empire</i> (video) - group presentation
	29	W	English Around the World: <i>BEL</i> Chpt. 9, part I (pp. 343-378)
Dec.	4	M	<i>AOE 8 - Many Tongues Called English - One World Language</i> (video) - group presentation
	6	W	English Around the World: <i>BEL</i> Chpt. 9, part II (pp. 379-406)
	11	M	Review; course evaluation

Final Exams are scheduled for December 13-19. Plan accordingly.