

English Linguistics: Old and Middle English (A002589)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0

Study time 150 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2024-2025

A (semester 2)

English

Gent

independent work

seminar

lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025

crdts

offering

Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject Linguistics and Literature)

5

A

Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - English)

5

A

Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English)

5

A

Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - German)

5

A

Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Greek)

5

A

Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Italian)

5

A

Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Latin)

5

A

Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Scandinavian Studies)

5

A

Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Spanish)

5

A

Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - English)

5

A

Master of Arts in Historical Linguistics and Literature

5

A

Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature

5

A

Exchange Programme Medieval Studies and Auxiliary Sciences

5

A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Old English, Middle English, diachronic linguistics, historical linguistics

Position of the course

In this advanced subject translation skills are trained with respect to an older stage of English - i.e. Old and early Middle English, and structural insights in the language, cultural-historical insights in the society in which these texts were composed. Students get a deeper insight into linguistic and social mechanisms of language change.

Position of the course in terms of language proficiency: In the master programme in English, students are expected to develop from an initial CEFR C1 level into a first-stage C2 level ("Mastery").

Contents

In a first part of the course, students get an overview of the most important extant Old and early Middle English texts, the history and archeology of life in Anglo-Saxon England and the (socio-) linguistic development of Old and Middle English.

In a second part of the course we discuss a number of selected topics, such as the causes of language change, the history of English spelling or the use of corpora.

Throughout the semester, students work on a project around a topic that is close to their own research interests. They prepare a presentation on this topic on the basis of a literature study of a specific linguistic topic in the history of English.

Initial competences

- To master English at CEFR C1 level ("Expert"/"Effective operational" proficiency).
- Thorough knowledge of the grammatical terminology needed for the morpho-syntactic description of Old and Middle English.

Final competences

- 1 Being capable of demonstrating an advanced knowledge of the morpho-syntactic structure of Old and Middle English.
- 2 Being able to explain Old and Middle English texts in their social-historical context.
- 3 Being capable of demonstrating advanced knowledge of the most important cultural-historical themes in Anglo-Saxon society.
- 4 Being capable of demonstrating advanced knowledge of the most important developments in the linguistic evolution of Old and Middle English.
- 5 Being capable of demonstrating an advanced knowledge of the sociolinguistic situation of Middle English (in contact with other languages as (Norman) French and Latin).
- 6 Digital humanities: Augmentation: Enriching: Enriching research objects digitally with information such as annotations or metadata.
- 7 Digital humanities: Exploration: Discovery: Using digital search environments and search strategies to identify research objects.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Lectures: historical overview of the linguistic development (phonology, grammar, lexicon) and cultural context in which English developed
- Working lectures: exercises on e.g. Old English pronunciation and translation of Old and Middle English texts; presentations by students
- independent work: project work on a topic in the linguistic history of English

Study material

None

References

- Baugh, A.C. & Cable, T. (2002, fifth edition), *A History of the English Language*. London: Routledge.
- Brinton, L., & Bergs, A. (Eds.). (2017). *Old English*. De Gruyter, Inc.
- Burrow, J.A. & Turville-Petre, T. (1992). *A book of Middle English*, Oxford: Blackwell.
- Fennell, B., *A history of English: A sociolinguistic approach*. Oxford and Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2001.
- McCully, C. & Hilles, S. (2005). *The Earliest English. An introduction to Old English language*. London: Longman.

Course content-related study coaching

Class feedback. Individual feedback (in groups of two) on project work.

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Presentation, Written assessment with open-ended questions, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

essay and feedback forms (written); oral presentation

Calculation of the examination mark

100% continuous assessment, including an essay, a written test with open questions (midterm test), an oral presentation and a report on peers' projects.

Students who do not take part in the assessment of one of the four parts of the course evaluation cannot pass the course evaluation. Should the average mark be higher than 10/20, the final mark will be reduced to the highest non-pass mark (= 9).

Facilities for Working Students

1. Class attendance is mandatory for a number of teaching activities (midterm test, presentation, reports on fellow students' presentations)
2. Class attendance is recommended for a number of additional lectures.
3. Lectures will not be recorded but sufficient online learning material will be provided
4. Possibility to receive feedback at another time: by appointment