1. **The contents of the course.**

The course is composed of a series of lectures complemented by a series of tutorials. Lectures will be devoted to a **problem-oriented presentation and discussion** of the history of the English language from Old English through Middle English to Early Modern English, together with selected theoretical aspects of historical linguistics. Tutorials will contain a **detailed practical discussion** of the history of the language, with elements of modern English dialectology. Attention in the tutorials will also be given to **dictionary-assisted reading and understanding original text samples** from the periods discussed.

The length — **but not the content** — of the course varies, depending on the major selected:

1. **academic major:** 30h lectures, 60h tutorials
2. **teaching major:** 15h lectures, 60h tutorials
3. **Celtic major:** 30h lectures, 30h tutorials
4. **South African major:** 15h lectures, 30h tutorials

2. **Contents of the lecture series.**

The lecture series will cover the following topics:

1. Periodisation of the history of English
2. Old English nominal system — theory
3. Old English nominal system — paradigms
4. Standardisation — theory, Old English
5. Old English verbal system — theory, weak verbs, subjunctive
6. Old English verbal system — strong verbs
7. Old English verbal system — praeterito-presentia, anomalous
8. Foreign influences — typology, Celtic, Latin
9. Old English adjectives
10. Old English pronouns
11. Syntax — Old English
12. Language change — motivations
13. Language change — typology
14. Middle English vocalic quantitative changes
15. Middle English vocalic qualitative changes
16. Middle English consonantal changes
17. Foreign influences — Scandinavian, French
18. Middle English nouns
19. Middle English adjectives and pronouns
20. Standardisation — Middle English and beyond
21. Middle English verbs
Regardless of the programme you're majoring in, you are required to cover the entire course material.

3. Textbooks.

There will be no one single textbook for the lecture series as there is none that meets our needs and requirements.

The following textbooks will be more or less obligatory for the tutorial series:


These books — in particular (1) and (2) — are old, but still among the best as far as the presentation of the system of the language is concerned. In addition to this list, you are strongly encouraged to use supplementary textbooks and readings.

Your teachers will have their own preferences, but some strongly suggested supplementary textbooks are:


4. Signature requirements.
The attendance for the lecture component is not obligatory. However, students are required to complete a short test and submit a short written assignment via Moodle e-learning platform after every lecture; fulfillment of this requirement **on time** is the **condition for successfully completing** this component of the course. Depending on the programmer you’re majoring in, your final grade will reflect your performance over one or two semesters.

Requirements for the tutorial component are set by individual lecturers. Students will be informed of them during the first meeting.

5. **Final examination.**

The mode of the final examination is **written**.

All groups will have the examination on the same day, at the same venue.

The final examination will consist of **twelve** questions and will last two and a half hours. Two questions will concern the external history of the English language and will be based on Fisiak’s *An outline history of English*. Topics for these questions are available on the Moodle e-learning platform. A sample examination will be made available on the Moodle e-learning platform.

Regardless of the programme you’re majoring in, you are required to master the entire course material for the final exam.

6. **Important places to bookmark**

The official web page of the Department of the History of English

The HELLe course (lectures) on Faculty’s Moodle e-learning platform

The Department of the History of English on Facebook

N.B. Liking our Facebook page will earn you an extra 1% towards your final exam grade.