

Macao Polytechnic Institute

School of Languages and Translation

Bachelor of Arts in International Chinese Language Education

(Applicable to Native Speakers of Chinese)

Module Outline

Learning Module	History of the English		Class Code	ENGL4100	
Pre-requisite(s)	Nil				
Medium of Instruction	English			Credit	2
Lecture Hours	30 hrs	Lab/Practice Hours	0 hr	Total Hours	30 hrs

Description

This course introduces students to the stages of change of the English language from its Indo-European and Germanic origins to the modern-day dialects found around the world. It takes students through the major periods in history and the influences of language changes that occurred with the mix of different groups of people. It also attempts to provide reasons for changes in the grammar, pronunciation, and vocabulary of the English language from its beginnings to modern times. In addition, the course is intended to broaden the student's mind with regards to the role of English in the world today and various attitudes towards it from a variety of different perspectives.

The approaches of this course will be a combination of linguistics and literary criticism. Our goal here is to understand the great impact that studying the history of English can have on our appreciation of social, cultural, literary, and linguistic change. With the lectures, the student can find the history of English embedded in the words we use, the literature we read, and the everyday lives that the English-speaking people lead. We will learn about the past, but also see the making of our own present.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the learning module, students will have acquired:

1. a good understanding regarding the evolution of the English language
2. an enhanced understanding of the politics behind the language
3. improved analytical writing abilities
4. the ability to understand and express complex ideas clearly both orally and written
5. an overall sense of global attitudes towards English and languages in general

Content

Week 1	Introduction to the Course
Week 2	Overview of the History of English
Week 3	Investigating Change in English
Week 4	Test 1
Week 5	Spelling and Speech Sounds
Week 6	Borrowing Words
Week 7	New Words from Old
Week 8	Changing Meanings
Week 9	Test 2
Week 10	Grammar: Nouns
Week 11	Grammar: Verbs
Week 12	Dialects and Standardisation
Week 13	World Englishes
Week 14	Course Review
Week 15	Exam

Teaching Method

Lectures, videos, case studies, group discussions

Attendance

Attendance requirements are governed by the “Academic Regulations Governing Bachelor’s Degree Programmes of Macao Polytechnic Institute”.

Assessment

This learning module is graded on a 100-point scale, with 100 being the highest possible score and 50 being the passing score. The final grade will be determined by a combination of continuous assessment and a final examination. The breakup of the marks is as follows:

Participation	10%
Tests (2 times)	60%
Exam	30%

Cheating Warning: Plagiarism is an act of fraud. It is using others' ideas and words without clearly acknowledging the source of that information. A zero mark will normally be given to that piece of work if a student copies someone else's work or lets someone copy his/her own work.

Teaching Materials

Textbook

Culpeper, J. *History of English*. London and New York: Routledge, 1997.

References

Crystal, D. *The Stories of English*. London: Allen Lane, 2004.

Freeborn, D. *From Old English to Standard English*. London: Macmillan, 2006.

Leith, D. *A Social History of English*. London: Routledge, 1997.

Lerer, S. *The History of the English Language* (DVDs with handbooks). Chantilly, VA: The Teaching Company, 1998.

McCrum, R. *et al. The Story of English*. London: Penguin, 2002.