

English 4513 History of the English Language  
Fall semester 2019: Bea Wood 226 – JIM HOGGARD ROOM  
Class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 10:50 AM.

Dr. Peter Fields, associate professor of English  
Email is peter.fields@msutexas.edu  
Office is Bea Wood 230 on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of PY at the end closest to dorms

Office Hours: MW 12:30 – 2:00 PM; TR 2:00-3:00 PM.

Required book

This Language, A River: A History of English. By K. Aaron Smith and Susan M. Kim. Peterborough, Ontario: Broadview, 2018.

Course goals

Write THREE 900-word (three-paragraph) typed double-spaced responses in support of a thesis position that answers this question: How does English work? MLA formatted; only one source: *This Language, A River*. Bibliographic citation at the end.

Present FIVE PowerPoint Presentations: each person in a group takes 10 minutes on a topic found in that day's relevant chapter. Presentations also review the relevant exercises.

Outside Source Response. Prior to our two week in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Moffett Lab with Allison Breen, students sign up for Iliad (Interlibrary loan); students order one book and one article, timed to arrive just before we begin the two weeks in the library. Students write a 900-word three paragraph response in class about something in the article OR the book that answers our perennial question: How does English work? MLA formatted. Bibliographic citation at the end. Introduce the author, title (journal) at the beginning.

FINAL EXAM – 50 questions. Students take an exam comprising questions selected from our book.

## Grading

THREE 900-word responses to topics in *This Language, A River*:  
30 percent (10 percent each)

FIVE PowerPoint Presentations: 50 percent (10 percent each)

900-word response for OUTSIDE SOURCE: 10 percent.

Final Exam – 50 questions from our book: 10 percent.

## Suggested Daily Schedule & Due Dates:

Note: Dr. Fields must attend convention for Rocky Mountain MLA and will miss October 10 session in Moffett Library.

### August 27-29

Tuesday Overview of course. Chapter 1. Introduction: Synchronic and diachronic approaches. Exercises 1.1-1.2.

Thursday **Presentation Group 1:** Chapter 2. Grammar Fundamentals, Parts of Speech, pp. 21-47. Exercises 2.1-2.10

### September 3, 5

Tuesday **Presentation Group 2:** Chapter 2, cont. Syntactic Relations for Nouns, pp. 50-55, exercises 2.11-2.14; Sentences, pp. 56-61. Exercises 2.15-2.17.

Thursday **Presentation Group 3:** Chapter 3. Before English. Indo-European and Proto-Indo-European reconstruction, pp. 63-68. The Genetic model: PIE nouns and verbs, pp. 69-76. Exercises 3.1-3.6.

### September 10, 12

Tuesday **Presentation Group 4:** Chapter 4. Introduction to Phonetics and the International Phonetic Alphabet, Symbols pp. 79-82. Consonants & Articulation & Voicing pp. 79-88. Exercises 4.1.1-12.

Thursday **Presentation Group 1:** Chapter 4, Symbols pp. 79-82. Vowels, pp. 88-91, continued. Exercises 4.1.13-25.

September 17-19 First 900-word response due Thurs Sept 19.

Tuesday **Presentation Group 2:** Chapter 5. Germanic. Migrations and branches. Grimm's Law. Verner's Law, pp. 93-99.

Fixed initial stress on root, two-tense systems. Strong and weak adjectives and verbs, pp. 100-105. Exercises 5.1-5.4.

Thursday FIRST 900-WORD RESPONSE DUE.

Thursday **Presentation Group 3:** Chapter 6, Phonemes, allophones, and morphemes, pp. 109-112

September 24 26

Tuesday **Presentation Group 4:** Chapter 7. Old English, Orthography pp. 113-27. Exercises 7.1-7.4.

Thursday **Presentation Group 1:** Chapter 7, cont. Phonology; Old English verb, pp. 128-36. Exercises 7.5-7.7.

October 1 3

All students must participate both Tuesday and Thursday. Allison Breen will be our guide. Think of her as "She Who Must Be Obeyed."

Oct 8 10

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October 15 17 Outside Source Response due Thurs Oct 17

Tuesday **Presentation Group 2:** Chapter 7, cont. OE Personal Pronouns, pp. 136-141. Exercise 7.8.

Thursday OUTSIDE SOURCE RESPONSE DUE.

Thursday **Presentation Group 3:** Chapter 7, cont. OE Adjective, Weak and Minor nouns, pp. 142-45, Exercises 7.9-7.10.

October 22, 24

Tuesday **Presentation Group 4:** Chapter 7, cont. Verb position, parataxis, hypotaxis, and subordination. Influence of Old Norse, pp. 152-60; Old English texts, pp. 160-68.

Thursday **Presentation Group 1:** Chapter 8, Middle English, the Norman Conquest 169-177. Orthography, pp. 178-87. Exercises 8.1-8.4.

MONDAY OCT 28 is the last day for a penalty-free "W."

October 29 31

Tuesday **Presentation Group 2:** Chapter 8, cont. Sound change and strong masculine nouns, pp. 188-91. Exercises 8.1-8.2.

Thursday **Presentation Group 3:** Chapter 8, cont. Loss of [N] in weak nouns, plurals, adjectives, determiners, Personal pronouns, pp. 192-97. Exercises 8.3-8.5.

November 5 7 Second 900-Word Due Date Thursday Nov 7.

Tuesday **Presentation Group 4:** Chapter 8, cont. Expansion of the verb phrase, pp. 197-203. Exercise 8.6-8.10.

Thursday SECOND 900-WORD (three-paragraph) RESPONSE DUE.

Thursday Chapter 8, cont. Middle English literature, pp. 204-214.

November 12 14

Tuesday **Presentation Group 1:** Chapter 9, Early Modern English. Phonology and the Great Vowel Shift, pp. 222-26. Exercise 9.2.

Thursday **Presentation Group 2:** Chapter 9, cont. morphology and syntax, pp. 227-38. Exercise 9.3.

November 19 21

Tuesday **Presentation Group 3:** Chapter 9, cont. Hybrid Verbs, pp. 239-44. Exercise 9.4.

Thursday **Presentation Group 4:** Chapter 9, cont. The King James Bible, Swift, Johnson, and a-prefixed participles, pp. 244-55.

November 26 Thanksgiving Holiday November 27-29.

Tuesday Chapter 10 The Modern Period & Global Englishes, Circles, Nigerian English, Singapore English, American English, pp. 257-70. Exercise 10.1.

Dec 3 5 THIRD 900-Word Response Due Date Thursday Dec 5

Tuesday Immigration, slavery, geographic variation, vocal r, rhoticism, mapping dialects, pp. 270-80. Exercise 10.2.

Thursday THIRD 900-WORD (three-paragraph) RESPONSE DUE.

Thursday Sociolects, pp. 281-85. Exercise 10.3. African-American English, pidgins, creoles, Lumbee, pp. 285-97. Exercise 10.4

December 10 TUE 50-question Final Exam 8:00 AM in our regular classroom. Questions selected from THIS LANGUAGE, A RIVER.

### Plagiarism

Any use of a non-documented source as if it were a student's original work is academic dishonesty. The grade will be a "0" (no points) for the assignment and the student can no longer attend the course. If early enough in the semester, the student can bring the instructor a withdrawal slip for a penalty-free W. Otherwise the semester grade must be an F.

### Language too close to source

Students sometimes borrow the phrasing of the play or their scholarly sources as if it were their own. Students certainly can use key words from their sources, but they must use their own phrasing—not the source's.

### Students with disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute for persons with disabilities and guarantees reasonable accommodation. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Support Services in Room 168 of the Clark Student Center, 397-4140.

### Attendance

Four undocumented absences means 10 percent off the overall semester grade. The professor will accept documentation in the form of cellphone pictures (by email attachment) of clinic sign-in sheets, court dates, prescription labels, repair receipts, and work schedules; he will accept emails from family members, lawyers, and supervisors. Many times students are helping family members or friends in crisis. The key is keeping Dr. Fields in the loop, communicating and working with him by email, and, most

importantly, coming to an agreement on how to document the absences.

#### Late work

Students must submit their work on due dates in person: not by surrogate, not under an office door, not left on a desk, and not by email attachment. If lateness is undocumented, the late penalty is 10 points out of 100. The Final Essay is penalized 10 points if not submitted in the official time window for that final exam.

#### Classroom Policies

Participation is required especially in PowerPoint Groups.

Participation will include presenting in front of the room including use of the big screen.

If you miss (or will miss) class, email the instructor.

Preoccupation with your cell phone may result in removal.

Persistent lack of engagement may result in removal with WF.

If you are at risk for removal, you will receive a warning by email.