English 315, The English Language   Prof. McEntire
Spring 1999   Palmer 313, x 3982

      This course is a study of the history of the English language. It begins with a consideration of what language is and how the language we identify as English came to be, continues with a survey of the historical development of English from the Anglo-Saxon period to the present, and concludes with a consideration of some cultural aspects of the English language. We will look not only at the major figures and events influencing English, but also consider the impact of the Bible and the dictionary on how we think about the English language. Finally, we will discuss standards, jargon, professional and social influences, dialects, bilingualism, and other relevant issues.

Texts:

Thomas Pyles and John Algeo. *The Origins and Developments of the English Language*. NY: Harcourt, 1964, rev. 1993.

Paul Eschholz, Alfred Rosa, and Virginia Clark. *Language Awareness. Essays for College Writers.* 7th edition. NY: St. Martin's, 1997.

Course Evaluation:
      Three exams: 60%
      Class grade (attendance,* preparation of the assigned material, and participation): 20%
      Final essay on an independent research assignment: 20%

*Attendance is assumed; a sliding scale based on number of classes missed will be deducted from this grade.