READ: Rules, Regulations and Policies (SS)

HISTORY 59

Course Description

In this class, you will acquire an understanding of the history of the English language. By studying the events that have shaped the development of English, you will gain an awareness of the implication of great historical processes — conquest, trade, empire, politics and social conflict — in the emergence of English as a modern global language. You will also appreciate the relationship of this history to various peculiarities of English — its idiosyncratic spellings, grammar, and syntax, for example.

At the same time the course provides an introductory exposure to the use of quantitative evidence in humanities fields such as history and literature, showing the ways that it illuminates and complements traditional humanistic approaches—which are, as a rule, decidedly particularizing. You will have the opportunity to engage critically with the evidence and tools through which the history of English has been reconstructed, including particularly the numerous and intensely rationalized databases and flexible search engines that have become available over the last twenty years. Our work with this material will be substantial and is the justification for the S(tastical) R(easoning) General Education notation which the course carries.

We will give particular attention in the class to the online Oxford English Dictionary (begun 1884; CDROM 1992; first online edition released 2000); to the Google Ngram Viewer (released 2010); and to COHA (the Corpus of Historical American English). At the end of the class you will use Voyant Tools, a free, web-based application, to carry out analyses on texts of your choice. Some of these databases are vast (more than a quarter of a million entries and a million words in the OED; over half a trillion words in the dataset supporting the Google Ngram Viewer), and have been provided with intuitive native search engines and lucid data visualizations. Using these and other tools, you will learn to carry out your own investigations: how to appraise the strengths and limitations of databases; how to pose nuanced and original questions; how to evaluate results critically.

Course Requirements

Course work is organized by module, and we will be completing one module per week; you are required to complete the assignments in order, and to finish one module before going on to the next one (with the exception of the final project module...more on this later).
For the historical component of the course, you are required each week to read a chapter or more from Melvyn Bragg's *Adventure of English*, along with excerpts from primary sources and essays written by the instructor of the course and others. Bragg's chapters are supplemented with essays, which are intended to provide additional historical contextualization; explanatory maps (which are notably lacking in Bragg's book); and more and better-quality images. In addition, you will often be directed to read material from external web pages. When such readings are required (and not optional) they have been signaled with directions **WRITTEN IN BOLD RED CAPITALS**. Knowledge of such materials may reliably be expected to be tested by the various quizzes and practica of the class.

Mastery of these many readings is tested by completion of a series of written **Quizzes**. These quizzes are intended to guide you through the reading and may be repeated once for credit. Only your higher score will be recorded in the Canvas Gradebook. Note that questions are generated out of banks and will vary from attempt to attempt.

In connection with the history component of the class you will also watch a variety of videos, including notably a series created by Bragg to accompany his book. Mastery of this material will also be examined by quiz questions within the context of the movies (**Playposit Quizzes**). You may take these quizzes as many times as you like to improve your score.

**Note that for these quizzes, as for all work submitted in the class, you are always expected to respond in your own words, whether the short-answer question specifies this or not.**

In exploring the various databases and tools that we will be using in the class, you will be asked to complete a series of short, problem-oriented tests, which I have called **Practica** (singular Practicum). In 19th century universities, a "practicum" was a seminar devoted to practical methods and techniques that supported research. In these Practica you will be given a series of defined and limited problems, and guided through databases to solutions. You may take the Practica twice for credit. Note that your LATEST score, NOT your HIGHEST score, will be recorded in the gradebook.

Participation in the online **discussion groups** is mandatory. Discussions will occur roughly in alternating weeks. In these you will be required to post at least one response to the module's topic (usually a reading or video segment followed by a question for discussion) and to respond thoughtfully to at least two other students' contributions. You will find further, more detailed instructions in the discussions themselves, and on this page (https://canvas.ucsc.edu/courses/26861/pages/discussion-guidelines).

In many weeks when there are no discussion groups, students will be asked to complete a **brief research project** (~250 words), written to a template provided by the instructor.

At the end of the term all students will complete a more substantial, but still brief (500-1000 words) **final project**. The topic will be "the quantitative analysis of stylometry" — a topic of considerable historical, literary and legal interest and importance. Materials and instructions for this project have been placed in a special "bucket" between the seventh and eighth modules, and will be made available at the beginning of the eighth module. You will choose the texts they want to analyze for the project; the instructor has provided detailed instructions for carrying out the analysis and a template for the paper. A first draft of the
project will be due at the end of the eighth module. The Canvas LMS will assign peer groups after the first draft of the essay is due. You will then comment on the submissions of three other students, and reevaluate their own in light of the experience and according to a rubric created by the instructors and posted with the original assignment. Peer reviews will be due at the end of the ninth module. In light of your experience giving and receiving peer reviews, you will then resubmit a final draft of their essay, which will be due on the last day of class, at the end of the tenth module: Friday, Aug 30 at 11:59 p.m.

There will be no final examination for the course.

A small amount of participation credit will be allowed those who attend Zoom office hours with one of the class instructors at least once in the first three modules of the term, and again during the last three modules. For more details see this page (https://canvas.ucsc.edu/courses/26861/pages/a-note-on-office-hours-1).

Grades and Due Dates

Assignments will be weighted as follows to determine your final grade:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Practica</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes on chapters and essays</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Playposit Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussions</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short Projects</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation (Zooming)</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>10%</td>
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All assignments have a posted due date. PLEASE NOTE THESE AS YOU BEGIN WORKING ON EACH MODULE!

In general:

- the course opens on Monday, July 29 at 8 a.m., and the work for Module 1 is due on Thursday, Aug 1 at 8 a.m.
- even-numbered modules open Wednesdays at 11:59 p.m.; and work is due the next Sunday at 11:59 p.m.
- odd-numbered modules open Saturdays at 11:59 p.m. and work is due the next Thursday at 8 a.m.
- the work for Module 10 is due on Friday, Aug 30 at 11:59 p.m., when the course closes.
- the Final Project is also due on Friday, Aug 30 at 11:59 p.m.

Summer-session courses are fast-paced, and you need to keep up. Any late work will be accepted at the instructors' discretion. Late submissions will be penalized 5% per day or part thereof (up to a maximum penalty of 30%). If an emergency will cause your work to be late, please contact an instructor before the due date.

An Important Note on Grades

We do not grade on a curve. We hope that all of you achieve As in the course; and if you do, we will have no hesitation in giving all As. This is a course in which every one of you should be able, if you put in the work, to achieve an A; and if you do, we will be thrilled. We are mainly interested that you master the material, not in making grades correspond to a bell curve.

Calculation of final grades for the class follows the traditional scales: a final score of 80-82 is an B-, 83-86 is a B, 87-89 is a B+; and so on. Note only that an A+ is 98 and above (NOT 97 and above). We do NOT round marginal scores: so for example 82.9999 is an 82, not an 83. A few of you will inevitably fall on the lines, or very close to them; please keep in mind that we have to draw lines in order to give grades, and moving the line simply creates another division further down the scale.

When you look at your grades, you will notice a little checkbox marked "Calculate based only on graded assignments." When this box is checked, the grade you see will be calculated on the basis of only the assignments (quizzes, discussions, projects, etc.) which you have already submitted and we have graded. Uncheck this box, and the grade you see will be calculated on the basis of all the assignments due over the course of the quarter...even the ones that aren't due yet. Naturally, at the beginning of the term, unchecking this box will show that you are failing, because there's a lot of stuff you haven't done yet! But remember that at the end of the term, any required work that you have not submitted will count against you. See the example below:
Lateness :

Please note that while we try to accommodate special circumstances and late submissions in various ways, slack evaporates at the end of the term. You should note carefully the due dates of the later assignments. In particular, note that

- Work in Module 10 is due on the last day of class, which is a Friday. You will **not** have the weekend to do the work, as you do for the other modules.
- **All** work for the class **must** be completed by the final due date. We are UNABLE to give exceptions, no matter the reason, because the registrar closes access to the course at that time.

A Note on Notifications

It is possible to change the frequency of notifications you receive in your Canvas courses. **Be very careful with this, as you do not want to make your instructors or peers unable to contact you.** We will not be forgiving of problems that you create for yourself by turning off your notifications. If you have ever turned off your notifications in the past, you may want to turn them back on now; this is a screenshot that demonstrates what the notifications preferences page looks like; note that here, notifications have been turned off entirely for changes in due dates and grading policies.
Office Hours

I will hold regular live online office hours using Zoom, the UC-sanctioned teleconferencing tool. Office hours are posted at the beginning of each week, and you can join by clicking the "Office Hours" link in the menu at the left during the scheduled office hours. Office hours are currently scheduled for Wednesdays, from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Pacific Time. **REMINDER:** I am asking all students to attend office hours twice in the course of the quarter: once in the first three weeks and again in the last three weeks. If you are unable to attend the scheduled hours, make an appointment!