# 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 of 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 two modules 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 latest score will be recorded in the Canvas Gradebook: so, if you take the quiz only once that score will be recorded; if you take it twice only the second score will be recorded. Note that questions are generated out of banks, so they will vary from attempt to attempt. Some comments about the grading of the quizzes: You will get your score for the FACTUAL questions immediately. The short WRITTEN responses will not be immediately graded, however, but will have to wait to be marked by an instructor. If you decide to retake the quiz, to avoid late penalties you must also submit it before the due date! Late penalties will apply to work submitted after the due date!

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 (**Yuja 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**.  (In the 19th century, a "practicum" was a seminar devoted to practical methods and techniques that supported research).  In these you will be given a series of defined and limited problems, and

guided through databases to solutions. <span style="color:red">As with the quizzes, you will be allowed to take the Practica twice for credit; only your LATEST score will be recorded in the gradebook).</span>

Participation in the online **discussion groups** is mandatory.  You are required to write a post on the module's topic (usually a reading or video segment followed by a question for discussion) and to respond formally and thoughtfully to the contributions of at least two other students. If an instructor or TA poses a question in response to one of your posts, you are expected to respond! Please note that the discussions are designed to reward interaction: a post and two formal responses are a minimum to receive a passing score!  Further engagement (which can be less formal) will be necessary to receive full marks for a discussion! For more detailed information on scoring you should always check the grading rubrics for the various discussions, and consult our **"guidelines for writing an excellent discussion contribution." (https://canvas.ucsc.edu/courses/55453/pages/excellent-discussion-contributions)**

In some of the modules where 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 the essay, which will be due on the last day of class, at the end of the tenth module: Friday, Aug 26 at 11:59 p.m.

There will be no final examination for the course.

A small amount of participation credit will be given those who attend Zoom office hours at least once in the course of the term.  For more details see **this page (https://canvas.ucsc.edu/courses/55453/pages/a-note-on-office-hours-1)** .

## Grades and Due Dates

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Practica | 20% |
| Quizzes on chapters and essays | 20% |
| Yuja Quizzes | 10% |
| Discussions | 20% |
| Short Projects | 15% |
| Participation (Zooming) | 5% |
| Final Project | 10% |

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 25 at 8 a.m., and the work for Module 1 is due on Thursday, July 28 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.
- Module 10 is an exception to this schedule. The work for Module 10 is due on Friday, Aug. 26 at 11:59 p.m., when the course closes. To allow for the abbreviated time available in Summer Session, I open module 10 earlier, on Monday, Aug. 22 at 11:59 pm.  Note however that you still must complete Module 9 before moving on to module 10!.
- the Final Project is also due on Friday, Aug 26 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 the instructor BEFORE the due date.

## An Important Note on Grades

I do not grade on a curve. I hope that all of you achieve As in the course; and if you do, I 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, I will be thrilled. I am 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 80-83 is an B-, 84-86 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 83.9999 is an 83, not an 84. 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.

**PLEASE NOTE: BY UNIVERSITY POLICY, TO RECEIVE CREDIT FOR THE SR GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT, YOU MUST ACHIEVE AT LEAST A GRADE OF C!  THE GRADE OF C CORRESPONDS TO A FINAL SCORE OF 73-76.  A SCORE OF 72.999 WILL EARN A GRADE OF C MINUS, WHICH WILL NOT EARN THE GENERAL EDUCATION CREDIT. PLEASE KEEP THIS POINT IN MIND AS YOU  DECIDE WHAT SCORES SATISFY YOU!**

When you look at your grades, you will notice a 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:

**Print grades**

Total: 89.83%

Show All Details

**Assignments are weighted by group:**

| Group | Weight |
|---|---|
| Discussions | 10% |
| Assignments | 0% |
| Reading Quizzes | 20% |
| Vocabulary Quizzes | 30% |
| Readings | 0% |
| Writing Assignments | 20% |
| Final Project | 20% |
| **Total** | **100%** |

☑ Calculate based only on graded assignments

| Due | Score | Out of | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Apr 10 by 8am | 20 | 20 | ✓ |
| Apr 10 by 8am | 15.75 | 16 | ✓ |
| Apr 10 by 8am | 18.17 | 19 | ✓ |
| Apr 10 by 11:59pm | 6 | 6 | ✓ |
| Apr 17 by 8am | 17 | 20 | 💬 ✓ |
| Apr 17 by 8am | 11.7 | 13 | 💬 ✓ |
| Apr 17 by 8am | 16.2 | 18 | 💬 ✓ |
| Apr 17 by 8am | 3.6 | 4 | 💬 ✓ |

## Lateness :(

Canvas will provide you with reminders of due dates: BE SURE YOU HAVE YOUR NOTIFICATIONS ON!  You can also track due dates in the class calendar, which you will find in the menu to the far left of your browser screen!  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 will not allow incompletes except in cases of direst and documented emergency, and to students who are achieving a passing mark in the class. (So at the end of the class enough work must have been completed that the student would pass without the time to submit additional material). Incompletes, if granted, will be for no more than a few extra days. Please **read the UCSC policies for granting of incompletes**  **(https://registrar.ucsc.edu/faqs/students/grading/index.html)** .

## 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.

## Sections and Grading

The class is large and it will help you to have some general sense of the grading process.

For the purposes of discussions the class has been divided into sections of equal sizes. You will meet the instructor in charge of your section in the first discussion ("Introduce Yourself") later in this module!

Other assignments-- quizzes, practica and writing assignments for instance-- are not formally organized in sections.  Nevertheless in grading these assignments instructors will give their attention to their sections. So with a few exceptions, the same person who runs your discussion group will mark your other assignments.

There are many assignments, and all require attention. The instructors have the same pressure to remain abreast of work as you do. Please be patient! The instructors aim to have work marked about a week after the student deadline.  **PLEASE NOTE**: if you submit an assignment late you should expect a delay in receiving your grade.

**A SPECIAL NOTE** on Yuja video quizzes. The application that hosts the video quizzes, "Yuja," is a Canvas plugin.  When you complete a Canvas-native quiz your work will show up as completed even before it is graded.  For technical reasons, however, Yuja quizzes will not register as done until they have been loaded into Canvas.  If you have done the Yuja assignment you should not worry that it continues to appear as needing to be completed.

## Office Hours

We 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. Prompts, schedules  and other information about office hours are posted on pages to be found toward the beginning of each module.