

Veranstalter	Dr. Lukas Pietsch
Thema	History of the English Language [AA-V1a/b, ENG-10, AA-W, AA-M2] Kernzeit
Art der Veranstaltung	Vorlesung
Veranstaltungsnummer	53-504
Zeit	2st. Mi 10-12
Raum	ESA B
Beginn	6. April 2011

This lecture course provides a survey of development of the English language in its historical context from the time of the first Anglo-Saxon settlement of Britain to the present day. The major conventional “stages” of the language – Old English, Middle English, Early Modern English – will all be introduced, with a view to understanding the present structure of the language as the product of its history, and in relation to its nearest neighbours and relatives (including German). The dynamics of major types of processes of language change – language contact, standardization, grammaticalization, the role of dialects – will also be discussed, as will be some of the large theoretical questions looming in the background: why, and how, do languages change in the first place?

Suggested reading:

Baugh, Albert C. & Thomas Cable (1993): A history of the English language. London: Routledge.

McMahon, April (1995): Understanding language change. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:	Mi 12.30-14 Uhr, Phil 1157
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