

Veranstalter:	Prof. Dr. Peter Siemund
Modul:	The History of English [ENG-10, ENG-4a, AA9, LAA11, LAA12, LAA13, ENGAGE-M02, SLM-WB, Master-WB, SG]
Art der Veranstaltung:	Vorlesung
Veranstaltungsnummer:	53-504
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Course description:

The history of English is marked by several events which, taken together, can go a long way towards explaining the enormous structural and lexical differences between the language as it is spoken today and the one used by the Teutonic tribes who started to invade the British Isles at around 449 AD from the south-eastern tip of England. Several successive waves of warriors and settlers from Northern Europe as well as a prolonged period of French influence have changed the character of English profoundly. Moreover, from its very beginnings English has been in an intimate contact with the Celtic languages. Some scholars even think that English has been shaped by language contact to such an extent that it is better discussed in the context of Creole languages.

This lecture series explores the development of English from an originally truly Germanic language to a language which today in many respects takes up a marginal position in this family and which has also distanced itself considerably from Standard Average European. Linguistic developments will be discussed in the context of the historical processes that triggered them. Nevertheless, it will also be shown that linguistic change cannot always be tied to influence from outside, but may also be due to language internal forces.

The lecture series specifically addresses undergraduate students, but is also useful for students in their final exams. The following books are recommended as background reading:

Baugh, Albert C. & Thomas Cable (1993) *A History of the English Language*. London: Routledge.
Görlach, Manfred (1997) *The Linguistic History of English*. Oxford: Macmillan.

Sprechstunden im Semester:	s. Sprechstundenliste
Sprechstunden in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit:	s. Sprechstundenliste