

Veranstalter:	Prof. Dr. Thomas Berg
Modul:	The Rise and Fall of Linguistic Categories [ENG-4, ENG-4a, ENG-10, ENG-11, AA7, AA9, LAA8, LAA11, ENGAGE-M01a, ENGAGE-M02]
Art der Veranstaltung:	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer:	53-516
Zeit:	2st. Do 14-16
Raum:	Ü35-01047
Beginn:	17.10.2019
<p>Course description:</p> <p>It is a curious observation that linguistic categories come and go for no apparent reason. It would even appear that they have a life cycle of their own. However inadequate the description of language in terms of a biological organism may be, there is no denying that language is subject to the eternal wheel of change and that change involves the appearance of new, and the disappearance of, old categories.</p> <p>The aim of this course is to study the major changes that have taken place in the history of English from the “incoming-and-outgoing” perspective. English lends itself quite well to such an analysis in view of the drastic differences between Old and Present-day English. All structural levels have a contribution to make to this topic because no single level is immune to change. To name but a few examples, English lost its front rounded vowels and nominal gender while it gained the definite article and phonologically conditioned allomorphy.</p> <p>Our focus will be on grammatical categories not only because they have seen particularly dramatic restructuring but also because they define the nature of a particular language more clearly than any other categories. Lexical change will also be considered even though it is the most unpredictable of all types of change. Semantic change will play an additional role, but again, laws of semantic change have been slow in coming.</p>	
Sprechstunde Vorlesungszeit:	By appointment only
Sprechstunde vorlesungsfreie Zeit:	By appointment only