



**Department of English**

**College of Education**

**University of Salahaddin**

**Subject: The history of language**

**Coursebook – 4<sup>th</sup> Year**

**Lecturer's name: Dr. Basima Othman Mahmood**

**Academic Year: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester 2023/2024**

## Coursebook

1. Course name	History of Language
2. Lecturer in charge	Basima Othman Mahmood
3. Department/ College	English /Education
4. Contact	e-mail: <a href="mailto:basima.mahmood@su.edu.krd">basima.mahmood@su.edu.krd</a>
5. Time (in hours) per week	Theory3
6. Office hours	20hrs.
7. Course code	
9. Keywords	Celts, Rome , Vikings, Old English
10. Course overview:	<p>This study provides essential context, concepts, and information regarding the evolution of spoken and written language, including historical shifts in language usage. We will explore the dynamic nature of the English language as it has transformed and continues to evolve. The course is structured around four significant historical periods: Old English, which encompasses the language spoken in England from the arrival of the Anglo-Saxons in the late fifth century to the Norman conquest; Middle English (1100-1500); Early Modern English; and Modern English (15th century to the present day). A recommended text for our course is "The History of the English Language" by Sambrook (1947) and Viney (2003).</p>
11. Course objective:	<p>The language spoken by two of the world's most influential powers possesses a remarkable, intricate, and captivating character. However, comprehending how this linguistic richness was achieved requires delving into the historical narrative of England, as a nation's language evolution is inseparable from its history. Thus, the English language emerged through the amalgamation of elements from various linguistic sources, culminating in a synthesis of two primary components: the robust and pragmatic qualities of the Anglo-Saxons, which were enriched and imbued with musicality through Latin influence. Over the course of 2,000 years, the language has undergone constant shaping, modification, and expansion, drawing upon linguistic influences from virtually every corner of the world. The outcome is an extensive lexicon embodied in the form of the New English Dictionary.</p>

## 12. Student's obligation

Regular attendance is essential since this course delves into challenging subjects and builds upon prior knowledge. Frequently, the class serves as a chance to elucidate and streamline crucial ideas found in the reading materials, so I cannot guarantee acceptance of all excuses for absences. In the event of your absence for any reason, it is incumbent upon you to make up for the missed content and ascertain if there were any supplementary assignments or tasks.

### Assessment scheme

10 Marks for daily participation and quizzes +  
30 Marks for written exams = 40 + 60 Marks ( Final Exam)=100 Total Mark

Activity	% of the final grade
Participation	10 %
assignments	10 %
Monthly exam	20 %
Final exam	60 %

## 13. Forms of teaching:

- 1- Textbook
- 2-Whiteboard
- 3-Data show

## 14. Assessment scheme:

Three monthly examinations  
Seminars  
Writing reports and quizzes  
Final examination

## 15. Student learning outcome:

Students will come to understand why English holds the title of a "global language" because it is spoken or used as a first, second, or official language by a multitude of people across diverse regions. When we examine how languages are spoken today, we can identify certain resemblances that suggest their common origin in Proto-Indo-European. Furthermore, students will recognize that, in the four centuries following the Norman Conquest, the English language underwent more significant changes than in any other period of its history. During this time, a multitude of French words entered the language, while many Old English words exited. Simultaneously, Middle English underwent grammatical simplification. Upon completing the course, students will possess the ability to discern and elucidate specific cultural influences on language evolution in the development of English. They will also be

equipped to analyze the connection between spelling and pronunciation in various historical stages of the English language.

### **16. Course Reading List and References:**

1. History of English language by Sambrook 1947
2. History of English language by Viney 2003.
3. The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of the British Language: David Crystal 2003.
4. The Story of England by Christopher Hibbert 1992

### **17. The Topics:**

- Introduction
- The origin of language
- English today
- The beginnings of English
- Old English
- The Normans in English
- Middle English
- Modern English begins
- Bringing order to English
- English in America
- The future of English
- All kinds of English