



Universidade de Vigo

Variation and Change in English

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GUÍA DOCENTE E MATERIAL DIDÁCTICO

2024/2025

***MÁSTER INTERUNIVERSITARIO EN ESTUDOS INGLESES AVANZADOS E AS SÚAS
APLICACIÓNS***

AUTORES: Dolores González Álvarez (coord.), María José López Couso, Belén Méndez
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NOMBRE DE LA ASIGNATURA / COURSE NAME

Variation and Change in English

CRÉDITOS ECTS / CREDITS

3 ECTS

CARÁCTER / COURSE TYPE

Optional

CUATRIMESTRE / TERM

Second semester

REQUISITOS PREVIOS RECOMENDADOS / PRIOR REQUIREMENTS

None

OBJETIVOS/OBJECTIVES

The aim of this module is to familiarise students with the major issues and methodologies of variationist research as well as to equip them with the necessary skills and tools to identify, analyse and interpret particular cases of variation and/or linguistic change at the different levels of analysis (phonological, morphosyntactic, lexical and semantico-pragmatic).

COMPETENCIAS / COMPETENCES

G01 - Ability to delve into those concepts, principles, theories or models related to the various areas of English Studies, as well as to become familiar with the methodology required to solve those problems typical of this field of study.

G02 - Ability to apply the knowledge gained/obtained within the multidisciplinary and

multifaceted/versatile area of English Studies.

G03 - Ability to use the new information and communication technologies (ICTs) efficiently within the realm of English Studies.

G04 - Ability to present experiences, ideas or reports in public, as well as to express informed opinions based on criteria, external rules or personal reflections, for which a sufficient command of the academic and scientific language, both written and oral, will be necessary.

G05 - Abilities to investigate and manage new knowledge and information within the context of English Studies.

G06 - Ability to acquire/achieve critical thinking that will lead students to consider the relevance of the existing research in the fields of study that make up/shape/define English Studies, as well as the relevance of their own investigations.

G07 - Abilities to consolidate and develop the C2 linguistic competence in the spoken and written use of the English language.

G08 - Progressive autonomy in the learning process, personal/individual search for resources and information, by getting access/accessing (to) bibliographical and documentary references on the various areas that make up/define/shape English Studies.

G09 - Ability to carry out research work of an academic nature in the different realms of English Studies.

G10 - Ability to present research work using the appropriate terminology and resources.

E01 - Knowledge of the main methods of linguistic research.

E02 - Knowledge of the main resources, tools and methods for linguistic research.

E06 – Knowledge of studies and research on language variation and change in English.

CONTENIDOS / CONTENTS

1. Introducing language variation and change: linguistic variation as a condition for linguistic change.
2. Basic types of linguistic change: Simplification and elaboration.
3. Factors determining variation and change: Internal and external factors.
4. Materials for the study of variation and change in English. The nature of the evidence and its limitations.
5. Variation and change in the different linguistic components.
6. An overview of approaches to the study of language variation and change.

METODOLOGÍA / TEACHING METHODOLOGY

This course combines lectures and seminars, together with online coursework and other assignments.

Each student will be assigned a topic for a written paper and an oral presentation.

DISTRIBUCIÓN DE ACTIVIDADES / ACTIVITY DISTRIBUTION

Lectures	5h	100% attendance
In-class interactive seminars	7h	100% attendance
Tutoring	2h	100% attendance
Active participation in online forums	4h	0% attendance
Online self-assessment activities	2h	0% attendance
Assignments and paper writing	31h	0% attendance
Recommended readings (including self-assessment) and bibliographic search	24h	0% attendance

EVALUACIÓN/ASSESSMENT

First opportunity:

1. 5% Active participation in the sessions. Please note that attendance to the sessions is compulsory. (Assessed competences: G04, G06, G07)
2. 45% Exercises (e.g. in-class or home assignments) to be submitted via the teaching platform. (Assessed competences: G01, G02, G03, G04, G05, G06, G07, G08, E01, E02, E06)
3. 50% Oral presentation and paper (1,500 words, excluding references). (Assessed competences: G01, G02, G03, G04, G05, G06, G07, G08, G09, G10, E01, E02, E06)

In order to pass this module, students must obtain at least a mark of 50 (out of 100) in items 2 and 3.

Second opportunity:

Students will have to repeat only those parts (exercise(s) and paper) in which they did not reach a pass in the first opportunity.

Students officially exempt from class attendance:

Students will have to hand in all course exercises (50%) and submit an essay on a case study (2,000 words excluding references) (50%).

Important notes:

All exercises and tests will be done in English. Overall correctness in language and in the use of formal conventions is indispensable. Therefore, grammatical and orthographic mistakes will be penalised.

Academic misconduct (including cheating, plagiarism, collusion or fabrication of results) will not be tolerated and will be penalised.

BIBLIOGRAFÍA RECOMENDADA/RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Aitchinson, Jean. 1990. *Language Change: Progress or Decay?* 2nd edn. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Bergs, Alexander & Laurel J. Brinton (eds.). 2012. *English Historical Linguistics. An International Handbook*. 2 vols. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.
- Brinton, Laurel J. (ed.). 2017. *English Historical Linguistics. Approaches and Perspectives*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Brinton, Laurel J. & Leslie K. Arnovick. 2011. *The English Language. A Linguistic History*. 2nd edn. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Brinton, Laurel J. & Elizabeth C. Traugott. 2005. *Lexicalization and Language Change*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Burridge, Kate & Alexander Bergs. 2017. *Understanding Language Change*. London: Routledge.
- Campbell, Lyle. 1998. *Historical Linguistics. An Introduction*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- Chambers, J.K., Peter Trudgill & Natalie Schilling-Estes (eds.). 2013. *The Handbook of Language Variation and Change*. 2nd edn. London: Blackwell Publishing Ltd.
- Fischer, Olga. 2007. *Morphosyntactic Change*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Hock, Hans Henrich & Brian D. Joseph. 1996. *Language History, Language Change and Language Relationship. An Introduction to Historical and Comparative Linguistics*. Berlin & New York: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Hogg, Richard & David Denison (eds.). 2006. *A History of the English Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Joseph, Brian D. & Richard D. Janda (eds.). 2003. *The Handbook of Historical Linguistics*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Jucker, Andreas H. & Irma Taavitsainen. 2013. *English Historical Pragmatics*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- Jucker, Andreas H. & Irma Taavitsainen (eds.). 2010. *Historical Pragmatics*. Berlin & New York: De Gruyter.
- Kay, Christian & Kathryn Allan. 2015. *English Historical Semantics*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- Kytö, Merja & Päivi Pahta (eds.). 2016. *The Cambridge Handbook of English Historical Linguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Labov, William. 1994. *Principles of Linguistic Change. Volume 1: Internal Factors*. Oxford: UK & Cambridge USA: Blackwell.
- Labov, William. 2001. *Principles of Linguistic Change. Volume 2: External Factors*. Oxford: UK & Cambridge USA: Blackwell.

- Lass, Roger. 1997. *Historical Linguistics and Language Change*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Los, Bettelou. 2015. *A Historical Syntax of English*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- McMahon, April. 1994. *Understanding Language Change*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Minkova, Donka. 2013. *A Historical Phonology of English*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- Nevalainen, Terttu & Helena Raumolin-Brunberg. 2003. *Historical Sociolinguistics*. London: Longman.
- Ringe, Don. 2021. *A Historical Morphology of English*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- Samuels, Michael L. 1972. *Linguistic Evolution, with Special Reference to English*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Schendl, Herbert. 2001. *Historical Linguistics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Trask, Robert Lawrence. 1994. *Language Change*. London & New York: Routledge.
- Trask, Robert Lawrence. 1996. *Historical Linguistics*. London: Arnold.
- Traugott, Elizabeth C. & Richard B. Dasher. 2002. *Regularity in Semantic Change*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

COMPLEMENTARY BIBLIOGRAPHY

Whenever necessary, the list of basic bibliography will be complemented with specialised literature.

<h3>OTRA INFORMACIÓN Y/O RECOMENDACIONES / FURTHER INFORMATION</h3>
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Students are expected to complete all assignments and readings suggested by the lecturer(s), and to come to the sessions prepared to discuss them. Students must visit the eLearning platform for the course regularly. Students are expected to check their university email on a regular basis: announcements and last-minute changes will be notified via the teaching platform.

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