Mr. Allen W. Strouse

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Office Hours: F 4:30-5:00, 1238 HW

**Course Description**

This course enables students to read works of English literature in their historical-linguistic contexts. Students will investigate the structure and vocabulary of English as it has changed in response to historical and technological forces. Students will master the terms of formal linguistics and the principles textual criticism, and they will apply this knowledge to their analysis of literary works. Students will come to understand the interrelationships between language environment and literary style.

**Materials**

Required Books (available for purchase at Shakespeare & Co.)

* Arnovick & Brinton, *The English Language: A Linguistic History* (Oxford UP)
* Bateson, *English Poetry and the English Language* (Clarendon)
* Blake, *Shakespeare’s Language* (Macmillan)
* Lester, *The Language of Old & Middle English Poetry* (St Martin’s P)
* Shakespeare, *Midsummer Night’s Dream: The First Quarto, 1600* (W. Griggs)

+ Scans on Blackboard

**Assignments**

* Course work will include:
  + one response paper due every Tuesday (uploaded to Black Board on Tuesday and submitted in hardcopy on Friday)
  + one response paper due every Friday (uploaded to Black Board and submitted in hard copy on Friday)[[1]](#footnote--1)\*
  + three close-reading papers (5 pg./each)
  + recitations of OE, ME, and EModE
  + one presentation
* For assignments, see Blackboard > Course Materials > Assignments.

**Components of grades**

Response Papers… 30%

Close-Reading Papers… 45%

Presentation… 10%

Recitations… 15%

**Learning Objectives**

* master the terms of historical linguistics and the principles of textual criticism
* discover how technological and historical forces shape language
* practice research skills using major databases like EEBO
* deepen close-reading skills through linguistic analysis

**Schedule and Requirements**

F 08/26: Intro IPA *Beowulf* (excerpt)

F 09/02: OE OE Pronunciation, Nouns Ælfric’s Colloquy

F 09/09: OE OE Verbs, Prosody Ælfric’s *Grammar*; elegies

F 09/16: AN AN & ME Morphology Lais of Marie de France

T 02/20: **Close-Reading Paper Due**

F 09/23: AN/ME Medieval Trilingualism “Amis & Amiloun”

F 09/30: ME ME Pronunciation & Dialects “Reeve’s Tale”

F 10/07: ME ME Grammar *Piers Plowman* (excerpt)

F 10/14: no class — —

F 10/21: ME ME Paleography & Textual Crit. *Piers Plowman* (excerpt)

T 10/25: **Close-Reading Paper Due**

F 10/28: EME EME Pronunciation *Midsummer Night’s Dream*

F 11/04: EME EME Print Culture  *Midsummer Night’s Dream*

F 11/11: EME EME Textual Crit. *Midsummer Night’s Dream*

F 11/18: EME Standardization Johnson, Swift (excerpts)

F 11/25: no class — —

T 11/29: **Close-Reading Paper Due**

F 12/02: GenAm New York Dialects, AAVE “K\*A\*P\*L\*A\*N,” Kanye

F 12/09: Recapitulation

**Academic Integrity**

Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

**Statement of Accommodation**

In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical and/ or Learning) consult the Office of Access ABILITY located in Room E1124 to secure necessary academic accommodations.  For further information and assistance please call (212- 772- 4857)/TTY (212- 650- 3230).

**Attendance**

Students who miss three or more sessions will receive a failing grade. Lateness and unpreparedness constitute absences.

1. \* **N.B.**: Response papers will provide a record of attendance. In order to receive credit for attending a class session, a student must submit both of the week’s response papers on time and in the required formats. [↑](#footnote-ref--1)