

## Early Modern English

**Lehrkraft:** Dr. Dr. Julia Bacskai-Atkari

**Leistungspunkte:** 6/8/9

**Semester:** Sommersemester 2021

**Zeit:** Dienstag 17.00–18.30

**Ort:** R513

### Description

This seminar will introduce students to the linguistic properties of Early Modern English, placing the language of the period in its historical context. We will focus on the structural properties of what contemporaries called the General Dialect and on its dialectal origins, considering also issues of language change and variation. Apart from examining general properties of the individual levels of grammar (in particular morphology and syntax), we will discuss some important matters of debate, such as the rise of do-periphrasis and changes in relativisation strategies. In addition, we will discuss literary language (including the language of Shakespeare) and some sociolinguistics aspects, including contact and standardisation.

### Languages

- classes: English
- assignments: English
- contact: English or German (please choose the language you are more competent in, i.e. *please write in German if your first language is German*)

### Literature

There is no set textbook for the course; you may find the following books useful:

Brinton, Laurel & Alexander Bergs. 2017. *The history of English 4: Early Modern English*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Nevalainen, Terttu. 2006. *An introduction to Early Modern English*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

**Requirement:** the exact requirements are dependent on whether you need 6, 8 or 9 credits.

- For 6 credits:
  - a home paper
- For 8 credits:
  - a home paper
  - a presentation (unassessed)
- For 9 credits:
  - a home paper: 70%
  - a reading assignment: 30%

Below you find additional information on the individual requirements.

### **Home paper**

- Length: at least 10 pages (ca. 4000–5000 words)
- Possible topics: see the relevant task sheet
- Language: English
- Deadline: 30 September 2021

### **Reading assignment**

- It is based on the following article: Putnam, Michael T. & Marjo van Koppen. 2011. All there is to know about the *alls*-construction. *Journal of Comparative Germanic Linguistics* 14.2. 81–109.
- Language: English
- Deadline: 21 June 2021

### **Presentation**

- 15–20 minutes
- Possible topics (articles) given in the relevant task sheet
- Language: English
- Available dates: see the relevant sheet

### **Preliminary schedule:**

13.04.2021	Introduction
20.04.2021	Phonology
27.04.2021	Morphology
04.05.2021	Syntax
11.05.2021	Semantics and pragmatics
18.05.2021	Dialects
25.05.2021	Language contact
08.06.2021	Standardisation
15.06.2021	REVISION
22.06.2021	Pronouns
29.06.2021	Periphrasis
06.07.2021	Relativisation
13.07.2021	Literary language
20.07.2021	The language of Shakespeare