



SRI VENKATESWARA UNIVERSITY, TIRUPATHI
Special English(Minor) in consonance with Curriculum framework
w.e.f. AY 2026-27

COURSE STRUCTURE

Year	Semester	Course	Title of the Course	No. of Hrs /Week	No. of Credits
II	III	1	History of English Language	4	4


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SEMESTER-III
COURSE 1: HISTORY OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Theory

Credits: 4

4 hrs/week

Course Objectives

- ❖ To introduce students to the origin and evolution of the English language.
- ❖ To familiarise students with the socio-political and linguistic influences on the development of English.
- ❖ To help learners understand the structural changes across different periods of English.
- ❖ To enable appreciation of English language's adaptability and global spread.

Learning Outcomes

- ❖ Trace the history and evolution of English from Old English to Modern English.
- ❖ Understand the major phonological, morphological, and syntactic changes across time.
- ❖ Identify key events and figures that influenced the English language.
- ❖ Appreciate the impact of colonisation, printing, and globalisation on English.

Unit I

- ❖ Origin of English – Indo-European Family of Languages
- ❖ Characteristics of Old English
- ❖ Influence of Latin and Norse Invasions

Unit II

- ❖ Norman Conquest and its linguistic impact
- ❖ Features of Middle English
- ❖ Geoffrey Chaucer and standardisation beginnings

Unit III

- ❖ Renaissance and the Rebirth of Learning
- ❖ The Printing Press – William Caxton
- ❖ Influence of Shakespeare and the Bible

Unit IV

- ❖ Major sound changes – The Great Vowel Shift
- ❖ Vocabulary enrichment through exploration and borrowing
- ❖ Rise of dictionaries – Dr. Johnson's Dictionary

Unit V

- ❖ Colonial Expansion and English around the world
- ❖ Varieties of English – American, Indian and African.
- ❖ English as a global language – Pros and Cons

Suggested Classroom Activities

- Language family tree mapping
- Discussion on influence of Norse vocabulary
- Pronunciation comparison: Old vs. Middle English
- Chaucer reading – simplified versions
- Printing press timeline activity
- Shakespeare word coinage activity
- Charting the Great Vowel Shift
- Word origin tracing activity (etymology)
- Debate on English as a global language
- Presentation on varieties of English (with examples)

References**Offline Resources**

- C.L. Wrenn – A History of the English Language
- Otto Jespersen – Growth and Structure of the English Language
- Albert C. Baugh & Thomas Cable – A History of the English Language

Online Resources

- NPTEL / SWAYAM courses on History of English Language
- YouTube: History of English series by OpenLearn, BBC Learning English
- The British Library – History of English Resources

SEMESTER-III
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Theory

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Model Question Paper

Section- A

Answer any Five of the following.

5x3=15M

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Section- B

Answer all the questions

5x12=60M

11. (a)
Or
(b)
12. (a)
Or
(b)
13. (a)
Or
(b)
14. (a)
Or
(b)
15. (a)
Or
(b)