



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

COURSE STRUCTURE
Semester-III

YEAR	COURSE	TITLE	No.Hrs/Week	No.of Credits
II	5	An Introduction to Augustan Literature (1700-1750)	4	4
	6	An Introduction to Romantic Literature (1798-1837)	4	4
	7	History of English Language	4	4


Dr. T. Malathi Gabriel
M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D
Chairperson of BoS in English (PASS)
S.V.University, Tirupati.

SEMESTER-III
COURSE 7: 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 standardization 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 Open Learn, BBC Learning English
- ❖ The British Library – History of English Resources

SEMESTER-III

COURSE 7: HISTORY OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Time : 3 Hours

Marks :75

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)