

“Sensorveiledning”: General assessment guidelines for

ENG4156: History of the English Language

Textbook:

- van Gelderen, Elly (2014), *A history of the English language*. Rev. ed. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Compendium with texts and glossary:

The written exam tests the below learning outcomes as specified in:

<https://www.uio.no/studier/emner/hf/ilos/ENG4156/>

- have a fair knowledge of the main lines of development of written English from approximately 700 AD to modern times.
- know the most important changes in the fields of phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics.
- know the basic structure of Old English, Middle English and Early Modern English grammar; to this end, you will have studied the most central characteristics of the language of the syllabus texts.
- be able to not only to describe and date linguistic changes, but also, to some extent and for select topics, to analyse these changes in terms of linguistic systems and give an account of previous scholarly work on the topic.

The examination format is a supervised term paper the student completes over the course of about four weeks. The students are given various topics for their inspiration; but they may write on a topic of their own choosing. They are encouraged to seek their course teacher's approval of the topic and to seek the course teacher's feedback on their drafts. A strong answer will have nuanced contents. It will apply correct and appropriate terminology and be able to contextualise the phenomenon or concept under discussion, say by outlining the main lines of its development. Students are expected to be able to follow all the usual formal guidelines for writing a linguistics paper, including when referencing. The student's written proficiency contributes to their final mark.

Marks are awarded according to the national qualitative descriptions of letter marks:

<https://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/grades/index.html>

Letter mark	Description	General, qualitative description of evaluation criteria
A	Excellent	An excellent performance, clearly outstanding. The candidate demonstrates excellent judgement and a high degree of independent thinking.
B	Very good	A very good performance. The candidate demonstrates sound judgement and a very good degree of independent thinking.
C	Good	A good performance in most areas. The candidate demonstrates a reasonable degree of judgement and independent thinking in the most important areas.

D	Satisfactory	A satisfactory performance, but with significant shortcomings. The candidate demonstrates a limited degree of judgement and independent thinking.
E	Sufficient	A performance that meets the minimum criteria, but no more. The candidate demonstrates a very limited degree of judgement and independent thinking.
F	Fail	A performance that does not meet the minimum academic criteria. The candidate demonstrates an absence of both judgement and independent thinking.
