



Course details

Course title

History: The History of the English Language

Course code

Q00018033

Course date

Start: 01/05/25

End: 19/06/25

Number of classes

7 sessions

Timetable

Thu 1st May, 10:30 to 12:30

Thu 8th May, 10:30 to 12:30

Thu 15th May, 10:30 to 12:30

Thu 22nd May, 10:30 to 12:30

Thu 5th Jun, 10:30 to 12:30

Thu 12th Jun, 10:30 to 12:30

Thu 19th Jun, 10:30 to 12:30

Tutor

Rebecca Eliahoo Charles

Fee range

Free to £51.80

How you'll learn

You'll join a small group of fellow learners for classes online in video meetings and materials will be provided in our virtual learning environment.

Got it!

Online

Venue

Online

Level of study

Beginners

Course overview

If you're interested in finding out how the English language developed (and why we don't all speak German, Danish or French instead of English) this course is for you. We look at the development of the English language through seven different lenses, starting with Old English (Anglo-Saxon) which built on Celtic languages and Latin. We explore the many influences on English including the Vikings through Old Norse, Norman French, Biblical English, Shakespearean English and Global English.

Course description

Considering how many times England has been invaded, it's amazing that we don't all speak Danish or French as our mother tongue. The origins of English words and phrases is the theme of a WEA Adult Education course which tells the surprising story of English via all sorts of rude, legal and astonishing words. From the great Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms of England through to the Global English of today, the course explores English via raiders and traders, taking you on a journey through some of the huge variety of sources, influences and events that have helped to shape the English language. We explore where words came from via the Anglo-Saxons; the Vikings; the Bible; English bards; Naval slang; Pronunciation, accent and dialect; and Global English. The English language is growing apace: every year English speakers are adding at least 1,000 new words to the million or so words we already have. The use of these lenses aims to help us increase our vocabulary and understanding of English. Is the English language a rare bloom that has become a lingua franca; or an invasive weed encroaching on other languages?

What financial support is available?

We don't want anything to stand in your way when it comes to bringing Adult learning within reach so if you need anything to support you to achieve your goals then speak to one of our education experts during your enrolment journey. Most of our courses are government funded but if you don't qualify or need alternative financial help to access them then let us know.

What other support is available?

All of our digital content, teaching and learning activities and assessments are designed to be accessible so if you need any additional support you can discuss this with the education experts during your enrolment journey and we will do all we can to make sure you have optimal access.

Source URL: <https://www.wea.org.uk/courses/humanities-science/history/1-may-history-history-english->

language