This History of the English Language course studies the social and political influences on language change and the accompanying internal structural changes within the development of the English language. The social and political influences contribute to the organization of the language study into historical periods or stages referred to as Old English, Middle English, Early Modern English, and Modern-Present-Day English. The structural changes involve phonology, morphology, syntax, and vocabulary. This course undertakes a balanced study of the language elements and the periods to bring about a clearer understanding of how English came to be as it is; that includes the nature of the language, word formation, and social and regional variations in speech, grammar, and usage.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course of study, students are expected to understand the following factors:

1. The social, cultural, and political influences on English language development.

2. The general characteristics of language change in the lexical, phonological, and morphological features.

3. The influence of language contact and language separation.

4. The internal and external language features which created regional, cultural, and social varieties of English.