CORSO DI LAUREA IN GIURISPRUDENZA

Inglese Giuridico 2019-20

Lesson 1 - 17 March 2020

- Course Programme
- Origins of English

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Course Programme

Lesson Times:

Tuesdays: 14.00-16.15

Moodle Page:
https://moodle2.units.it/course/view.php?id=5157
Access Key: IngGiur2020MH

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Course Overview

- Origins of the Language

- Elements of Grammar and Syntax
  - Articles, prepositions and pronouns
  - Adverbs and Adjectives
  - Verb forms
  - Punctuation
  - Sentence structure
  - Word Order
  - Prescriptive and descriptive grammar

Course Overview

- Elements of Lexis
  - Features of Vocabulary
  - Legalese
  - Legal Terminology
  - Register and Style
  - Textuality

Course Overview

- Examples of legal texts in English
    - Contracts
    - Correspondence
    - Corporate contexts
    - Advocacy and Litigation

- Elements of Law and the Legal System in England and the US
    - Criminal, Civil and Common Law
    - Lawmaking
    - The Court System

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Course Overview

- Class Activities
  - Grammatical analysis and exercises
  - Lexical analysis and exercises

  - Presentation and analysis of examples of legal texts
  - Presentation of elements of Law and the Legal System

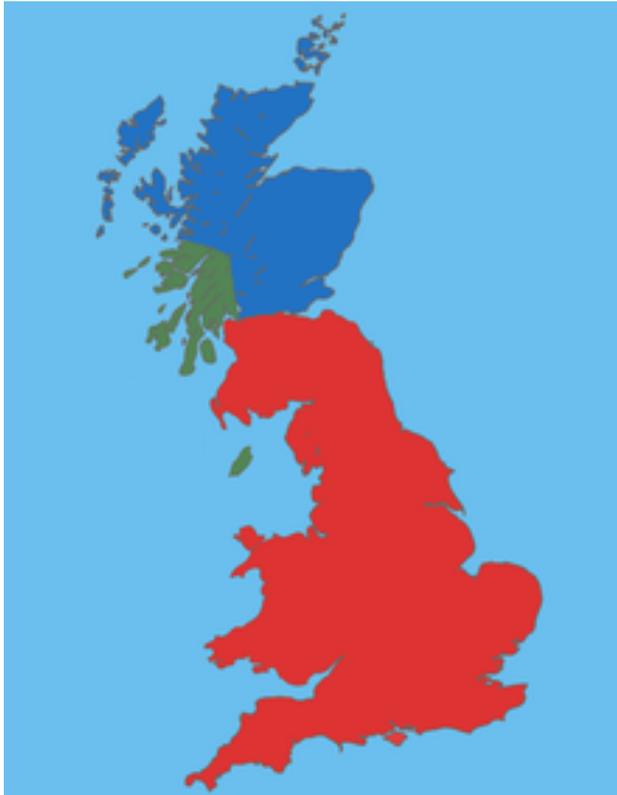 - Listening comprehension
  - Reading comprehension

Bibliography

- Legal English, Di Renzo Villata M G, et al, Wolters Kluwer, 2017 (3rd Edition)

- Legal English, Haigh R, Routledge, 2018 (5th Edition) – Kindle

Examination

- Oral examination on all areas covered in the course

- Listening comprehension

- Reading Comprehension

- Student Class Presentation of agreed topic

Origins of English

Original inhabitants were various Celtic tribes:
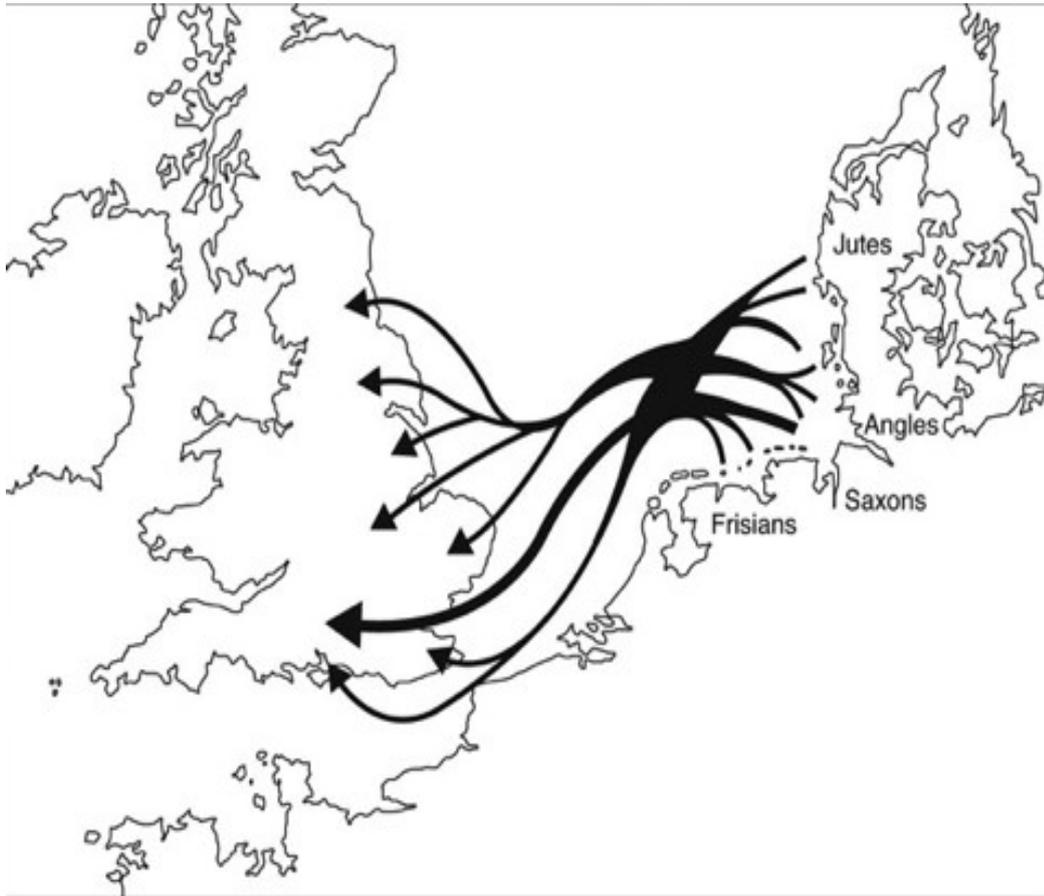
Britons (red)

Picts (blue)

Goidelics (green)

All spoke Celtic languages

Britons = Brittonic/Brythonic

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Origins of English

ROMAN BRITANNIA about 410

Roman invasion: Julius Caesar (54-55 BC), Claudius AD 43

Roman rule continued until the early 5th century

Scotland (Caledonia) and Ireland (Hibernia) remained outside the Roman Empire

Origins of English

Anglo-Saxons

- First settlers after the Romans:

    - Angles
    - Saxons
    - Jutes
    - Frisians

Origins of English

Anglo-Saxon Heptarchy

- Angles settled on in the East and the North: East Anglia, Northumbria

- Saxons settled in the South and the West: Essex, Sussex, Wessex, Mercia

- Jutes settled in Kent

- Celts pushed out to the extremes

- From 600-900, Mercia dominated the other kingdoms (apart from Northumbria)

Origins of English

- Viking (Denmark and Norway) expansion and settlement during the 9th Century

- Dominant forces: Danelaw and the Kingdom of Wessex (Alfred the Great)

- Anglo-Saxon dialects to the South and Anglo-Norse dialects to the North

- Kingdom of England (927) results from victory in battles and the unification of the kingdoms under Aethelstan (grandson of Alfred)

Origins of English

Norman Conquest

- Battle of Hastings (1066) shown in Bayeux Tapestry

- William the Conqueror defeats Harold and becomes King of England

- The monarch and aristocracy speak Norman French, while Anglo-Saxon English is used by the population

Old English

'English' developed as a spoken language under the Anglo-Saxons, replacing Brittonic and Latin

West Saxon and Mercian dialects became the most dominant

Influence of Old Norse in the areas under Danelaw

First written texts in 'English':
- Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (from 890)
- Bede's Ecclesiastical History of the English People (Latin original 731; translated into Old English 890-930)
- Beowulf (975-1025)

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Middle English

Language developed after the arrival of the Normans until around 1500

Increasing influence of Norman French/Anglo Norman

Disappearance of Old English verb inflections and grammatical gender

Changes in pronunciation: Great Vowel Shift (from 1400)

Changes in spelling based on London Chancery Standard influenced by invention of printing press (Gutenberg, 1439; Caxton, 1476)

Use in literature: Chaucer, Canterbury Tales, 1400

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Modern English

Early Modern English
- From the Tudor period, beginning 1485

- Most influential texts in Early Modern English:
    - Works of Shakespeare (1564-1616)
    - Bible translations: King James Bible (1611)

Development of Modern English
- From the 17th century
    - Consolidation of the language forms used today
    - Expansion of use of the language through colonisation (Americas) and the establishment of the British Empire (India, Africa, Australasia)

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Word Origins

Anglo-Saxon

- Basic vocabulary
- Short, mono-syllabic words
- Verbs describing basic processes (often irregular)
- Comparatives with 'er'
- Raw materials (food nouns refer to the animal)
- Simple processes

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Word Origins

French

- More complex vocabulary
- Longer, multi-syllabic words
- Verbs describing sophisticated processes (often regular)
- Comparatives with 'more'
- Food nouns refer to the meat
- Language of political, military, economic authority; culture
- False friends emerge though different development of words:
  - actually, eventually
  - premises
  - sensible

Word Origins

Latin/Greek

- Specialised vocabulary (semantic fields): religion, law, medicine, arts, science
- Perception of greater difficulty in pronunciation, spelling and understanding
- Often used deliberately to impress socially, maintain distance, establish groups/elites, etc.
- Some deliberate re-spelling in English to reflect Latin roots:
    - fact, transport, excite, debt

Word Frequency

Shorter Oxford English Dictionary
- 64% of words from French/Latin/Greek
- 26% from Anglo-Saxon

4000 most frequent words
- 51% Germanic
- 48% French/Latin
- hardly any Greek

12 most frequent verbs in Longman's Corpus:
- say, get, go, know, think, see,
- make, come, take, want, give, mean

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