

Portfolio Guidelines
History and Development of the English Language
Winter Semester 2024-25
Universität des Saarlandes

Lecturer: Kurt Erbach

Deadline: February 4, 2025, 17:45. Summaries can be submitted (physically or digitally) at any point before February 4th, though all 8 must be submitted along with a Deckblatt by the deadline.

Instructions: Students completing the portfolio are to submit a 1-page summary for each of eight of the Further Readings. The summaries are to be typed in 12-point, Times New Roman font, with double spacing at the most (smaller spacing is acceptable). The summaries must answer each of the following questions:

- What is the main idea/claim?
- Why does this idea/claim matter? (What is the theoretical/empirical background?)
- What assumptions/data support(s) this idea/claim?
- Where does the data come from and what biases could influence the data (collection).
- How is the data analyzed and what is the analysis?
- Why was this method chosen and what biases could influence the analysis?
- To what extent do the authors successfully motivate their main idea/claim?

Grading: Each summary will be worth 15 points. One point will be deducted for each piece of extraneous or incorrect information. Up to 2 points will be deducted for omitted parts of answers—e.g. all points will be deducted if the whole answer is omitted (i.e. no answer is given), half the points will be deducted if half the answer is omitted, etc. Implicit answers are considered omissions. No points will be deducted for spelling or grammar.

The tentative grading scale*

Number	Note	Points (+20 to each category for MA students)
1.0, 1.3	sehr gut	100-96, 95-91
1.7, 2.0, 2.3	gut	90-86, 85-81, 80-76
2.7, 3.0, 3.3	befriedigend	75-71, 70-66, 65-61
3.7, 4.0	ausreichend	60-56, 55-50
5.0	nicht bestanden	<50

*This scale may be adjusted depending on student performance.

Further Readings

- Adamczyk, Elżbieta. (2011). Towards a Diatopic Approach to the Old English s-stem declension. *Neuphilologische Mitteilungen*, 387-416. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/43344671>
- Bozzone, Chiara. (2020). Reconstructing the PIE causative in a cross-linguistic perspective. *Indo-European Linguistics*, 8(1), 1-45. https://brill.com/view/journals/ieul/8/1/article-p1_1.xml
- Culver McDonald, Kelan. N. (2022). The comparative impact of Old English and Classical language on the poetics of modern fantasy (Bachelors thesis, University of Pittsburgh). http://d-scholarship.pitt.edu/42399/1/McDonald_ETD_2022.pdf
- Delgado, Sally. (2019). Ship English: Sailors' speech in the early colonial Caribbean. Language Science Press.
- Fulk, R. D. (2002). Early Middle English Evidence for Old English Meter: Resolution in Poema morale. *Journal of Germanic Linguistics*, 14(4), 331-355. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S147054270200017X>
- Gregersen, Sune. (2023). Regularized modal verbs in Middle English dialects. *English Language & Linguistics*, 27(1), 23-43. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1360674322000053>
- Klein, Thomas. (2012). Dialect and Word Choice in Old English: Two Case Studies with Old English Perception Verbs. *AngliaZeitschrift für englische Philologie*, 130(4), 471-498. <https://doi.org/10.1515/ang-2012-0525>
- Laing, Margaret. (2009). Orthographic indications of weakness in Early Middle English. In *Phonological Weakness in English: From Old to Present-Day English* (pp. 237-315). Palgrave Macmillan. https://www.pure.ed.ac.uk/ws/portalfiles/portal/3320061/Verbal_syncope_in_EME.pdf
- Prichard, Hilary. (2014). Northern dialect evidence for the chronology of the Great Vowel Shift. *Journal of Linguistic Geography*, 2(2), 87-102. <https://doi.org/10.1017/jlg.2014.9>
- Tichý, Ondřej. (2022). Countability in the history of English: Evidence from grammars and dictionaries. *Linguistica Pragmensia*, 32(1), 39-58. <https://doi.org/10.14712/18059635.2022.1.3>
- Walkden, George. (2013). The correspondence problem in syntactic reconstruction. *Diachronica*, 30(1), 95-122. <https://kops.uni-konstanz.de/server/api/core/bitstreams/02dbed28-4bad-4e53-83ce-aa55fca75968/content>