

Final exam is Wednesday, April 27, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Overview of exam content: The final exam will cover general linguistics from the entire course as well as material on specific units covered since the midterm exam: i.e. Middle, Early Modern, and Later Modern/Present-Day English. There will be no material on the exam from Old English, Germanic, or Proto-Indo-European.

I. General linguistics: All general terminology from the entire semester is fair game, as are articulatory descriptions and IPA, so please refer to original study outlines and your midterm exam as you study.

II. Middle, Early Modern, and Later Modern English / Present-Day English will be covered on the final exam, as outlined below.

A. Key topics in Middle English

1. external history

- a. the French in England (exile of Æthelred, son Edward raised in France)
- b. claims to the throne (Harold Godwinson, Harald Hardrada, William of Normandy)
- c. the Norman invasion, 1066 (Battle of Hastings)
- d. French rule in England (displacement of English nobility, ties with France)
- e. the French and English languages in England (social structure and status)
- f. why we speak English today, and not French

2. internal history

- a. phonology (new phonemic status of voiced fricatives, phonemic /ə/)
- b. grammar (loss of inflections, transition from synthetic to analytic language)
- c. lexicon (shift away from primarily Germanic wordstock, new words)

B. Key topics in Early Modern English

1. external history

- a. technology, especially printing
 - i. William Caxton
 - ii. accessibility of reading materials
 - iii. "fixing" of spelling
 - iv. diffusion of London standard

II. B. 1. b. culture

- i. the Renaissance and Age of Reason: emphasis on logic and order
- ii. language consciousness and prescriptivism

c. commerce

- i. beginnings of Industrial Revolution; increasing urban populations
- ii. English middle class (expansion of literacy and upward mobility)
- iii. exploration, colonization, and trade (contact, spread of English)

2. internal history

a. phonology: Great Vowel Shift

- i. phonemic vowel length
- ii. chain shift (push chain, pull chain)
- iii. affected vowels
- iv. directions of shift
- v. diphthongization

b. grammar

- i. continuing trends (i.e. reduction of inflectional system)
- ii. strong and weak verbs / regular and irregular verbs
- iii. conservatism of pronouns

C. Later Modern English

1. external history

- a. American Revolution
- b. language and national identity
- c. American dictionaries, especially Webster's (1828)
- d. technology (information and media technologies and lexical developments)
- e. globalization

2. linguistic issues: English as a global lingua franca

- a. impacts of English on other languages around the world
- b. impacts of globalization on the English language
- c. English as lingua franca
- d. the future of English

Tentative format and organization of exam:

Part 1. 40% = Matching (terms, people, publications): 20 questions, 2 points each, for up to 40 points.

Part 2. 20% = Short answers (terms, people, publications). 10-15 questions for up to 20 points.

Part 3. 20% = The Great Vowel Shift. 3 parts for up to 20 points:

a. The Middle English phonetic symbol will be given, and you will be asked to write in the post-GVS (Present-Day English) symbol, or the Present-Day English symbol will be given, and you will be asked to write in the pre-GVS (Middle English) symbol. Example:

Given: Middle English /e/ → Present-Day English (you write in) /i/

b. As in the GVS game, a Middle English word will be given in IPA and you will be asked to write the post-GVS, Present-Day English word in IPA. Or the Present-Day English word will be given in IPA, and you will be asked to write the pre-GVS Middle English word in IPA. Example:

Given: Middle English [fi:f] → Present Day English (you write in) [faɪv]

c. Description: Be ready to explain the nature of the shift, which vowels were affected, how each was affected, and when the shift happened.

Part 4. 15% = Articulatory descriptions. This section is likely to be in two parts: First, you will be given a phonetic symbol and asked to provide its articulatory description. (Part 4A: 5 questions, 2 points each, for up to 10 points.) Next, you will be given an articulatory description and asked to write in the symbol whose sound it describes. (Part 4B: 5 questions, 1 point each, for up to 5 points). 10 questions total for up to 15 points.

Part 5. 5% = IPA transcription. There will be one sentence for you to transcribe, for up to 5 points. Please note that other sections of the exam will also call upon your transcription skills, so it is a good idea to make sure you are up for the challenge. In other words, while the official transcription section of the exam is worth a relatively small percentage of the exam grade, you will need transcription skills in other sections as well.