Elizabeth Falsberg  
Exam List  
Special Technique  
History of English/Historical Linguistics

Aiming to provide historical and theoretical backgrounds for the other three exams, especially for the Individual Topic, this exam will focus on the two sub-topics indicated by the title. The Historical Linguistics segment explores the development of English from its “origins” as an Old West Germanic dialect through the present, but focuses particularly on the late-Old English to late-Middle English period. This emphasis allows an exploration of English in contact with other languages, most particularly Old Norse and Old French (period developments in Latin will also be kept in mind as part of the frame of reference), as well as on its development as a vernacular with regional standardization and variation. More purely theoretical issues will be taken up in the Historical Linguistics segment. Questions of language change and its varying causes, including social factors, will be considered for themselves, and then in application to English at specific points in its history. This sub-topic will also address theories concerning creolization and other inter-language phenomena.

Histories of English:


Historical Linguistic Theory:


Standard English:


ME grammar and dialectology:


McIntosh, Angus, M.L. Samuels, Michael Benskin, et al. Linguistic Atlas of Late

McIntosh, Angus, M.L. Samuels, and Margaret Laing, eds. Middle English Dialectology. Aberdeen, 1989.


Indo-European Scholarship:

Books:


Articles:


Germanics:

Bosworth Toller Dictionary (Familiarity)


Mitchell, Bruce. *Old English Syntax*. Oxford, NY


**Latin:**

Lewis and Short. *A Latin Dictionary* (Familiarity)

A Medieval Latin Dictionary (Get name of best reference work. Familiarity.)


**Questions of Medieval Literacy/English and a Vernacular:**


Machan, T.W. *Textual Criticism and Middle English Texts*.


