



E 412

History of the English Language

Name:

**Take-home Final Exam**

This is due by email on Friday, 8 May, by 4:00 pm. No extensions. Some questions require speculation and do not have specific answers. Most questions require you to do some additional research.

**SECTION ONE:** *Please keep your answers to about 100 words. 5 points each (75 total). Do all.*

1. What is the history of the dative case in English? Trace to PIE.
2. Describe the phonology in the process of PIE \*pH<sub>2</sub>-tér → PDE *father*.
3. Why do we say *to him* and not *to he* (after all, we say *to me* and not *to mim*)?
4. Why is *feet* the plural of *foot*?
5. Why does saying “I anticipate an immediate response is not forthcoming” sound pompous? (Discuss registers.)
6. How do we know about Chaucer’s pronunciation?
7. Why do people from Atlanta sound different from people from the north side of Boston?
8. Suggest reasons why some Canadians say /ut/ for *out*.
9. Why is it correct to say, “She runs *fast*” but not “She runs *fastly*”; yet incorrect to say “She runs *quick*” but not “She runs *quickly*”? (Discuss plain adverbs.)
10. Why is the plural of *box* not *boxen*?
11. Why are phrases like, “Dude, *beer* me,” “I detest *hot-ness*,” and “You are radically *outdoors-ified*” comprehensible upon first hearing them?
12. Why is “-ough” in the following words pronounced differently? Tough, through, bough, slough.
13. Why don't *relevant* and *apparent* end in the same three letters? After all, they sound the same.
14. Why is the letter “w” not called *double-vee*?
15. Why doesn't a polite person at a steakhouse order “a nice piece of *cow*”?

**TWO.** Choose ONE question only. *Please keep your answer to about 500 words (2 typed pages).*  
*25 points.*

Is it acceptable to spell *night* as *nite*? Why? Why not? Discuss. (Relevant examples are most welcome.)

Describe the significance of stylistic registers in an E E Cummings poem.

Why do we need both *law* and *jurisprudence* in the English language? Isn't one word enough?