

Use library reference tools, reserve materials, the class website, and other resources to write three inquiries in the field of comparative historical linguistics. Each of the three inquiries will be five to eight full pages of type-written text. Block three has two inquiry assignments; choose one. Search for information in books, dictionaries, and journal articles. The 5th floor reference section of the HBLL will be helpful. Use the MLA bibliography and other online search engines. You may also use the Internet as a search strategy. Choose a standard academic style guide, such as MLA, APA, LSA, etc. Make sure to include your name, page numbers, and a bibliography/works cited.

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Block One: due Jan. 27

Use several scholarly sources to write a concise history of a language other than English from its earliest origins to the present. Identify causes of language change such as migration, trade, war, cultural contact, and so forth.

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Block Two: due Feb. 29

Use several scholarly sources to describe the reconstructed Indo-European language and the IE language family. Discuss the phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics of the language. Describe the origins, locations, migrations, sub-groupings, characteristics, language contacts, and so forth of the IE family. Discuss possible connections to other language families and ties to other fields, such as archeology or DNA studies.

OR . . .

Use several scholarly sources to describe a language family other than Indo-European. Describe the origins, locations, migrations, sub-groupings, characteristics, language contacts, and so forth of the family. Discuss possible connections to other language families and ties to other fields, such as archeology or DNA studies.

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Block Three: due April 4

Use several scholarly sources to describe another language family other than Indo-European. Describe the origins, locations, migrations, sub-groupings, characteristics, language contacts, and so forth of the family. Discuss possible connections to other language families and ties to other fields, such as archeology or DNA studies.

OR . . .

Do focused original research on a language of your choice in one of the main areas of historical linguistics: sound change, morphological change, grammatical change, syntactic change, semantic change, lexical change, aspects or combinations thereof. For example, you could create a table of words from the same semantic domain in several different languages, identifying probable cognates and loanwords.

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Inquiries will be evaluated according to the following criteria--

Content:	complete, detailed, focused	(5 points)
Organization:	logical, clear, intro & conclusion	(1 point)
Creativity:	thoughtful, interesting, innovative	(1 point)
Expression:	legible, concise, cohesive, coherent	(1 point)
Citation:	quotations, paraphrases, sources	(1 point)
Punctuality:	in class, on time for due date	(1 point)