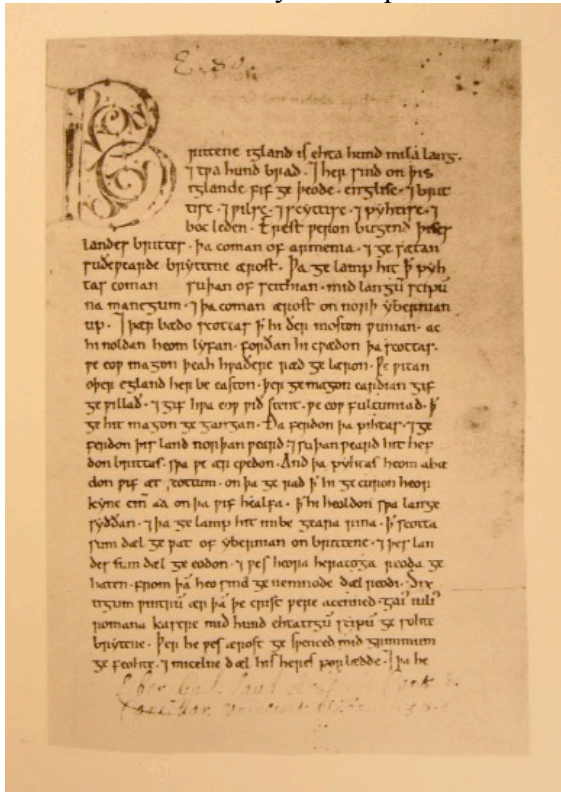


# EN 4413/6413: The History of the English Language

Dr. Ginger Pizer

MW 2-3:15

More than 1500 years after Germanic tribes brought their highly inflected synthetic language to Britain, millions of people around the world speak its analytic descendent. We will trace the development of the English language from its Indo-European origins until the present day, noting how the social history of its speakers interacted with language-internal pressures to change the



language's sounds, vocabulary, and grammar. We will examine how regional variation in England and contact with diverse languages influenced present-day variation in English dialects, and we will conclude with an investigation of currently ongoing linguistic changes and their impact on the social and linguistic worlds of English speakers.

## Course Requirements:

Homework assignments, three tests, and a final exam.

## Texts:

*A Biography of the English Language* (2nd edition), 1996, by C. M. Millward (with accompanying workbook).

Additional journal articles will be assigned for students in EN 6413.