LING322/ENGL322

THE STRUCTURE AND MEANING OF WORDS

PAPER

DEADLINES:

Draft: April 3rd
Final: April 24th

Formatting requirements:
- 3-5 pages of text, approx. 800-1400 words
- 1-inch margins
- No more than double-spacing, no less than 1-1/2 spacing
- 12-point font (standard typewriter font), no smaller, no bigger
- If handwriting paper, use # of words as length requirement.
- References/Bibliography/Works Consulted on separate page at the end (doesn’t count as one of your 3-5 pages).

Percentage of final grade: 20 % (more than the midterm or final!)

Tell everything there is to know about some word. It can be a word from your Word Diary, but it doesn't have to be.

a) How is it pronounced? (give me an IPA transcription—including stress!)

b) Has its pronunciation changed since its first known occurrence? What kinds of sound changes has it undergone? (If its pronunciation has changed, indicate how, with more IPA transcriptions and discussion of any phonological processes at work—vowel reduction, great vowel shift, epenthesis, lenition, voicing, metathesis, stress shift. Give other examples of words that have undergone the same processes.)

c) Is it made up of multiple morphemes? If so, do they illustrate any of the morphophonological processes at work that we’ve learned about? (Is there allomorphy? If so, is it phonologically or morphologically conditioned? Is the morphology derivational or inflectional? Does the morphology create category change? Is there compounding?)

d) What does it mean? (Is it an open-class or closed class word?)
- Does it have multiple meanings?
- Does it have usage restrict ions? (e.g. dialectal or social restrictions?)
- Illustrate its usage(s) with a quotation(s) from a modern source: DON'T just lift quotations from Webster's or the OED: find your own, in books or speech. Find interesting & real quotations, don't just make 'em up.

e) Has its meaning changed since it first appeared in English?

f) If it has multiple morphemes, what do/did the morphemes mean in their original sense?

g) Do these morphemes now contribute individually to the overall meaning of the modern word (i.e. is it compositional)? Did they originally?

h) Trace its history: find out where it came from. Was it borrowed? Coined? Formed from existing morphemes? If it has multiple morphemes, where did each of the morphemes come from?

i) Anything else — Google count? Common misspellings? Dialect variations?
The above set of questions is not meant to be exhaustive: you have to produce 3-5 pages that are interesting to read, but you don't have to answer *every* question in the list above. For example your word might not *have* a traceable history, but might be interesting for other reasons (multimorphemic, demonstrating a morphological/phonological process, have multiple meanings in different contexts, be dialectal or exhibit social register restrictions, etc.) Or it might have a good history but be monomorphemic. Or it might be multimorphemic but not exhibit any social register restrictions. But if you want to be sure to have enough to write about, you might try to pick a word which *does* have interesting answers to most of the questions above. If you find you just can't generate 3-5 pages about your word, pick another one.