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Historical Linguistics
Linguistics 439/539
Course syllabus
Fall 2005

Required text:

Lyle Campbell. 2004. Historical Linguistics. An Introduction. 2nd ed. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Course requirements:

1. Regular attendance, preparation and participation
2. Regular problem sets and other assignments
3. Quizzes and Tests
4. A final project to be completed in the following stages:
 1. By October 12: Make an appointment to discuss possible topics with me.
 2. October 26: Turn in a one-paragraph description of the topic chosen.
 3. November 21: Turn in a rough draft of the project.
 4. November 28-December 7: In-class presentations and discussion of projects (grad students and volunteers only).
 5. End of semester: Turn in the final version of the project.

Most students will probably do research papers as their projects, but I am open to other ideas. Papers should be approximately 15-20 pages for graduate students and 8-10 pages for undergrads. Graduate students must present their projects in class between November 28 and December 7. Undergrads may do so if they wish.

Date	Class topic	Project deadlines	Campbell	Supplementary readings
Aug. 29	Introduction			
Aug. 31	Historical and thematic overview		Chap. 1	
Sept. 5	Happy Labor Day!			
Sept. 7	Sound change I: traditional approaches		Chap. 2	
Sept. 12	Sound change II			
Sept. 14	Sound change III: recent work			
Sept. 19	Morphological change I: "analogy"		Chap. 4	
Sept. 21	Morphological change II: Natural Morphology and Communicative-functional approaches			
Sept. 26	Morphological change III: The psycholinguistics of analogy and regularization			
Sept. 28	Grammaticalization I			
Oct. 3	Grammaticalization II			
Oct. 5	Grammaticalization III			
Oct. 10	Syntactic change		Chap. 10	
Oct. 12	Semantic change I		Chap. 9	
Oct. 17	Semantic change II and historical pragmatics	Topics due		
Oct. 19	Dialectology		Chap. 7	
Oct. 24	Sociolinguistics and the study of "change in progress"			
Oct. 26	Contact I: Borrowing, interference/imposition		Chap. 3	
Okt. 31	Contact II: Areal linguistics	Descriptions due	Chap. 12	
Nov. 2	Contact III: Pidginization and creolization			
Nov. 7	Methodology: working with written data		Chap. 14	
Nov. 9	Reconstruction and the comparative method I: introduction		Chapter 5	
Nov. 14	Reconstruction and the comparative method II: internal reconstruction		Chap. 8	
Nov. 16	Reconstruction III: Genetic classification and distant relationships		Chaps. 6, 13	
Nov. 21	Linguistics and archeology	Project drafts due	Chap. 15	
Nov. 23	HAPPY THANKSGIVING			
Nov. 28	Student presentations/discussion			
Nov. 30	Student presentations/discussion	Project drafts due		
Dec. 5	Student presentations/discussion			
Dec. 7	Student presentations/discussion			