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Historical Linguistics
Linguistics 439/539
Course syllabus
Fall 2010

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 18: E-mail me your topic or a request for help deciding on a topic.
 2. November 1: Turn in a one-paragraph description of the topic chosen.
 3. November 22: Turn in a rough draft of the project.
 4. November 29-December 8: In-class presentations and discussion of projects (grad students volunteers).
 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 are encouraged to present their projects in class between November 29 and December 8.

| Date | Class topic | Project deadlines | Campbell | Supplementary readings |
|-------------|---|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Aug. 30 | Introduction | | | |
| Sept. 1 | Historical and thematic overview | | Chap. 1 | |
| Sept. 6 | Happy Labor Day! | | | |
| Sept. 8 | Sound change I: traditional approaches | | Chap. 2 | |
| Sept. 13 | Sound change II | | | |
| Sept. 15 | ???? | | | |
| Sept. 20 | Sound change III | | | |
| Sept. 22 | Morphological change I | | Chap. 4 | |
| Sept. 27 | Morphological change II | | | |
| Sept. 29 | Morphological change III | | | |
| Oct. 4 | Grammaticalization I | | | |
| Oct. 6 | Grammaticalization II | | | |
| Oct. 11 | Syntactic change | | Chap. 10 | |
| Oct. 13 | Semantic change I | | Chap. 9 | |
| Oct. 18 | Semantic change II and historical pragmatics | Topics due | | |
| Oct. 20 | Dialectology | | Chap. 7 | |
| Oct. 25 | Sociolinguistics and the study of "change in progress" | | | |
| Oct. 27 | Contact I: Borrowing, interference/imposition | | Chap. 3 | |
| Nov. 1 | Contact II: Areal linguistics | Descriptions due | Chap. 12 | |
| Nov. 3 | Contact III: Pidginization and creolization | | | |
| Nov. 8 | Methodology: working with written data | | Chap. 14 | |
| Nov. 10 | Reconstruction and the comparative method I: introduction | | Chapter 5 | |
| Nov. 15 | Reconstruction and the comparative method II: internal reconstruction | | Chap. 8 | |
| Nov. 17 | Reconstruction III: Genetic classification and distant relationships | | Chaps. 6, 13 | |
| Nov. 22 | Linguistics and archeology | Project drafts due | Chap. 15 | |
| Nov. 24 | HAPPY | THANKS- | GIVING! | |
| Nov. 29 | Student presentations/discussion | | | |
| Dec. 1 | Student presentations/discussion | | | |
| Dec. 6 | Student presentations/discussion | | | |
| Dec. 8 | Student presentations/discussion | | | |