LIN 382 Spring 2010 Historical Linguistics

Instructor: Pattie Epps

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Office hours: Wed and Fri 3-4:30, and by appointment

Class meets MWF 2-3pm Par 103

This course explores traditional and contemporary approaches to historical linguistics, the study of language change. We will address various types of change – phonological, morphological, semantic, and syntactic – and the methods used to investigate these changes, most notably the Comparative Method and internal reconstruction. We will also explore the social and linguistic motivations for change, and the role of synchronic variation. Finally, the course will consider the effects of language contact, the genetic/genealogical classification of languages, and the insights historical linguistics brings to understanding prehistory.

Texts:

Crowley, Terry and Claire Bowern. 2010. *An Introduction* to *Historical Linguistics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [NB: The book is due to arrive in the Co-op in the second class week; I will make chapters available until the book arrives.]

Joseph, Brian and Richard Janda. 2003. *The Handbook of Historical Linguistics*. Blackwell. Additional readings available on Blackboard.

READINGS SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE DAY THEY APPEAR ON THE SYLLABUS, WHEN THEY WILL BE DISCUSSED IN CLASS.

Requirements and guidelines:

Requirements consist of weekly homework exercises (50%; lowest grade will be dropped), a mid-term exam (20%), and a final paper (30%; 10-12 pages).

A homework exercise will be assigned each week; these are due on the Friday of a given week, at the beginning of class. We will discuss the HW in class on the Friday, so please note that **no late homeworks can be accepted**. Your graded HW will be returned the following week.

Practice problems will be assigned frequently in class (usually on Monday, to be gone over in class on Wednesday). These will not be collected or graded, but you are strongly encouraged to do them on your own before we discuss them in class.

Class materials, announcements, etc. will be posted on Blackboard.

Class policies:

SCHOLASTIC (DIS)HONESTY

You may discuss homework assignments with other students in general terms, but please **develop the solutions to them independently** (i.e. you can give each other tips and pointers as you work through them, but do NOT work together in the final stages). For details and further guidelines, check the university website on scholastic dishonesty: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sis/scholdis.php.

SPECIAL NEEDS

If you have special needs of any kind, please let me know before the second class meeting so that we can attempt to meet these throughout the semester. The University of Texas at Austin provides, upon request, appropriate academic adjustments for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

If any class deadlines fall on religious holidays that you observe, please let me know at least two weeks in advance so that I can accommodate your needs. You should both tell me in person and send me an email.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1. Introduction

Wed Jan 20

Fri Jan 22 Crowley & Bowern ch. 1 'Introduction'

Hock, Hans Heinrich. 1991. 'Phonetics, transcription, terminology, abbreviations', in

Principles of Historical Linguistics, 11-33. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Week 2. Sound change

Mon Jan 25 Crowley & Bowern ch. 2 'Types of sound changes', ch. 3 'Expressing sound change'

Wed Jan 27 Crowley & Bowern ch. 4 'Phonetic and phonemic change'

Ohala, John. 2003. 'Phonetics and historical phonology'. In Joseph and Janda, 669-686.

Fri Jan 29 Homework 1 due

Week 3. Accounting for similarities across languages: cognates and loanwords

Mon Feb 1 Campbell, Lyle. 2004. 'Borrowing', in Historical Linguistics: An Introduction.

Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. (See also Crowley & Bowern 5.2.2.)

Wed Feb 3 Comrie, Bernard. 2000. 'Language contact, lexical borrowing, and semantic fields.' In

Languages in Contact, Gilbers, Nerbonne, and Schaecken (eds), Amsterdam-

Atlanta GA: Rodopi, 73-86.

Fri Feb 5 Homework 2 due

Week 4. Analogy and morphological change

Mon Feb 8 Crowley & Bowern ch. 10 'Morphological change'

Wed Feb 10 Hock, Hans Henrich. 2003. 'Analogical change', in Joseph and Janda, 441-460.

Fri Feb 12 Homework 3 due

Week 5. Comparative reconstruction

Mon Feb 15 Crowley & Bowern ch. 5 'The comparative method (1): Procedures'

Wed Feb 17 Ribeiro, Eduardo and Hein van der Voort. Forthcoming. 'Nimuendajú was right: The

inclusion of the Jabutí family in the Macro-Jê stock. International Journal of American

Linguistics.

Fri Feb 19 Homework 4 due

Week 6. Comparative reconstruction cont.

Mon Feb 22 Crowley & Bowern ch. 9 'The comparative method (2): History and challenges'

through 9.3 only

Wed Feb 23 Practice problems

Fri Feb 25 Homework 5 due

Week 7. Relationships among languages

Mon March 1 Crowley & Bowern ch. 6 'Determining relatedness'

Wed March 3 Crowley & Bowern ch. 8 'Statistical and computational methods'

Fri March 5 Homework 6 due

Week 8. Writing and written records

Mon March 8 Campbell, Lyle, 2004. 'Philology: the role of written records', in Historical Linguistics:

An Introduction. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Wed March 10 Discussion and review

Fri March 12 In-class midterm exam

March 15-19 Spring break

Week 9. Internal reconstruction

Mon March 22 Crowley & Bowern ch. 7 'Internal reconstruction'

Wed March 24 Ringe, Don. 2003. 'Internal reconstruction', in Joseph and Janda, 244-261.

Fri March 26 Practice problems and discussion

Week 10. Lexical and semantic change

Mon March 29 Crowley & Bowern ch. 11 'Semantic and lexical change'

Wed March 31 Wilkins, David. 1996. 'Natural tendencies in semantic change and the search for

cognates', in Durie & Ross (eds.), The Comparative Method Reviewed, (Oxford: Oxford

Univ. Press).

Fri April 2 Homework 7 due

Week 11. Syntactic change and grammaticalization

Mon April 5 Crowley & Bowern ch. 12 'Syntactic change'

Wed April 7 Epps, Patience. Forthcoming. 'Linking valence change and modality: Diachronic

evidence from Hup.' International Journal of American Linguistics.

Fri April 9 Homework 8 due

Week 12. How language change occurs

Mon April 12 Crowley & Bowern ch. 13 'Observing language change'

Labov 1965. 'The social motivation of a sound change.' Word 19.273-309.

Wed April 14 Crowley & Bowern ch. 9 'The comparative method (2): History and challenges'

Sections 9.4 - 9.5

Fri April 16 Homework 9 due

Week 13. Language contact

Mon April 19 Crowley & Bowern ch. 14 'Language contact' through 14.1

Wed April 21 Crowley & Bowern ch. 14 'Language contact' through 14.5

Aikhenvald, Alexandra. 1999. 'Areal diffusion and language contact in the Içana-Vaupés

basin, north-west Amazonia'. In Dixon & Aikhenvald (eds.), The Amazonian

Languages. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press.

Fri April 23 Homework 10 due

Week 14. Language and prehistory

Mon April 26 Crowley & Bowern ch. 15 'Cultural reconstruction'

Wed April 28 Balée, William. 1999. 'Modes of production and ethnobotanical vocabulary: a controlled

comparison of Guajá and Ka'apor', in Ethnoecology: knowledge, resources, and rights,

ed. by T.L. Grayson & B. Blount, 24-40. London: University of Georgia Press.

Fri April 30 Homework 11 due

Week 15. Distant genetic relationship

Mon May 3 Trask, R.L. 1996. 'Very remote relations', in Historical Linguistics, London:

Arnold Press. (See also Crowley & Bowern 6.4.)

Wed May 5 Campbell, Lyle. 1988. 'Review of Language in the Americas (Joseph Greenberg 1987)'.

Language 64(3):591-615.

Fri May 7 Discussion and wrap-up

Final paper due Monday, May 10 by 5pm