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.]
Additional readings available on Blackboard.

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](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  Crowley & Bowern ch. 1 ‘Introduction’
Fri Jan 22  Crowley & Bowern ch. 1 ‘Introduction’
           Hock, Hans Heinrich. 1991. ‘Phonetics, transcription, terminology, abbreviations’, in

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’
Fri Jan 29  Homework 1 due

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

*Fri April 2*  
**Homework 7 due**

**Week 11. Syntactic change and grammaticalization**
*Mon April 5*  
Crowley & Bowern ch. 12 ‘Syntactic change’

*Wed April 7*  

*Fri April 9*  
**Homework 8 due**

**Week 12. How language change occurs**
*Mon April 12*  
Crowley & Bowern ch. 13 ‘Observing language change’

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

*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*  

*Fri April 23*  
**Homework 10 due**

**Week 14. Language and prehistory**
*Mon April 26*  
Crowley & Bowern ch. 15 ‘Cultural reconstruction’

*Wed April 28*  

*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*  

*Fri May 7*  
Discussion and wrap-up

**Final paper due Monday, May 10 by 5pm**