

Course Outline: Historical Linguistics

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES, LITERATURES & LINGUISTICS

Course Code

AP/LING3040 3.0 Historical Linguistics

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the study of languages as they change through time. We will study methods for reconstructing earlier stages of a language and determining its relationship to other languages. Sound change will be the primary focus of the course, although morphological change will also be a component, along with the role of language contact and borrowing. The main languages emphasized are English, Spanish, French and their Indo-European relatives, but examples and problem sets will cover a variety of languages and language families, including indigenous languages of the Americas. The aim of the course is for students to learn how to do historical linguistics themselves through application of theory and methodology to novel data. This in turn will build transferable skills in data organization and analysis and provide experience in applying principles of phonetics, phonology and morphology to new (and old) data.

Course Delivery

Delivery Mode: LECT

All classes and tests will be in person.

Course Materials

Campbell, Lyle. 2020 Historical Linguistics, 4th edition. Edinburgh University Press.

Tentative Grade Breakdown and Deadlines

Provide a breakdown of course components into individual assessments, including the weight of each assessment and anticipated date held or due date. Include whether assessments are held in-person or online or if they might be held outside of class time (e.g. evenings or weekends)

Assessment	Weight	Mode	Tentative Deadline
Assignment 1	20%	Take-home	3 rd week in January
Midterm Test	25%	In person	2 nd week in February
Assignment 2	20%	Take-home	2 nd week in March
Final Test	20%	In-person	1 st week in April
Participation	15%	In-person	
	100%		