

**Department of Linguistics
Summer Semester 2011****LINGUISTICS 407-3
Historical Linguistics**

Instructor: Dr. Z. McRobbie
R.CB 9204 | 778.782.5782
mcrobbie@sfu.ca

PREREQUISITES: LING 321, 322 & 323, plus LING 301

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course will explore two important issues central to historical linguistic investigation: (i) how and why language change begins, and (ii) how language change spreads. While language change in every area of grammar (phonetics and phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics) will be examined, the focus will be on sound change -- the most extensively researched area within historical linguistics.

In addition to surveying the internal (i.e. linguistic) motivation for language change, we will briefly explore some of the most important external (i.e. social) factors motivating language change.

The approach adopted in discussing the above-mentioned issues of historical linguistics will be partly theoretical and partly practical. The introduction of essential historical linguistic concepts will be accompanied by practical exercises.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

**Forston IV, B.W. (2010) Indo-European Language and Culture. Wiley-Blackwell.
ISBN 978-1-4051-8896-8**

COURSE GRADING

Assignments	30%
Mid-Term Exam	25%
Final Exam	45%

A more detailed outline will be distributed during the first week of classes.

Students should familiarize themselves with the Department's **Standards on Class Management and Student Responsibilities** at <http://www.sfu.ca/linguistics/undergraduate/standards.html>.

Please note that effective May 1, 2009, a grade of "FD" may be assigned as a penalty for academic dishonesty.

All student requests for accommodations for their religious practices must be made in writing by the end of the first week of classes or no later than one week after a student adds a course.

Students requiring accommodations as a result of a disability must contact the **Centre for Students with Disabilities** (778-782-3112 or csdo@sfu.ca).