

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS

Linguistics 407-3 DAY
HISTORICAL LINGUISTICS

SUMMER SEMESTER 2006

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Zita McRobbie
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PREREQUISITE: LING 321, 322 and 323

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 TEXT:

Lehmann, W.P. 1992. *Historical Linguistics*. ISBN: 0415072433. London and New York: Routledge.

Textbook is available for purchase at the SFU Bookstore, Burnaby campus only.

COURSE GRADING:

Final grades will be based on the following percentages:

Assignments:	20%
Mid-Term Exam	40%
Final Exam:	40%

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

It is strongly recommended that you see the Departmental Assistant regarding your degree requirements at least two semesters before you plan to graduate. Unless you meet both faculty and major/minor requirements, your graduation cannot be approved.

Students requiring accommodations as a result of a disability, must contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities (604-291-3112 or csdo@sfu.ca)

Nov. 22/05