Syllabus

LIN 835P---INTRODUCTION TO HISTORICAL LINGUISTICS

Third trimester, School year 2004–2005
Instructor: Dr. Hsiu-chuan Liao
Time: Saturday 12:00 noon–3:00PM
Place: Y–403
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Office: LS Mezz.–253 (Linguistics Office)
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Office Hours: Friday 2:00–4:00PM, and by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course provides an introduction to the principles of historical linguistics. We will examine the concepts of linguistic reconstruction and change through a problem-solving approach. Topics to be addressed include: (i) Genetic relationship, (ii) Sound change and the Comparative Method, (iii) Language contact and borrowing, (iv) Subgrouping, (v) Linguistic prehistory. Data will be drawn from a variety of languages, with a focus on the languages of the Austronesian language family.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Homework Assignments/Practice Exercises 40%
Term Paper Presentation (April 2) 20%
Research paper (due April 5) 40%

Grades will be based on homework assignments/practice exercises (40%), presentations (20%), and a term paper (40%).

- **Term paper**: All registrants are expected to write a well-formatted research paper on some aspect of historical linguistics. The term paper requirement aims to help students develop some professional skills that are crucial to success in academic life. Please note the following important details associated with the term paper requirement.
  - **Format**: All registrants are expected to write a 10–15 page paper that conforms to the Language or Oceanic Linguistics guidelines. [Note: Examples should be presented in a (single-spaced) three-line format (Line 1—language data (use IPA Doulos 93 for phonetic symbols); Line 2—interlinear gloss; Line 3—free translation).]
  - **Topic and abstract**: All registrants are expected to discuss with the instructor about the possible topics for the research paper and prepare a one-page abstract (no longer than 500 words) for the paper. The topic of the term paper is due on **Saturday, February 27, 2005**; the abstract of the paper is due on **Saturday, March 5, 2005**.
  - **Term paper presentation**: All registrants are expected to make a 15-20 minute presentation on their research paper on **Saturday, April 2, 2005**. The purpose of the
term paper presentation requirement is to provide students with a chance to obtain valuable comments for improving the content of their paper.

- **Deadline:** The research paper is due at **4:00PM, Tuesday, April 5, 2005.**

**REQUIRED READING:**
Greenberg, Joseph H. 1957. *Essays in linguistics.* Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press. [III (pp. 35–45) and IV (pp. 46–55)]

**REFERENCES:**

LECTURE SCHEDULE

**Week 1:** January 8, 2005 (Saturday): **Introduction**

**Week 2:** January 15, 2005 (Saturday):
**TOPIC: GENETIC RELATIONSHIP**
Crowley, Chapter 1: Introduction
Greenberg, III “Genetic relationship among languages” (Pp. 35–45)

**Week 3:** January 22, 2005 (Saturday):
**TOPIC: SOUND CHANGE**
Crowley, Chapter 3: Expressing sound changes
Crowley, Chapter 4: Phonetic vs. Phonemic change

**Week 4:** January 29, 2005 (Saturday):
**TOPIC: THE COMPARATIVE METHOD**
Crowley, Chapter 5: The Comparative Method

**Week 5:** February 5, 2005 (Saturday):
**TOPIC: PROBLEMS WITH THE COMPARATIVE METHOD**
Crowley, Chapter 11: Problems with the Comparative Method

**Week 6:** February 12, 2005 (Saturday):
**TOPIC: BORROWING AND LANGUAGE CONTACT**
Crowley, Chapter 12: Language contact
[Campbell, Chapter 3: Borrowing]

**Week 7:** February 19, 2005 (Saturday):
**TOPIC: GRAMMATICAL, SEMANTIC, AND LEXICAL CHANGE**
Crowley, Chapter 7: Grammatical, semantic, and lexical change

**Week 8:** February 26, 2005 (Saturday): **Topic of the term paper due**
**TOPIC: SUBGROUPING**
Crowley, Chapter 8: Subgrouping (8.1—Shared innovation and shared retention)
Greenberg, IV “The problem of linguistic subgrouping” (pp. 46–55)

**Week 9:** March 5, 2005 (Saturday): **Abstract of the term paper due**
**TOPIC: LEXICOSTATISTICS AND GLOTTOCHRONOLOGY**
Crowley, Chapter 8: Subgrouping (8.2—Lexicostatistics and glottochronology)

**Week 10:** March 12, 2005 (Saturday):
**TOPIC: LINGUISTIC PALAEOONTOLOGY OR LINGUISTIC PREHISTORY**
Crowley, Chapter 13, Cultural reconstruction

**Week 11:** March 19, 2005 (Saturday): **Independent Study**

**Week 12:** March 26, 2005 (Saturday): **Holiday: Black Saturday**

**Week 13:** April 2, 2005 (Saturday): **Term Paper Presentation**

**Week 14:**
April 5, 2005 (Tuesday): Term paper due (at 4:00PM)
April 9, 2005 (Saturday): **Holiday: Bataan Day**