

## LIN362H1 F: HISTORICAL LINGUISTICS

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**Instructor:** Dr. Aleksei Nazarov  
**Office:** Sidney Smith 4089 (4th floor, Linguistics Dept.)  
**Email:** [aleksei.nazarov@utoronto.ca](mailto:aleksei.nazarov@utoronto.ca) (see §5 Email Policy)  
**Office hours:** Tuesday, 2-4 pm or by appointment

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**Lecture:** Tuesday, 5-8 pm      Sidney Smith 1084

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### 1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

- Languages change over time. The English we speak today is very different from the English spoken 1000 years ago. Why do languages change? Which aspects of a language change? Are there regular patterns underlying change? Do all languages undergo the same change processes? How do we decide which languages are related? Can we reconstruct languages that no longer exist? These are some of the questions we will discuss in this course, with a particular focus on sound change.

*Prerequisite: LIN229H1; Exclusions: none*

### 2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:
  - Identify and exemplify the subject matter and goals of historical linguistics
  - Identify and understand the various types of sound change
  - Understand the comparative method and apply it to data from different languages
  - Understand the method of internal reconstruction and apply it to data from a single language
  - Identify, exemplify, and explain the problems faced by alternatives to the comparative method
  - Identify and understand the various types of semantic, morphological, and syntactic change.

### 3. READINGS AND MATERIALS

- The required readings will come from the following textbook:
  - Campbell, Lyle. 2013. *Historical Linguistics: An Introduction*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Edinburgh/Boston: Edinburgh University Press/MIT Press.
  - The book is available at the University Bookstore, and it is on reserve for this course at the Robarts and John M. Kelly libraries.
- Course page
  - LIN362H1 F on *Quercus* (<http://q.utoronto.ca/>).
  - All assignments/project briefs, handouts/slides, grades, announcements, and any other supplementary materials will be posted here.

#### 4. EVALUATION

<i>Item</i>	<i>Weight</i>
2 homework assignments	15% (10%+5%)
Midterm test	25%
Group project	25%
Consultation and topic proposal	5%
Poster presentation	20%
Final exam	35%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>

*See the Schedule (§9) for the dates; see §7.3 on grading.*

#### 5. EMAIL POLICY

Email should only be used for administrative purposes: to schedule an appointment or to inform me of a missed term test/quiz.

All email correspondence must be sent from a UofT (...utoronto.ca) email address. The subject line should begin with "LIN362". You can expect a response to your email within 2 business days – not including evenings, weekends, or holidays.

#### 6. COURSE COMPONENTS

##### 6.1 LECTURES

Lectures introduce core course material, elaborate on topics presented in the textbook, and may introduce new information not covered there. A large portion of each lecture will be devoted to working through historical linguistics problems/questions. Crucial data/examples to be reviewed in the lecture will be posted as worksheets/handouts a day before. Selected slides/notes from the lecture will be posted the following day. Students are expected to bring the worksheets to the lecture and to take their own notes. They are responsible for all the material discussed in lectures as well as for all assigned readings. Frequent absences will make it impossible to succeed in this course.

##### 6.2 ASSIGNMENTS

There will be 2 problem-solving homework assignments, worth 15% in total. The assignments must be submitted through the appropriate link on Quercus. Each assignment is due at 5:00 PM on the following dates:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Assignment 1	October 2 at 5:00 PM	10%
Assignment 3	November 13 at 5:00 PM	5%
<i>Total</i>		<i>15%</i>

You may only submit the assignment through Quercus as long as the link to submit it is visible. Assignments submitted by email will not be accepted.

Your assignment submission must be in PDF format (other formats will not be accepted by the online environment). Please familiarize yourself with the various methods to input IPA symbols in text editing software (which will be discussed in class) before writing up your assignment.

### **6.3 MIDTERM AND EXAM**

The Midterm Test and the Final Exam will consist of problem solving and short answer questions. In addition, the Final Exam will involve writing a short summary of your final project (see §6.4).

<i>Item</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Midterm test	October 16	25%
Final exam	TBA	35%
<i>Total</i>		<i>60%</i>

The *Midterm Test* (25%) will be given on *October 16* during the regular lecture time in the regular classroom. If you miss the midterm, you must contact the instructor by email within 48 hours, stating the reason for missing the test. If you provide valid documentation of an emergency (e.g. demonstrable illness or a life-changing event), you will be given one opportunity to write a makeup test. After that, a grade of zero will be assigned to this component of the evaluation. The date, time, and location of the *Final Exam* (35%) will be announced. The final exam is cumulative, based on all the material covered in all the lectures and the assigned readings. For information on official exam rules, please see <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/exams/reminder>.

If you cannot attend the exam for any reason, you must go through the Faculty Registrar to petition to write a deferred exam.

### **6.4 GROUP PROJECT AND PRESENTATION**

In addition to the homework, test, and exams, there will also be a group project that will be presented in the form of a poster on the last day of class. For this project, you will work in groups of three. Each group will choose a topic in consultation with the instructor, as detailed below, dealing with the problems of some alternative methods in investigating language relatedness (a detailed brief with topic suggestions will be given out in due time). The timeline for the project is as follows:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Draft of proposal, consultation	October 29-November 2	5%
Final version of proposal due	November 13 at 5:00 PM	
Poster presentation	December 4	20%
<i>Total</i>		<i>25%</i>

The first phase of the project will be a 300-word topic proposal (5%). Before Reading week, I will meet with each group to talk about a draft of their proposal. The final version of the proposal is due on *November 13*.

We will have a poster presentation session in the Linguistics Department lounge on our last day of class, *December 4*. All students are expected to present their posters, as well as evaluate other poster presentations. The grade given to a group will be recorded for each member.

## 6.5 PARTICIPATION

The participation grade will be based on your participation in class discussion (3%), participation in group activities (based on peer evaluations, 2%), and evaluation of other group's posters (1%).

## 7. IMPORTANT POLICIES

The following policies outline the expectations of student conduct in this course. I will assume you are familiar with these policies and will hold you accountable to them.

### 7.1 ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is fundamental to learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that the UofT degree that you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement, and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves. Familiarize yourself with the UofT *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>). It is the rule book for academic behaviour at the UofT, and you are expected to know the rules. For more information about academic integrity, see [www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/students](http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/students).

**Beyond the permitted collaboration described in §6.4, students are expected at all times to do their own work.** Academic integrity offenses may result in serious penalty, including expulsion and prohibition from re-enrolment at UofT or any other academic institution. Potential offenses include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.

On tests and exams:

- Using or possessing unauthorized aids.
- Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test.
- Misrepresenting your identity.

In academic work:

- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.

Visit [http://www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/Academic\\_integrity.pdf](http://www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/Academic_integrity.pdf) for more information.

### 7.3 GRADING

The Department of Linguistics' Grading Policy is available at:

<https://linguistics.utoronto.ca/forms/lin-dept-grading-policy.pdf>

If you would like to request a reevaluation of your assignment or test you can submit a completed *Re-grading Request Form* along with the item(s) to be re-graded. This must be done within 10 days after the work has been returned. The form is downloadable at the course website. These requests must be made in person, not by email.

### 7.4 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The class materials (notes, handouts, etc.) are the intellectual property of the instructor teaching the course. You are not authorized to share your notes with anyone outside of the class, post them on a website, and/or make any commercial use of them without the instructors' written permission. **Students may not create audio/video recordings of classes** without explicit written permission of the instructor.

## 8. OTHER HELP & RESOURCES

- Learning disabilities or other disabilities due to chronic conditions or accidents are assessed and accommodated by *Accessibility Services*: (<http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/Home.htm>).
- For any other specific intervention, please refer to the appropriate student service linked through the URL <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/index.aspx>.
- The *Academic Success Centre* is dedicated to making sure you achieve your highest possible learning potential. They have a drop-in centre and offer individual consultation with a counselor to improve or enhance your learning skills (<http://www.asc.utoronto.ca>).
- Peer-study groups are a way to reinforce your learning process and to give and receive useful feedback.
- The *Linguistics Graduate Students' Union* offers a tutoring service to undergraduate students enrolled in linguistics courses. If you feel you need additional one-on-one help, please consult <https://linguistics.utoronto.ca/undergraduate/tutoring.html>.

## 9. COURSE SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE)

Please note that the schedule may change if we need to spend more or less time on certain topics. The assessment dates will NOT change.

<i>Wk.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>	<i>Assessment</i>
1	Sep. 11	Introduction, Sound change	Ch. 1, 2.1-2.5	
2	Sep. 18	Sound change (cont'd)	Ch. 2.6-2.7	
3	Sep. 25	Sound change (cont'd), Borrowing	Ch. 2.8-2.9, 3	
4	Oct. 2	Comparative method & reconstruction	Ch. 5	Assignment 1
5	Oct. 9	Linguistic classification	Ch. 6, 12	
6	Oct. 16			<b>Midterm</b>
7	Oct. 23	Alternative methods and their problems	Ch. 14, 17	
8	Oct. 30	Internal reconstruction	Ch. 8	Project proposal draft, consultation
	Nov. 6	Reading Week – No class		
11	Nov. 13	Analogy; Semantic change	Ch. 4, 9	Assignment 2 Project proposal final
12	Nov. 20	Morphological & Syntactic change	Ch. 10, 11	
13	Nov. 27	Explaining the past and present of languages	Ch. 13	
14	Dec. 4			Poster presentations
	Dec. 8-21			<b>Final exam</b>

### *Important dates*

- September 19: Last day to add or change F courses
- November 5: Last day to drop F courses from academic record, or choose CR/NCR
- November 5–9: Reading Week – no classes
- December 5: Classes end
- December 8–21: Final examinations
- January 11 2019: Last day to file a petition for a missed final exam