

**Syllabus**  
**Introduction to Historical Linguistics**  
**LIN 4930 (0398) and 6932 (4338)**  
T 8-9 (MAT 0015) R 9 (MAT 0015)  
(Spring 2023, 03 credits)

Dr. Jules D. Gliesche (drjdg@ufl.edu)  
Office Hours: T 7th, R 9th & by appointment

Office: Yon Hall 431

**Course Website -- On Canvas**

**Course Objectives**

To introduce and explore the basic concepts of historical linguistics, apply these concepts to data, and draw well-reasoned conclusions about the history of individual languages and language families. Concepts of language relatedness, language change and language evolution will be discussed, along with the application of the scientific method to linguistic inquiry.

**Required Reading**

Hock, H & Joseph, B. (2009). *Language History, Language Change & Language Relationship: An Introduction to Historical and Comparative Linguistics*. 3rd Edition. New York: Mouton de Gruyter.

Miscellaneous papers and handouts.

**Weekly Schedule (Approximate)**

Week	Dates	Lecture	Chapter in Hock & Joseph
1	10, 12 January	Course Introduction	1
2	17, 19 January	Methodology, Indo-European	2
3	24, 26 January	Writing Systems - Sound Change	3
4	31 Jan, 1 Feb	Sound Change	4 & 5
5	7, 9 February	Lexical Change & Borrowing	7 & 8
6	14, 16 February	Etymology & Naming	9
7	21, 23 February	Language & Dialect	10 & 11
8	28 Feb, 2 Mar February	Language & Dialect, Language Contact	12 & 13
9	7, 9 March	Language Contact	14 & 15
10	21, 23 March	Language Relationship	16
11	28, 30 March	Language Relationship	17 & 18
12	4, 6 April	Mop-Up Week / Student Presentations	
13	11, 13 April	Student Presentations	
14	18, 20 April	Student Presentations	
15	25 April	Last Exam	

**Test Dates (Also Approximate)**

6 February

30 March

25 April

**Testing and Requirements**

Your grade in this course will be based upon your performance on three 1-hour exams and an end-of-semester group project that you will present to the class and submit in written form to me (the project will be explained no later than Week 4). Graduate students will do more extensive, individual presentations. Since I trust that you are all responsible, mature adults, homework may be assigned but will not be graded. It will be reviewed and discussed in class. Likewise, attendance will not be recorded, but **you are strongly encouraged to attend regularly**. While lecture notes will be posted on Canvas, **they are only outlines of the material discussed in class**.

Hourly tests based on the lectures, handouts, and readings will be given at the scheduled time only. There will be no make-ups without an official written excuse or other documentation authorizing an emergency absence. Failure to take a test will be recorded as an automatic zero. Tests will be cumulative but emphasize the material presented after the previous hourly test. There will be no extra credit assignments.

All grades will be based on a 100 point scale. **At the end of the semester, all four grades will be averaged together and divided by four (4). Hence, the three tests and the final project are of equal value, i.e. 25% of your grade.** Your final averaged number grade will correspond to the following letter grade:

Points	Letter Grade
100 - 93	A
92 - 90	A -
89 - 87	B +
86 - 83	B
82 - 80	B-
79 - 77	C+
76 - 73	C
72 - 70	C-
69 - 67	D+
66 - 63	D
62 - 60	D-
59 & Below	E

Please see the UF website for the policy regarding grading policies and assigning grade points:  
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY WILL RESULT IN AN AUTOMATIC 'E' FOR THE COURSE

Please see the UF website for the policy regarding plagiarism and academic honesty in general:  
<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu>

### ***Students with Disabilities***

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

### ***Class Demeanor***

This is a course that touches on many aspects of human history and human existence. There is a good chance that during the course, at least one belief of yours will be challenged and/or examined. Please do not take this personally. In fact, feel free to join in the discussion, ask questions, and contribute to the exploration of ideas that is learning. Just please remember to do it in a courteous and civil manner.

By the same token, please be considerate of your classmates when dealing with the wonders of this networked age. Put your cell phones on "silent" mode during class, turn the volume down on your laptops, and ignore us quietly while networking.

### ***Communication***

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me. ***Email is my preferred form of communication.*** If a problem arises, it is always a good idea to contact me either **before** you act or **as soon as possible** afterward.