



Course Syllabus

Course Code	Course Title	ECTS Credits
LALI-491	Historical Linguistics	6
Prerequisites	Department	Semester
LALI-240	Languages and Literature	Spring
Type of Course	Field	Language of Instruction
Required	Linguistics	English
Level of Course	Lecturer(s)	Year of Study
1 st Cycle	Dr Andry Sophocleous	4 th
Mode of Delivery	Work Placement	Corequisites
Face to face	N/A	None

Course Objectives:

The main objectives of the course are to:

- explain why change occurs, how it can be investigated and explained;
- what the effects of change are in terms of phonology, grammar and lexicon.
- investigate issues such as language birth and death, pidgins and creoles and the process of language standardisation;
- question why language change takes place and how sounds and syntactic changes spread through a community

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

1. Demonstrate a knowledge of how languages begin and end
2. Study changes in progress
3. Examine the process of pidginisation and creolisation
4. Examine the key concepts in the study of language change
5. Show a detailed familiarity with the major events in the history of English
6. Assess issues related to language change (social, psychological and political)
7. Examine how sound and syntactic changes spread through a language
8. Consider how age and social variation between speakers lead to the spread of change

Course Content:

The course will be divided into three large sections which will explain the change of language:

1. Beginnings of languages: Language contact, language birth (pidginisation, creolisation, standardisation)
2. Language Death: reasons leading to language death
3. Transition periods: study changes in process such as lexical, semantic, phonological, morphological and syntactic changes. Investigate how these changes spread.
4. Causation: why change takes place

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Lectures, activities and class discussions

Assessment Methods:

Two homework assignments, final exam, class discussions

Required Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Trask's Historical Linguistics (2nd edition)	McColl Millar, Robert	Hodder Arnold	2007	978-0-340-92765-6

Recommended Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Language Change: Progress or Decay?	Aitchison Jean	Cambridge University Press	2000	978-0-521-79535-7