

GER 381/ LIN 383/ANT 393
Introduction to Diachronic Linguistics: Germanic
Fall 2009
MW 3-4:30, BUR 234

Description:

This seminar gives an overview of the emergence and development of the German language. A wide range of topics in the history of German will be considered, from its Indo-European prehistory to ongoing changes in the modern language. This course will also introduce students to the basic principles of historical linguistics, including models of language change and how linguistic changes spread geographically and socially.

Texts/Readings:

- Campbell, Lyle. 2004. *Historical Linguistics*. 2d edition. Cambridge: MIT Press.
- coursepack, containing a complete copy of J.C. Salmons' *The History of German: What the Past Reveals about Today's Language*, along with various other readings.
- The Campbell book is available at the University Co-Op.
- The other readings will be placed in the reading gallery on the 3d floor of Burdine and/or made available electronically.

Requirements/Grading:

Participation:	20%
Exercises:	10%
Midterm paper:	20%
Final paper:	50%

Participation:

Participation includes attendance, asking questions, answering my questions, and taking part in class discussions. Attendance is mandatory; unexcused absences may be compensated for (to be negotiated as required). **The instructor also reserves the right to give short quizzes, both announced and unannounced, about the material we have covered.** If such quizzes are given, they will form part of your participation grade.

Exercises:

The Campbell book has exercises at the end of each chapter. Some of these exercises, as well as some exercises from other sources, will be assigned as homework. These exercises will be graded. We will also do some exercises in class.

Midterm paper:

You will be required to write a brief midterm paper (circa 5 pp.), due on Monday, October 26. Details to follow.

Final paper:

You will be required to write a final paper (15-20 pp.) on a topic of your choice (I will distribute a list of some possible topics), and to give a brief in-class presentation on your topic. Please clear your topic with me in advance. The paper will be due on Friday, December 11.

Instructor: Marc Pierce
Office: BUR 368
Office hours: MW 11-12 and by appointment. You should also feel free to stop by at any time – if I am too busy to see you I will say so.
E-mail: mpierc@mail.utexas.edu [NB: I do not have e-mail at home. Please plan accordingly.]
Phone: 232-6360 (office), 471-4123 (Germanic Department)

Classroom etiquette and a few other things

Cell phones must be turned off in class; computers may be used only for note-taking. Students who use electronic devices for non-class related activities and create a disturbance will be asked to leave for the remainder of that class. We must all do our best to make class a pleasant and valuable experience for everyone. Please conduct yourselves accordingly.

The class will be conducted in English, but you should feel free to switch temporarily to German should the need arise.

If you need help with something, see me. You may also need to do extra work; I am happy to help you with this (by supplying you with extra exercises and going over them with you, etc.). You may also want to think about forming a study group with some of your classmates.

Students with disabilities:

The University of Austin provides appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities upon request. Students with a documented disability who require academic accommodations should contact the Service for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations. These letters must be given to the instructor. For details, see <<http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/index.php>>.

Academic assistance:

Academic Assistance is provided by the UT Learning Center, in Jester Center, Room A332A. It offers help with college-level writing, reading, and learning strategies. It is free to all currently enrolled students.

The University of Texas Honor Code:

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

A final note:

The instructor takes issues of academic honesty very seriously. All work in this course *must* be your own. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be dealt with according to standard university procedures. Discussion of assignments between students in the course is always acceptable, but all students **must** write out their own work unless a specific group assignment, to which all members have clearly contributed, is made. Please consult the instructor if you have concerns or questions.

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Course Schedule, Part I

This should be a reasonably accurate syllabus, although some changes may become necessary in the course of the semester.

W, 8/26	Introduction
M, 8/31	Campbell, chapter 1; Sihler (2000)
W, 9/2	Campbell, chapter 2
M, 9/7	Labor Day, no class
W, 9/9	Campbell, chapter 3
M, 9/14	Campbell, chapter 4
W, 9/16	Campbell, chapter 5
M, 9/21	Campbell, chapter 6
W, 9/23	Campbell, chapter 7
M, 9/28	Campbell, chapter 8
W, 9/30	Campbell, chapter 9
M, 10/5	Campbell, chapter 10
W, 10/7	Campbell, chapters 11, 12, and 13
M, 10/12	Campbell, chapters 14 and 15
W, 10/14	Kyes (n.d.); Robinson (1992)