

**LING 4320/5314: Historical & Comparative Linguistics**  
**Spring 2012**

---

**Instructor:** Benjamin Slade

**Office:** Hammond Hall Room 132E

**Linguistics Main Office Phone Number:** 817-272-3133

**Email Address:** slade@uta.edu

**Office Hours:** TBA

**Section Information:** LING 4320-001 / LING 5314-001

**Place and Time of Class Meetings:** Trimble Hall 216 – TuTh 9.30AM – 10.50AM

NOTE: This is a “representative syllabus”. An official “day one” syllabus will be provided on the first day of class.

**Description of Course Content:** This class will introduce the study of language evolution and linguistic change (phonological, lexical, morphological, syntactic, semantic); the comparative method and its use in linguistic reconstruction and the establishment of genetic relationships between languages; the laws of language change; and issues of language contact, convergence, creolisation.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** This course will give the student a greater understanding of language and how it can change, as well what it means for languages to be genetically related (or not) to one another, and how such relationships can be determined.

**Requirements:** Prerequisite: LING 3311 or LING 3300.

**Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:** Hock, Hans Henrich and Brian D. Joseph. 2009. *Language History, Language Change, and Language Relationships: An Introduction to Historical and Comparative Linguistics*. 2nd rev. edition. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter. ISBN: 978-3-11-021429-1 (referred to below simply as HJ).

Specific reading assignments are listed below. Additional readings may be assigned; these will be made available by the instructor. Please note: Although the textbook is required and you are responsible for knowing its content, we will almost always be going beyond this text in the classroom. Homework assignments will more often than not be based on the content and details of the lectures rather than the book. The book, in other words, is not a substitute for coming to class.

**Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:**

There will be three in-class exams over readings, reports, and discussions. Questions will be in essay format or short answer format and require application of analysis as well as knowledge of factual information about material covered during readings and discussion. Each graduate student will also make a class presentation on a topic approved by the instructor.

LING 5314: The exams will count 80% of final grade. The in-class report on a topic chosen by the student with the instructors consent will count for 15% of the final grade. Class participation (5% of the final grade). There will be no final exam.

LING 4320: Exams make up 90% of the final grade. Undergraduate students will not report on outside research, but class participation will be important (10% of the final grade). There will be no final exam.

**Grading Policy:** Your grade for all requirements will be determined as follows: Each requirement will be worth a certain number of points (e.g. assignments will typically be 50 points). Your grade on each assignment will be determined on the basis of the percentage of points earned to points possible: 100-90% = A, 89-80% = B, 79-70% = C, 69-60% = D, 59-0% = F. Your final grade will be determined in the same fashion but taking into account the weightings described above.

**OTHER COURSE POLICIES:**

**Electronic devices:** Please turn off and keep off all pagers, electronic games, MP3 and CD players, and cell-phones. If you are using a lap-top, please use it only for course related matters; failure to do so will negatively affect your participation grade.

**Attendance Policy:** Class attendance is required. You are responsible for the material presented in class lectures and for any handouts passed out in class; for your own benefit, come to class. But if you must miss a class, get notes and information from another student, do the reading, and do the assignments. Assignments are due on the day listed in the schedule, and no later, unless you make arrangements with me prior to the due date.

**Projected Course Outline:** (dates are approximate, and are likely to change) To be added.

### University Policies

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. Contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships for more information.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

As a student, your responsibility rests with informing the instructor in writing or email and providing the official documentation from the Office for Students with Disabilities no later than the end of the second

week of classes.

**Academic Integrity:** At The University of Texas at Arlington, academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form, including but not limited to “cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts” (UT System Regents’ Rule 50101, §2.2). Suspected violations of academic integrity standards will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

While the Department of Linguistics and TESOL hopes to foster a sense of community in which students can enhance their educational experience by conferring with each other about the lectures, readings, and assignments, all work submitted must be the product of each student’s own effort. Students are expected to know and honor the standards of academic integrity followed by American universities; ignorance of these standards is not an excuse for committing an act of academic dishonesty (including plagiarism). If you have questions, please speak with your instructor, your academic advisor, or the department chair.

Please be advised that departmental policy requires instructors to formally file charges with the Office of Student Conduct, following procedures as laid out for faculty (<http://www.uta.edu/studentaffairs/conduct/faculty.html>), as well as notify the department chair of the filing of the charges.

**Student Support Services Available:** The University of Texas at Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. These resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals to resources for any reason, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107 or visit [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources) for more information.

**Final Review Week:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the course syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week.

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture,

seminar, or laboratory will be asked to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS) about the course and how it was taught. Instructions on how to access the SFS system will be sent directly to students through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback data is required by state law; student participation in the SFS program is voluntary.

**Auditors:** The Department of Linguistics and TESOL has a "no audit" policy. However, with instructor permission, Department of Linguistics and TESOL faculty, staff, and students enrolled in a linguistics/TESOL program may be able to sit in on a course. These courses cannot be used to satisfy any degree or program requirements/electives, nor will any credit (including retroactive credit) be granted.