Course description:

ENGL 223. Historical Linguistics. 3.0 Spr.
Prerequisites: ENGL 121 (or equivalent) or permission of instructor.
Evaluation and interpretation of similarities among languages. Methods of investigating and reconstructing the past history of languages (including those for which no significant earlier written record exists). Examining and evaluating the linguistic evidence for its insights into the earlier culture, migration patterns, and linguistic contacts of the speakers.

Required materials:
A packet of materials available online (under Content).

Suggested text for those of you who want a text to read. It is available through www.Amazon.com and other sources. However, it is not necessary for the course; for the course, the bulk of the material will be presented online, supplemented by classroom lecture.


Course requirements:
1. **Tests.** Three mid-terms and a final will be given (at least parts on Web CT). These examinations will include both objective and essay style questions covering not only the class discussions but also the other assignments. (100 points each)

2. **Homework.** Regular homework assignments will be given. Those who choose not to do this homework regularly will contribute significantly to the ease with which a class 'curve' can be established. (20 @ 10 points each = 200 points)
Note that the homework and the discussion of the homework constitutes a major part of learning how to understand and how to do historical linguistics.

3. **Attendance.** Two absences are excused. For each additional absence, regardless of the reason, 10 points are deducted.

4. **Email.** During the course of the semester various pieces of information will be distributed via email.

5. **Web CT.** Web CT will sometimes be used for tests and, possibly, for some of the homework.

**Late tests: There are no late tests.** If, for some reason, a problem comes up, talk to me before you miss a test.

**Cheating:** Students caught cheating will be given a failing grade for the semester.

**Disabilities:** Any student in this class who has a disability of any kind that might prevent the fullest expression of his or her abilities should contact me the first week of class so that we can discuss class requirements.

**Religious holidays:** Any student who foresees conflicts with assignments in the course because of religious holidays should discuss it with me the first week of class.

Final: