Historical Linguistics: Syllabus

This syllabus is the table of contents from Campbell’s book. My own materials and problems will be integrated with the Campbell outline, but this syllabus should be taken as more suggestive than definitive. First, what we cover will depend on part on your abilities. Second, in a sense the assigned problems, rather than reading, constitute the core of the course and at times we will follow where the problems lead us.

1. Introduction
   1.1 Introduction
   1.2 What is historical linguistics about?
   1.3 Kinds of linguistic changes: An English example

2. Sound change
   2.1 Introduction
   2.2 Kinds of sound change
   2.3 Non-phonemic (allophonic changes)
   2.4 Phonemic changes
   2.5 General kinds of sound changes
   2.6 Kinds of common sound changes
   2.7 Relative chronology
   2.8 Chain shifts

   lenition and fortition
   sound addition
   metathesis
   vowel breaking
   assimilation
   dissimilation
   abnormal sound changes

3. Borrowing
   3.1 Introduction
   3.2 What is a loanword?
   3.3 Why do languages borrow from one another?
   3.4 How do words get borrowed?
   3.5 How do we identify loanwords and determine the direction of change?
3.6 Loans as clues to linguistic changes in the past
3.7 What can be borrowed?
3.8 Cultural inferences

4. Analogical change
4.1 Introduction
4.2 Proportional analogy
4.3 Analogical leveling
4.4 Analogical extension
4.5 The relationship between analogy and sound change
4.6 Analogical models
4.7 Other kinds of analogy

Kuryłowicz’s laws
Analogy in word order

5. The comparative method and linguistic reconstruction
5.1 Introduction
5.2 The comparative method up close and personal
5.3 A case study
5.4 Indo-European and the regularity of sound change
5.5 Basic assumptions of the comparative method
5.6 How realistic are reconstructed proto-languages?

The Neogrammarians
Convergent lexical development
Spelling pronunciation
The wave model and lexical diffusion
Dialect chains and non-discrete subgroups

6. Linguistic classification
6.1 Introduction
6.2 The world’s language families
6.3 Terminology
6.4 How to draw family trees: subgrouping
6.5 Glottochronology

Common languages
Language isolates
Shared innovation and shared retention

Language families of the world (selected)
Language families of Europe and the Mideast
Indo-European
Semitic
Hamito-Semitic
Sumerian
Finno-Ugric
Altaic
Basque
Northern and Southern Caucasian
Language families of Asia (class notes; packet)
Sino-Tibetan
Tai-Kadai (= Thai, Shan, Lao, Hlai, and so on)
Austroasiatic (=Mon-Khmer)
Dravidian
Austronesian (=Malayo-Polynesian)
Australian and Papuan
Paleo-Asiatic

Language families of Africa
Niger-Congo and Khoisan
Language families of the Americas
North American Indian languages
Eskimo-Aleut and Athabascan
Algonquian, Iroquoian, and Muskogean
Siouan and Uto-Aztecan
Mayan
South American Indian languages

7.0 Models of linguistic change
7.1 Introduction
7.2 The family-tree model
7.3 The challenge from dialectology and the “wave theory”
7.4 Dialectology (linguistic geography, dialect geography)
7.5 A framework for investigating the causes of linguistic change
7.6 Sociolinguistics and language change
7.7 The issue of lexical diffusion

Social and psychological factors
Tabu
Prestige
Folk etymologies
Learned etymologizing
Labov and sociolinguistic views of change
the uniformitarian principle
8. Internal reconstruction
   8.1 Introduction
   8.2 Internal reconstruction illustrated
   8.3 Relative chronology
   8.4 The limitations of internal reconstruction
   8.5 Internal reconstruction and the comparative method

9. Syntactic change
   9.1 Introduction
   9.2 Mechanisms of syntactic change
   9.3 Reanalysis and extension exemplified
   9.4 Generative approaches (not to be covered)
   9.5 Grammaticalization
   9.6 Syntactic reconstruction

10. Semantic and lexical change
    10.1 Introduction
    10.2 Traditional considerations
    10.3 Attempts to explain semantic change
    10.4 Other kinds of lexical change — New words

11. Explaining linguistic change
    11.1 Introduction
    11.2 Early theories
    11.3 Internal and external causes
    11.4 Interaction of causal factors
    11.5 Explanation and prediction

    Idiotic theories:
    o anatomy and ethnic character
    o climate and geography

12. Areal linguistics
    12.1 Introduction
    12.2 Defining the concept
    12.3 Examples of linguistic areas
    12.4 How to determine linguistic areas
    12.5 Implications of areal linguistics for linguistic reconstructions and sub-grouping

    Typology and grammatical change (Crowley, 7.1)
    Linguistic universals

12b. Language contact

Syllabus v
convergence; Sapir’s drift (notes)
language death

Pidgins, creoles, and mixed languages
Kupwar
Mednyj Aleut

13. Distant genetic relationship
   13.1 Introduction
   13.2 Lexical comparison
   13.3 Sound correspondences
   13.4 Grammatical evidence
   13.5 Borrowing
   13.6 Semantic constraints
   13.7 Onomatopoeia
   13.8 Nursery forms
   13.9 Short forms and unmatched segments
   13.10 Chance similarities
   13.11 Sound-meaning isomorphism
   13.12 Erroneous morphological analysis
   13.13 Non-cognates
   13.14 Spurious forms
   13.16 Methodological wrap-up

14. Philology: The role of written records
   14.1 Introduction
   14.2 Philology
   14.3 Examples of what philology can contribute
   14.4 The role of writing
   14.5 Getting historical information for written sources

WRITTEN RECORDS AND WRITING SYSTEMS

1. Basic types (Figure 3)
   a. Pictographic writing
   b. Logographic writing
   c. Syllabic writing
   d. Alphabetic writing

2. The historical evolution of writing systems
   a. Schamandt-Besserat’s ideas on the evolution of writing
   b. Sumerian Writing
   c. Developments of Alphabets
15. Linguistic prehistory
   15.1 Introduction
   15.2 Indo-European linguistic prehistory
   15.3 The methods of linguistic prehistory
   15.4 Limitations and cautions

16. Indo-European (probably scattered through Campbell)
   The Indo-European languages
   Consonants
   Grimm's Law and Verner's Law
   Laryngeal theory

Final: Thursday 10:00-11:50