LING 3800       INTRODUCTION TO TESOL (TEACHING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE)
MARIA THOMAS-RUZIC

Provides an introduction to teaching English as a foreign (additional) language. Examines language awareness and basic principles and techniques in the teaching, learning and assessing of language skills. Considers teaching in different contexts and for different purposes, and assessing learner needs and outcomes. Practical applications include learning to use student EFL/ESL texts, planning lessons, managing the learning environment, and carrying out mini-lessons. Prerequisites: The course assumes some background in linguistics, foreign languages, English, Education, or Communication.

Other interested students may contact the linguistics undergraduate advisor: Deanna.Fierman@colorado.edu.

LING 5570       INTRODUCTION TO DIACHRONIC LINGUISTICS
ZYGMUNT FRAJZYNGIER

Purpose of the course:

1. To describe the main types of language change in the domains of phonetics, phonology; morphology; syntax; semantics and discourse
2. To discover and describe main causes of language change in all of the domains listed above
3. To discover how grammatical systems and lexical categories emerge (‘grammaticalization’ and ‘lexicalization’)
4. To describe how one establishes genetic relationship among languages
5. To learn the theoretical assumptions and methodologies behind the reconstructions
6. To explore contemporary issues and methods in the study of language change

It is expected, that one of the outcomes of the course, in addition to the skills learned, is a better understanding of why languages are the way they are.

Course requirements:

- Assigned readings, exercises, and presentations in class
- Course participation
- Quizzes: The purpose of the quizzes is for the students to make sure that they have mastered basic methodologies
- Term paper –The purpose of the term paper is for students to demonstrate that they can propose a hypothesis regarding some aspect of language change and argue in support of the hypothesis

Grading: quizzes, exercises, course participation 50%
Term paper: 50%
Absence of quizzes or term paper is an automatic F
LING 6520  COMPARATIVE TOPICS IN LINGUISTICS: COMPUTATIONAL GRAMMARS

MARTHA PALMER

This course will focus on comparing and contrasting computational grammars with respect to their handling of syntactic phenomena and their ability to interface with semantics. Tree-Adjoining Grammars and Combinatory Categorial Grammars will be taught in depth. Their treatment of long distance dependencies, in particular, will be compared to that of Lexical-Functional grammars and Head-driven Phrase Structured Grammars. VerbNet, and its use in automatically generating CCG lexical entries will also be covered. No programming will be required, but there will be hands-on exercises involving running Combinatory Categorial Grammars (CCGs), both with and without semantic representations.

This course will be similar to, although not identical with, the previous version I taught 6 years ago: http://verbs.colorado.edu/~mpalmer/Ling6520/

LING 7420  SYNTACTIC THEORY

BARBARA FOX

The course is a chronological exploration of the development of discourse-functional syntax, starting from its beginnings in the 1970s as a response to generative syntax, and moving into its modern manifestations: usage-based grammar and interaction and grammar (Conversation Analysis). We examine the many theoretical issues raised in analyzing syntax/grammar in discourse context, and discuss the various ways this subdiscipline has dealt with the issues over time.

The course, while deeply theoretical, will also involve a great deal of hands-on work with discourse data, especially conversational data.

If all goes well, we will have visiting Skype lectures from several luminaries in the field, including Joan Bybee, Sandy Thompson, and Ceci Ford.

LING 7420 fulfills a requirement in the doctoral program, and can count as an elective in the MA program. MA students should not be intimidated by the course number! As long as you've taken LING 5420, you will be fine.