

Attention students of
LANGUAGES, LINGUISTICS, ANTHROPOLOGY

New Course for Spring 2012

GRMN 4931 • FOLA 4931

Language Evolution and Decay:
The fundamentals of language
change

• • • •

Dr. Tyler Luiten

Visiting Assistant Professor of German

• • •

This course introduces the student to the fascinating field of **historical linguistics**. We will examine the variety of factors that contribute to **LANGUAGE EVOLUTION** and **CHANGE**, including contact between languages, social factors, ideologies, written language and language standardization. We will discover how linguists are able to **reconstruct** long extinct, non-written language, including **INDO-EUROPEAN**, the parent language of many of Europe's modern languages.

This course will:

- Introduce you to basic linguistic principles and concepts such as the comparative method, used to reconstruct languages of all types
 - Examine how linguists identify and group related languages and dialects
- Provide an appreciation of the natural processes of language change which lead to the rich diversity that exists across languages and dialects
- Demonstrate how linguistics incorporates different fields such as sociology, history, anthropology, psychology, and geography, to name a few

This is a unique opportunity for anyone interested in language. No linguistic or foreign language background is necessary or assumed. Together, we will see how the scientific study of language can contribute to our understanding of the human condition. Course fulfills elective requirement for the German major.
