

**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**  
**INSTITUTE OF ANTHROPOLOGY, GENDER AND AFRICAN**  
**STUDIES**  
**BA (ANTHROPOLOGY)**  
**NAF 410: HISTORICAL AND COMPARATIVE LINGUISTICS**  
**Instructor: G. MUGA**  
**Course Outline**

1. Introduction to Historical and Comparative Linguistics
  - Historical Linguistics
  - Comparative Linguistics
  - The Scope of Historical and Comparative Linguistics
  
2. Language Classification
  - Genetic Classification
  - Typological Classification
  - Areal Classification
  
3. Languages Families
  - Reconstruction
  - Protolanguages
  - Genealogical Relationships in linguistics
  
4. The Concepts of Diversity and Contact
  - Language diversity
  - Effects on contacts on languages
  
5. Language Change
  - Meaning of language change
  - Causes of language change
  - Dialect Variation
  - Geographical, Social and Psychological factors
  
6. Sound Change
  - The process of sound change
  - The distribution of sound change
  
7. Grammatical change
  - Lexicostatistics
  - Relative chronology

## READING LIST

- Albright, A. 2008. Explaining universal tendencies and language particulars in analogical change. In Jeff Good (ed.) *Linguistic universals and language change*, 215-30. Oxford: OUP.
- Bergs, Alexander & Gabriele Diewald. 2008. (ed.) *Constructions and Language Change*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter. 133-170.
- Campbell, Lyle. 1999a. *Historical Linguistics: An Introduction*. Cambridge (MA): MIT Press.
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- Hock, Hans Henrich & Brian D. Joseph. 1996. *Language History, Language Change, and Language Relationship. An Introduction to Historical and Comparative Linguistics*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
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- Joseph, Brian D. & Richard D. Janda (eds.). 2000. *Handbook of Historical Linguistics*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Kiparsky, Paul. 1971. "Historical Linguistics". In W. O. Dingwall (ed.), *A Survey of Linguistic Science*. College Park: University of Maryland, pp. 576-649.
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