

Veranstalter.....	<b>Marion Neubauer</b>
Thema .....	<b>Language Change</b> AA-A1, ENG-4/a, ENG-5, AA7, AA9, LAA8, LAA11, AA-W, AA-WB
Art der Veranstaltung .....	<b>Seminar Ib</b> <b>Seminar II</b> (für Studierende mit Zulassung ab WS 14/15)
Veranstaltungsnummer .....	<b>53-509</b>
Zeit.....	<b>Fr 10 - 12</b>
Raum.....	<b>Phil 1250</b>
Beginn.....	<b>08.04.2016</b>

### Course description:

The study of language change has traditionally been relegated to "historical linguistics", suggesting that linguistic changes took place in ancient times. This stance has radically changed since the 1960s when sociolinguists started to correlate (synchronic) variation and (diachronic) change. While (historical) sociolinguistics has been focusing on social factors underlying origins and propagation of change ever since, it took another 50 years to connect types of linguistic changes with the language user's neuromotor activities and basic mental processes in a principled usage-based approach.

In this seminar, we will see how words and constructions change as they cycle through our minds and bodies and are passed from one speaker to another. We will run the whole gamut of linguistic layers from phonetic, phonological, morphological, lexical, syntactic to semantic changes, concentrating on the underlying mechanisms of change. We will focus on the questions why language changes in the first place and why common patterns and directions of change occur repeatedly all the time.

**NB:** The sociolinguistic dimension will be of marginal concern only.

The course is based on *Language Change* by Joan Bybee, which is designed as a student's textbook though you might find it quite ambitious. You will have weekly reading assignments of around 20 pages, which will be elaborated on by in-class exercises.

### Course requirements:

Regular attendance  
weekly reading assignments  
"activity slot", short presentation  
term paper

### Literature:

Bybee, Joan. 2015. *Language Change*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (recommended for purchase)  
Millar, Robert McColl (ed.). 2015. *Trask's Historical Linguistics. Third Edition*. London & NY: Routledge.  
Campbell, Lyle. 2013<sup>3</sup>. *Historical Linguistics. An Introduction*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.