

Veranstalter:	Arne Lohmann
Thema:	Grammaticalization [AA-A1, ENG-4, ENG-5, AA-W, AA-M1]
Art der Veranstaltung:	Seminar Ib
Veranstaltungsnummer:	53-511
Zeit:	2st Mi 10-12
Raum:	Phil 1219
Beginn:	20.10.2010

You may hold the view that grammar is a dry and boring category that does nothing more than to simply exist. This course, in contrast, asks: Where does grammar come from? The concept of grammaticalization reveals that grammar is not just “there”, but is constantly changing and developing, thereby creating new forms and structures. In a narrow interpretation it describes how grammatical categories evolve out of lexical ones. However, its boundaries to related processes, such as lexicalization and analogy are often unclear. Therefore we will adopt a broader perspective and discuss grammaticalization phenomena in the wider context of linguistic change in general. In doing so, we will pay particular attention to the role of frequency of use. Frequency helps in the emergence of linguistic structure and constituency and at the same time leads to phonetic reduction and loss of form. While thus being a force of innovation in the language, curiously it can also be a conservative power, making forms resistant to analogical change. The focus of the course will be on English, however other languages will be considered for comparative purposes.

Requirements:

Regular active participation, preparation of reading responses, a presentation, and a term paper.

Suggested reading:

Hopper, Paul J., Elizabeth Closs Traugott (1993): Grammaticalization. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:	Mi 16-18 Uhr, Phil 1209
-------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------