

The Romance Languages (SML/201)

Course organizer: Professor Chris Pountain (*c.j.pountain@qmul.ac.uk*)

This is a Level 2 course (1 c.u.) which can be taken in your second or third year (in Semesters 4 or 6).

The prerequisite for this course is a reading knowledge of one, and preferably more than one, Romance language (the Romance languages currently taught in the School are Spanish, Portuguese, French, Italian and Catalan). However, prior knowledge of Latin is NOT required, and the course will be taught on the assumption that students do not have such knowledge.

AIMS OF THE COURSE

The course will give you a understanding of the formation and development of a language sub-family, and a broad understanding of the nature of linguistic variation and change.

At the end of the course you will have:

- Knowledge of the nature of the range, extent and diversity of the Romance languages
- Knowledge of the nature of linguistic variation and change
- An appreciation of selected current issues in Romance Linguistics
- Skill in writing lucidly about the above and in balancing scholarly opinion

LECTURES/SEMINARS

1. The common ancestor: 'Dead' languages; Latin and its varieties; the notion of 'Vulgar' Latin, actual and reconstructed; literary and vernacular registers.
2. What was Latin really like? Some general differences between Latin and the modern Romance languages: (1) Sounds: universals of sound-change.
3. The same continued: (2) Words and their structure: analysis and synthesis.
4. The same continued: (3) Sentences and their structure: word order typology; the rise of the Romance infinitive.
5. Some general linguistic issues: (1) Grammaticalization.
6. The same continued: (2) Simplification and complication: are the modern Romance languages really 'simpler' than Latin?
7. The same continued: (3) Romance groupings: geographical, historical, political, typological.
8. The same continued: (4) The role of language contact: the substratist hypothesis.
9. The same continued: (5) The role of language contact: foreign languages (including Latin again).
10. The same continued: (6) The role of language contact: convergence.

ASSESSMENT

Your work will be assessed by means of 1 examination paper of 2 hours in length (70%) and by a submitted essay of around 2,000 words (30%).

RESOURCES

The attached reference reading list provides a selection of resource materials, for which guidance will be provided in class.

There is a good deal of on-line material also available. On my website I provide a selection of useful internet links and an anthology of texts illustrating varieties of Spanish, some extensively annotated. I will also develop a learning support page during the year.

See <http://www.qmul.ac.uk/~mlw058/>

INTRODUCTORY BIBLIOGRAPHY

Historical Linguistics: general

- McMahon, April M.S., 1994. *Understanding Language Change* (Cambridge: University Press).
- von Wartburg, Walther, 1969. *Problems and Methods in Linguistics* (Oxford: Blackwell).

Historical Linguistics: themes

- Klausenburger, Jürgen, 2000. *Grammaticalization: Studies in Latin and Romance Morphosyntax* (Amsterdam: Benjamins).
- Schwegler, Armin, 1990. *Analyticity and Syntheticity: a Diachronic Perspective with Special Reference to Romance Languages* (Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter).

Romance: general

- Agard, Frederick B., 1984. *A Course in Romance Linguistics. I A synchronic view. 2 A diachronic view.* (Washington: Georgetown University Press).
- Bourciez, Edouard, 1967. *Éléments de linguistique romane* (Paris: Klincksieck).
- Boyd-Bowman, Peter, 1954. *From Latin to Romance in Sound Charts.* (Washington: Georgetown University Press).
- Elcock, W.D., rev. with a new introd. by John N. Green, 1975. *The Romance Languages* (London: Faber & Faber).
- Harris, Martin & Nigel Vincent (eds), 1990. *The Romance Languages.* (London: Routledge).
- Harris, Martin, 1978. *The Evolution of French Syntax* (London: Longman).
- Posner, Rebecca, 1996. *The Romance Languages* (Cambridge: University Press).

Latin

- Herman, József, trs. Roger Wright, 2000. *Vulgar Latin* (University Park, Pa.: Pennsylvania State University Press).
- Janson, Tore, 1979. *Mechanisms of language change in Latin* (Stockholm: Almqvist and Wiksell).
- Väänänen, Veikko, 1967. *Introduction au latin vulgaire* (Paris: Klincksieck).
- Wright, Roger, 1982. *Late Latin and Early Romance in Spain and Carolingian France.* (Liverpool: Francis Cairns).

Spanish

- Lloyd, Paul M., 1987. *From Latin to Spanish* (New York: American Philosophical Society).
- Penny, Ralph, 1991. *A History of the Spanish Language* (Cambridge: CUP).
- Penny, Ralph, 2000. *Variation and Change in Spanish* (Cambridge: CUP).
- Pountain, Christopher J., 2001. *A History of the Spanish Language through Texts* (London: Routledge).

Portuguese

- Mattoso Câmara, J., 1972. *The Portuguese Language.* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).
- Teysier, Paul, 1980. *Histoire de la langue portugaise.* (Paris: PUF).

French

- Ayres-Bennett, Wendy, 1996. *A History of the French Language through Texts* (London: Routledge).
- Price, Glanville, 1971. *The French Language Present and Past* (London: Arnold)

Rickard, Peter, 1974. *A History of the French Language*. (London: Hutchinson)
von Wartburg, Walter, 1950. *Evolution et structure de la langue française* (Berne: Franck)

Italian

Maiden, Martin, 1995. *A Linguistic History of Italian* (London: Longman).
Migliorini, B. & T. G. Griffith, 1984. *The Italian Language* (London: Faber).
Rohlf, Gerhard, 1966-. *Grammatica storica della lingua italiana e dei suoi dialetti*, 3 vols
(Turin: Einaudi).
Tekavčić, Pavao, 1972-. *Grammatica storica del italiano*, 3 vols (Bologna: Il Mulino).

Catalan

Badia i Margarit, Antoni, 1951. *Gramàtica històrica catalana* (Barcelona: Noguer).

Other

Bec, Pierre, 1973. *La langue occitane* (Paris: PUF).
Haiman, John & Paola Benincà, 1992. *Rhaeto-Romance* (London: Routledge)
Mallinson, Graham, 1986. *Rumanian*. (London: Croom Helm)
Wagner, Max Leopold, 1951. *La lingua sarda: storia, spirito e forma* (Berne: Francke).