

## COURSE UNIT DESCRIPTION

Course unit title	Research field, branch, code	Faculty	Department, Institute
Historical linguistics	Philology, Linguistics, H004	Philology	Baltic Studies

Study cycle	3 <sup>rd</sup> (doctoral)
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Mode of delivery	ECTS credits	Type of the course unit	Language of instruction
Contact (lectures, workshops, tutorials)	8		
Individual or in a group			

### Annotation of the course content

**Aim** – to acquaint PhD students with the methods and issues of current historical linguistics from the viewpoint of general linguistics, paying special attention to the Indo-European language family.

**Contents:**

Language reconstruction: concept, possibilities and limits. Main methods: the comparative method and internal reconstruction. ‚Mass comparison‘ and its problems. Glottochronology, cladistics and other statistical methods. Language reconstruction and the study of prehistory.

Language change from the viewpoint of modern linguistics: language acquisition, sociolinguistics.

Sound change: the concept of regular sound change from the viewpoint of modern linguistics.

The phonetic foundation of sound change; its phonologization. Main theories of sound change.

Morphological change: the concept of analogy. Main tendencies of analogical change. Other processes leading to morphological change: grammaticalization theory; morphological borrowing.

Lexical change as non-systemic language change: semantic changes, lexical borrowing, derivational morphology.

The problem of syntactic change: reanalysis of syntactic structures, spread of marked structures and analogical diffusion; borrowing of syntactic structures.

**Evaluation** strategy

Written essay on a specific problem of historical linguistics in a specific language (50%: evaluated aspects include factual accuracy, critical analysis of the literature, and proper formulation of the problem within the current understanding of historical linguistics), exam (50%: open questions). Please consult with the course instructor for the essay topic and material for the exam.

### Reading

1. D. Ringe, J. F. Eska, *Historical linguistics: toward a twenty-first century reintegration*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013.

2. M. Hale, *Historical linguistics: theory and method*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2007.

3. L. Campbell, *Historical Linguistics: An Introduction*. 3rd edition. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2013.

4. B. D. Joseph, R. D. Janda (eds.), *The Handbook of Historical Linguistics*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2003.

5. C. Bower, B. Evans (eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Historical Linguistics*. London-

New York: Routledge, 2015.

6. B. W. Fortson, *Indo-European Language and Culture: An introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2004.

7. M. Villanueva Svensson, *Indoeuropiečių kalbotyros pagrindai. Mokymo priemonė*. Antras pataisytas ir papildytas leidimas. Vilnius: VU leidykla, 2016.

Lecturer	Degree	Main works published in the research field during the last five years
Miguel Villanueva Svensson	Doctor of the Humanities	1. The origin of the Indo-European simple thematic presents: the nominal connection. <i>Indo-European Linguistics</i> 9, 2021, 264-292.
		3. The Balto-Slavic <i>ā</i> -aorist. <i>Transactions of the Philological Society</i> 118, 2020, 376-400.
		4. The Infinitive in Baltic and Balto-Slavic. <i>Indo-European Linguistics</i> 7, 2019, 194-221.
		5. Indo-European * <i>pr</i> - and * <i>prh</i> <sub>2</sub> - “before, in front of”. <i>Indogermanische Forschungen</i> 123, 2018, 137-157.

Approved by decision of Doctoral Committee (date, record No) January 13, 2023. Protocol No. (7.17 E) 15600-KT-16.

Chair of Committee Prof. Dr Meilutė Ramonienė