FALL 2005
Syllabus for V55.0660 "Societies and the Social Sciences: Linguistic Perspectives"

Topics and Readings:

1. Phonetics and phonology
   a. Manner and place of articulation; voicing
   b. Phonetics
   c. Phonemics
   d. Transcription (phonetic and phonemic)

2. Morphology
   a. Morphemes, allomorphs
   b. Roots and affixes; inflectional and derivational morphology
   c. Words

3. Writing systems: Chinese, Sumerian, Mayan, Egyptian, Greek, Latin, Cyrillic, Runic, Devanagari
   a. Logographs ~ morphemic writing
   b. Syllabaries
   c. Alphabets

4. Genealogical classification of languages
   a. Families of languages: Indo-European, Afro-Asiatic, Sino-Tibetan, Finno-Ugric, etc.
   b. Problems in genealogical classification: lexicostatistics, etc.

5. Typological classification of languages and its goals

6. Language change
   a. Phonological change
   b. Morphological change
   c. Lexical change
   d. Syntactic change

7. Comparison of selected foreign languages

8. Generative grammar
   a. Performance and competence
   b. Deep structure and surface structure
      1. Syntactic, semantic, and phonological components
      2. Base or phrase structure rules
      3. Transformations ~ movement rules
      4. Universal and particular grammar

9. Contemplating language
a. Human and animal communication
b. Mechanistic and mentalistic views
c. Language acquisition
d. Thought and speech

Text: O'Grady, William et al., eds. 2005. Contemporary Linguistics. 5th ed. Boston and New York: Bedford and St. Martin's Press. (This volume is a rich source of bibliography on recent work in linguistics)

Final grade: The final grade for this course is based on homework, and quiz, midterm, and final examination grades.

Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:30 - 4:30, and by appointment. PLEASE DIRECT ALL REPLIES TO: john.costello@nyu.edu