AIS 095D/E: STRUCTURE OF ROMANCE LANGUAGES (FALL 2006)

Lecture: MWF 12:20-1:10pm L308 (095D)
        MWF 1:25-2:15pm L400 (095E)

Instructor: Emily Manetta
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            Room 301
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            Office Hours: Monday 2:30-3:30

Course Description:
In this TAP course we will explore the family of Romance languages. We first seek to survey the sounds, forms, and structures of the major spoken Romance languages (French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish). In doing so, students will develop critical problem-solving skills and an appreciation for the methods of constructing linguistic explanations. We will also address questions of language and culture, including the spread of Romance languages through colonization and ongoing language policy debates in Europe. A special effort will be made to include rare and extinct Romance languages in our comparative discussions. Students entering the course will be able to select one Romance language whose structure they intend to explore independently. We will make extensive use of media, including video and sound recordings, in this writing-intensive, hands-on course.

Requirements:
Weekly homework  25%
Reading Essay     15%
Tests (2)         25%
Final Paper       25%
Participation     10%

Syllabus:

Week 1: Introduction to Romance languages: history, geography, languages, dialects
        Reading: Harris
Week 2: What is linguistics?
Week 3: Sounds of French, Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese
Week 4: The syllable, extrasyllabicity
Week 5: Italian onsets [reading essay]
        Reading: Davis
Week 6: French liaison
Week 7: Grammatical functions, phrase structure [test – phonology]
Week 8: Agreement, reflexives
Week 9: Pro-drop, Clitic doubling
Week 10: Clitic climbing/Clause reduction
        Reading: Aissen & Perlmuter
Week 11: Romance Languages and Culture (Europe) [test - syntax]
Week 12: Romance Languages and Culture (Colonization)
Week 13: Thanksgiving
Week 14: In-class presentations
Week 15: Final paper due Wednesday

*We will do our best to stick to this ambitious schedule. However, make sure you check the WebCT for updated due dates and assignments.

Course Notes:

- No previous experience with Romance languages or with Linguistics is required.
- Group work on homework and take-home tests is encouraged. Problems/questions are designed to be solved working together. However, the write-up of the problem sets must be done on your own.
- Plagiarism is defined as any time that you present another’s work as your own. Be sure to give credit or cite sources whenever necessary. If you have any questions about how to avoid plagiarism, please ask.
- Late work: Late work can receive no greater than half credit. There are no exceptions. However, the lowest assignment score will be dropped.