

School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies Course Outline

LALS 101, Language and Communication, Trimester 2, 2006

1. Course Coordinator:

Paul Warren
VZ320
Ext. 5631
Email: Paul.Warren@vuw.ac.nz
<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/lals>
Office hours: M11-12; Th1-2



2. Staff:

Lecturers include Paul Warren, guest lecturers, and:

Janet Holmes
VZ301
Ext. 5614
Email: Janet.Holmes@vuw.ac.nz
<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/lals>



David McKee
VZ316
Ext. 5640 (fax)
Email: David.McKee@vuw.ac.nz
<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/lals>



Tutors

Tutors will introduce themselves in the first tutorial, and provide contact details.
Staff indicate their office hours on their doors.

3. Class times and rooms:

Lectures:

Monday 4:10-5:00 pm in HU LT323
Wednesday 4:10-5:00 pm in HU LT323
Thursday 4:10-5:00 pm in HU LT323

Tutorials:

One tutorial per week. Choices of tutorial times will be provided in the first lecture.
Tutorials commence in the second week (beginning July 17th).
Do not miss your first tutorial.
You may not change tutorial without the permission of the course coordinator.

4. Announcements:

Notices relating to the course, including tutorial lists, exam timetables, etc. will be posted on the School Undergraduate Notice Board which is located between VZ309 and VZ310 on floor 3 of the Von Zedlitz Building, and also on the Blackboard site for this course (www.blackboard.vuw.ac.nz). Spare copies of handouts will be placed on Blackboard and/or deposited in the plastic trays outside VZ320.

5. LALS main office: VZ210, 2nd floor Von Zedlitz Building, Kelburn Parade

6. LALS 101 Course Administrator: Vivien Trott, Undergraduate administration, Tel: 463-5894

7. Aims:

The course will provide an introduction to a range of language issues of general interest in the community.

8. Objectives:

By the end of the course students should be able to:

1. Make suitable use of reference material, including dictionaries, books, journals and other works, as appropriate to the field;
2. Appreciate some of the complexity of linguistic behaviour;
3. Understand and articulate some very general features of language, such as the inevitability of language change and the importance of structure dependence;
4. Understand and articulate some popular misconceptions about language, showing why they are erroneous;
5. Discuss actual language usage as reflected in genuine data they have seen.

9. Content (details subject to confirmation):

Week	Lecture	Date	Area	Topic	Language Matters	Lecturer
1	1	10-Jul		Introduction: where are we going?		PW
	2	12-Jul	Origins	Where does language come from?	Ch1	PW
	3	13-Jul	Origins	Why don't we all talk the same?	Ch2	PW
2	4	17-Jul	Origins	Things ain't what they used to be	Ch3	PW
	5	19-Jul	Origins	Linguistic rellies	Ch4	PW
	6	20-Jul	Origins	Library skills		Library staff
3	7	24-Jul	Origins	Bee talk and monkey chatter	Ch5	PW
	8	26-Jul	Origins	Body language and gesture		PW
	9	27-Jul	Origins	Video: title to be announced	video	PW
4	10	31-Jul	Structure	How do you spell accommodation?	Ch6	PW
	11	2-Aug	Structure	How many words do the Eskimos use?	Ch7	PN
	12	3-Aug	Structure	Going on and on: the never-ending story	Ch8	PW
5	13	7-Aug	Structure	Who needs grammar?	Ch10	PW
	14	9-Aug	Structure	Hv u hd txt tdy?	Ch11	PW
	15	10-Aug	Structure	Video: title to be announced	video	PW
6	16	14-Aug	Structure	Can you tell the difference between sign and mime?		DM
	17	16-Aug	Structure	Sign language acquisition in children		DM
	18	17-Aug	Structure	Video: Silent children, new language	video	PW
7	19	4-Sep	Use	How and why do languages die?	Ch12	MP-S
	20	6-Sep	Structure	Primitive languages?	Ch9	PW
	21	7-Sep	Use	Video: title to be announced	video	PW
8	22	11-Sep	Use	Terms of address and issues of politeness	Ch13	JH
	23	13-Sep	Use	Gender and language	Ch14	JH
	24	14-Sep	Use	Can language be sexist?	Ch15	JH
9	25	18-Sep	Mind	Acquiring a first language	Ch18	PW
	26	20-Sep	Mind	Building another tongue	Ch20	RA
	27	21-Sep	Mind	Video: Baby it's you	video	PW

10	28	25-Sep	Mind	Does bilingualism rot the brain?	Ch19	PW
	29	27-Sep	Mind	You've tasted the whole worm	Ch21	PW
	30	28-Sep	Mind	Is language a strait-jacket?	Ch22	PW
11	31	2-Oct	Mind	When language breaks down	Ch23	PW
	32	4-Oct	Mind	Language play		PW
	33	5-Oct	Mind	Video: title to be announced	video	PW
12	34	9-Oct		Who cares about language?		PW
	35	11-Oct		Summary; any questions?		PW
	36	12-Oct		TEST		PW

10. Texts:

The set text for this paper is

Bauer, Laurie, Janet Holmes and Paul Warren 2006. *Language Matters*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

You are expected to buy this text, as **you will be required to read a chapter in preparation for most of the lectures**, as indicated in the table above. VicBooks is selling *Language Matters* for \$59.95.

Other recommended texts for this paper are:

Bauer, Laurie & Peter Trudgill (eds) 1998. *Language Myths*. London: Penguin.

Crystal, David 1987. *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

You will also find these books in the University library. Readings from them and other sources will be given in lectures.

11. Assessment:

Assessment will be based on six pieces of work, including an in-class test as indicated below:

Piece of work	Date due	Value
Assignment 1	20 July	15%
Assignment 2	3 August	15%
Assignment 3	17 August	15%
Assignment 4	14 September	15%
Assignment 5	28 September	15%
In-Class Test	12 October	25%

Assignments 1-5 should be no longer than 1000 words. Assignments should be handed in to your lecturer/tutor or to one of the Administrative Assistants of the School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies (VZ 210), or put in the drop box for the School opposite the lifts on level 2 of Von Zedlitz building. Assignments should carry an appropriate cover sheet, to be handed out in lectures.

Please keep a back-up copy of your assignment.

Extensions: You should not require extensions for your assignments. However, if some circumstances arise in which you do, please contact the course co-ordinator, **preferably in advance**, to arrange one. If the course co-ordinator agrees to an extension, he will give you a cover-sheet to hand in with your assignment. You do not have a valid extension unless you have a cover-sheet to hand in with your assignment.

Marks out of 15 correspond to grades as in the following table, which will be used in the five assignments:

below 6	E	10	B
6-7	D	10.5-11	B+
7.5-8	C	11.5	A-
8.5	C+	12-12.5	A
9-9.5	B-	13-15	A+

N.B. Note that if no work is submitted for assessment before the last three weeks of teaching, there will be nothing on which to base an aegrotat consideration.

12. Penalties:

In line with Linguistics programme policy, assignments handed in after the due date will receive a considerably reduced grade unless accompanied by a medical certificate or other evidence of exceptional circumstances (see 'Extensions' above).

All assignments are due on Thursdays at 4:10 pm (i.e. at the beginning of the Thursday lecture). Assignments handed in after Thursday at 5:00 pm but before Friday at 5:00 pm will be penalised by one grade; assignments handed in after Friday at 5:00 pm but before Monday at 5:00 pm will be penalised by two grades; assignments handed in after Monday at 5:00 pm but before Tuesday at 5:00 pm will be penalised by three grades; assignments handed in after that will not receive a mark, but will be accepted as fulfilling the mandatory course requirements, provided they meet the overall course deadline (see below). 'One grade' in the above means the difference between B- and C+ or between A and A-.

Plagiarism is not acceptable in assessed work, and will be penalised. The penalty will depend on the severity of the plagiarism. See General University Policies below.

13. Relationship between assessment and course objectives:

The assignments are designed to provide training in the use of reference tools, in the presentation of material, in working with genuine language data, and in thinking about language as a human phenomenon.

14. Workload:

In order to make satisfactory progress in this course you should expect to devote, on average, 12 hours a week to it. This includes attendance at lectures and tutorials, preparation for tutorials, background reading and preparation for tests and assignments. Some students will find they need to do more than this, and students aiming for high grades will almost certainly need to do more.

15. Mandatory Course Requirements (Terms):

All students must sit the test and make a satisfactory attempt at FOUR of the assignments.

"Satisfactory" means that where they have not reached a C standard, they must nevertheless reflect the fact that the assignment has been taken seriously and that a reasonable amount of effort has been devoted to the topic. Even when only four assignments are handed in, the final mark will be calculated over five; that is a mark of 0/15 will be entered for the missing assignment. To be accepted as fulfilling these mandatory course requirements, assignments for which no mark is given must be received no later than October 13.

16. Attendance:

Tutorials form an essential part of all Linguistics courses. It is expected that students will attend all tutorials.

17. General University Policies:

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly those regarding assessment (including plagiarism) and course of study requirements, and formal academic grievance procedures. Details can be found on the Blackboard site for LALS101, under the link "General University Policies".