



## School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies Course Outline

### LALS 518, Topics in computer-assisted vocabulary learning, Trimester 2, 2006

**1. Course Coordinator:**

Paul Nation  
VZ 317  
Ext. 5628  
Paul.Nation@vuw.ac.nz

**2. Lecturer:** Tom Cobb

**Tom Cobb**  
VZ 301  
Ext. 5614  
Email: cobb.tom@uqam.ca  
<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/lals>

**3. Class times and rooms:**

4:10 – 6:00 pm every week day from Thursday 29 June to Wednesday 12 July inclusive.  
Classes will normally be held in EA 001, however on Monday 3 July, Wednesday 5 July, and Friday 7 July the class will be in KK 218.

**4. Announcements:** MA notice board Level 2 Von Zedlitz

Some additional information relevant to this course can be found in the School MA Handbook for 2005. The handbook is available on the web.

<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/lals/degrees/docs/Handbook%202005.pdf>

**5. LALS main office:** VZ210, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Von Zedlitz Building, Kelburn Parade

**6. LALS 518 Course Administrator:** Jane Dudley, Postgraduate administration  
**Tel:** 463-5600      **E-mail:** Jane.Dudley@vuw.ac.nz

**7. Aims:** This course aims to provide students with a broad overview of the uses of computing in applied linguistics with respect to vocabulary acquisition research and teaching. The theme of the course is that research and teaching in this area can be usefully connected. The main learning activities are reading and discussing research studies; performing and sharing practical hands-on computer tasks; and developing one research topic in depth.

**8. Objectives:** By the end of the course students will be conversant with issues in computer based language research and teaching. They will be able to design a wide range of practical activities for use in classroom teaching. They will have clear ideas about how to conduct an empirical investigation of a computer-based learning activity.

**9. Content:** The content of the course is based mainly on the lecturer's own research and development work, which in turn is based to a large extent on the work of Paul Nation which the students will be familiar with. Each lesson will look at one significant application of computation to language research or teaching. Topics will include the following: (1) what computing has added to applied linguistics research (2); what we can reasonably expect from the computer in language teaching; (3) learning-based multimedia design; (4) computing and multi-contextual word learning; (5) computer feedback for writing errors; (6) computing and multi-word units; (7) computing and the development of learning texts of specified lexical density; (8) computer delivered support resources for reading; (9) computational approaches to vocabulary testing; and (10) computational measurement of psycholinguistic processes relevant to vocabulary learning and use (reaction time measurement and working memory size measurement). See <http://www.lextutor.ca/nz>

#### **10. Texts:**

**Required & Recommended:** All readings are available online. Go to Tom Cobb's web site for his complete set of publications and the Compleat Lexical Tutor site - [www.lextutor.ca/cv/](http://www.lextutor.ca/cv/)

**Any other relevant material/equipment:** Reliable access to the Internet is required.

#### **11. Assessment:**

The course will be assessed by two tasks each worth 15% and an assignment worth 70%.

Task 1 due: Friday 7 July 2006 around 500 words

Task 2 due: Wednesday 12 July 2006 around 500 words

Assignment due: 15 September 2006 around 3000 words

**12. Penalties:** Assignments and tasks must be submitted by the due date. There is no penalty for late submission but permission must be sought and a good reason given. Try to keep within the word limits especially for the tasks. Assignments and tasks which are plagiarised will not receive a grade and cannot be resubmitted.

#### **13. Relationship between assessment and course objectives:**

The course objectives involve both teaching and research. Accordingly, the two tasks relate to developing teaching materials, whether computer aided, delivered or both, while the assignment is a fully developed proposal for a research study involving one of the topics.

**14. Workload:** LALS 518 is a fifteen point one-trimester paper. Course members should expect to spend about 12 hours per week for ten weeks on all the work for this course including lectures.

**15. Mandatory Course Requirements (Terms):** Students must attend all ten classes and complete both tasks and the assignment. If a student is absent from a class, extra work may be set to make up for this.

**16. Attendance:** Students must attend all ten classes

### **General University policies and statutes**

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar available in hard copy or under 'About Victoria' on the VUW home page at [www.vuw.ac.nz](http://www.vuw.ac.nz).

### **Student and staff conduct**

The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University's life in an atmosphere of safety and respect. The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps are to be taken if there is a complaint. For information about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor or refer to the statute on the VUW policy website at:

[www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct)

The Policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at:

[www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/staffconduct](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/staffconduct)

### **Academic grievances**

If you have any academic problems with your course you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned; class representatives may be able to help you in this. If you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the relevant Associate Dean; VUWSA Education Coordinators are available to assist in this process. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set out in the Academic Grievance Policy which is published on the VUW website at:

[www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/academicgrievances](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/academicgrievances)

### **Academic integrity and plagiarism**

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

*The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.*

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

*Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.*

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

[www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html)

### **Students with Impairments** (see Appendix 3 of the Assessment Handbook)

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities the same opportunity as other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, please contact the course coordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively, you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services (DSS) to discuss your individual needs and the available options and support on a confidential basis. DSS are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building:

Telephone: 463-6070

Email: [disability@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:disability@vuw.ac.nz)

The School's Disability Liaison Person for 2006 is Dr Dianne Bardsley, ext 5644, email [Dianne.Bardsley@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Dianne.Bardsley@vuw.ac.nz).

### **Student Support**

Staff at Victoria want students to have positive learning experiences at the University. Each faculty has a designated staff member who can either help you directly if your academic progress is

causing you concern, or quickly put you in contact with someone who can. In the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences the support contact is **Dr Allison Kirkman, Murphy Building, room 407**. Assistance for specific groups is also available from the Kaiwawao Maori, Manaaki Pihipihinga or Victoria International.

In addition, the Student Services Group (email: [student-services@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:student-services@vuw.ac.nz)) is available to provide a variety of support and services. Find out more at:

[www.vuw.ac.nz/st\\_services/](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/st_services/)

VUWSA employs Education Coordinators who deal with academic problems and provide support, advice and advocacy services, as well as organising class representatives and faculty delegates. The Education Office (tel. 463-6983 or 463-6984, email at [education@vuwsa.org.nz](mailto:education@vuwsa.org.nz)) is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building.