

School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies Course Outline

LALS 101, Language and Communication, Trimester 2, 2007

1. Course Coordinator:

Laurie Bauer
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<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/lals>
Office hours: M 11-12; Th 2-3



2. Staff:

Lecturers include Laurie Bauer, guest lecturers, and:

Janet Holmes
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David McKee
VZ316
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Office hours: to be arranged



Rachel McKee
VZ315
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Office hours: to be arranged



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 9:00-9:50 am in KK LT301
Wednesday 9:00-9:50 am in KK LT301
Thursday 11:00-11:50 am in EA LT006

Tutorials:

One tutorial per week. Choices of tutorial times will be provided in the first lecture.
 Tutorials commence in the second week (beginning July 16th).
 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 VZ306.

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	9-Jul		Introduction: where are we going?		LB
	2	11-Jul	Origins	Where does language come from?	Ch1	LB
	3	12-Jul	Origins	Why don't we all talk the same?	Ch2	LB
2	4	16-Jul	Origins	Things ain't what they used to be	Ch3	LB
	5	18-Jul	Origins	Linguistic rellies	Ch4	LB
	6	19-Jul	Origins	Library skills		Library staff
3	7	23-Jul	Origins	Bee talk and monkey chatter	Ch5	LB
	8	25-Jul	Origins	Body language and gesture		LB
	9	26-Jul	Origins	Resources for the study of language		LB
4	10	30-Jul	Structure	How do you spell accommodation?	Ch6	LB
	11	1-Aug	Structure	How many words do the Eskimos use?	Ch7	LB
	12	2-Aug	Structure	Going on and on: the never-ending story	Ch8	LB
5	13	6-Aug	Structure	Who needs grammar?	Ch10	LB
	14	8-Aug	Structure	Hv u hd txt tdy?	Ch11	LB
	15	9-Aug	Structure	Video: title to be announced	video	LB
6	16	13-Aug	Structure	Can you tell the difference between sign and mime?		DM
	17	15-Aug	Structure	Sign language acquisition in children		DM
	18	16-Aug	Structure	Video: Silent children, new language	video	RM
7	19	3-Sep	Use	How and why do languages die?	Ch12	LB
	20	5-Sep	Structure	Primitive languages?	Ch9	LB
	21	6-Sep	Use	Video: title to be announced	video	LB
8	22	10-Sep	Use	Terms of address and issues of politeness	Ch13	JH
	23	12-Sep	Use	Gender and language	Ch14	JH
	24	13-Sep	Use	Can language be sexist?	Ch15	JH

9	25	17-Sep	Mind	Acquiring a first language	Ch18	RM
	26	19-Sep	Mind	Video: Baby it's you	video	RM
	27	20-Sep		F#@! language		LB
10	28	24-Sep		Vague language		AT
	29	26-Sep	Mind	You've tasted the whole worm	Ch21	SC
	30	27-Sep	Mind	Is language a strait-jacket?	Ch22	SC
11	31	1-Oct	Mind	When language breaks down	Ch23	SC
	32	3-Oct	Mind	Building another tongue	Ch20	RA
	33	4-Oct	Mind	Video: title to be announced	video	LB
12	34	8-Oct		Who cares about language?		LB
	35	10-Oct		Summary; any questions?		LB
	36	11-Oct		TEST		LB

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.

You will also need the tutorial workbook, available from Student Notes.

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	26 July	20%
Assignment 2	9 August	20%
Assignment 3	6 September	20%
Assignment 4	20 September	20%
In-Class Test	11 October	20%

Assignments 1-4 should be no longer than 1000 words. Assignments should be handed in to your lecturer/tutor 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 20 correspond to grades as in the following table, which will be used in the assignments:

0-7.5	0-39%	E	13-13.5	65-69%	B
8-9.5	40-49%	D	14-14.5	70-74%	B+
10-10.5	50-54%	C	15-15.5	75-79%	A-
11-11.5	55-59%	C+	16-16.5	80-84%	A
12-12.5	60-64%	B-	17-20	85-100%	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).

The five assignments are all due on **Thursdays at 4:00 pm**. Unless you have a valid extension granted for your assignment, the following penalties will apply:

	Penalty
For assignments handed in after Thursday 4:00 pm but before the following Thursday at 4:00 pm	Maximum grade possible is C and no personal comment will be provided
For assignments handed in after Thursday 4:00 pm in the week after the due date	No mark

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 THREE 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 three assignments are handed in, the final mark will be calculated over four; that is a mark of 0/20 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 12.

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".