

## School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies Course Outline

### LING 321, Discourse and Meaning, Trimester 2, 2007

**Course Coordinator:**

**Dr Elaine Vine**  
VZ405  
Ext. 5608  
Office hours: appointments by arrangement  
Email: [elaine.vine@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:elaine.vine@vuw.ac.nz)  
<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/lals>



**Staff:**

**Lecturers**

Elaine Vine, Laurie Bauer, Sasha Calhoun, Agnes Terraschke

**Tutors**

Elaine Vine

**Class times and rooms:**

**Lectures:** Mon and Wed, 12.00-12.50pm, HM105

**Tutorials:** You will attend one tutorial per week. Tutorial times/rooms will be announced in the first lecture. Tutorials begin in Week 2.

**Announcements:**

Notices about this course will be posted on the Linguistics undergraduate noticeboard between VZ309 and VZ310.

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

**LING 321 Course Administrator:** Vivien Trott, Undergraduate administration, Tel: 463 5894

**Aims:** This course considers a range of approaches to the creation and interpretation of meaning through discourse in social interaction.

**Objectives:**

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

1. identify some of the taken-for-granted assumptions and patterns of communication in English;
2. analyse why people make particular language choices and what they mean by them;
3. discuss how social context is important in language use;
4. explain some of the social and cultural factors involved in the way people express and interpret their ideas in language.

**Content:**

The content of this course is detailed in the following schedule of lectures. Note that there may be minor changes to the sequence of topics during the course.

Week 1	Mon 09 July	Introduction	EV
	Wed 11 July	Speech act theory	EV
Week 2	Mon 16 July	Speech act theory	EV
	Wed 18 July	Cooperative principle	EV
Week 3	Mon 23 July	Politeness and face	EV
	Wed 25 July	Cross-cultural pragmatics	EV
Week 4	Mon 30 July	Cross-cultural pragmatics	AT
	Wed 01 August	Ethnography of communication	EV
Week 5	Mon 06 August	Cross-cultural pragmatics	AT
	Wed 08 August	Ethnography of communication	EV
Week 6	Mon 13 August	Conversation analysis	EV
	Wed 15 August	Conversation analysis	EV
<i>MID-TRIMESTER BREAK</i>			
Week 7	Mon 03 Sept	Critical discourse analysis	EV
	Wed 05 Sept	Critical discourse analysis	EV
Week 8	Mon 10 Sept	Cohesion	EV
	Wed 12 Sept	Register	EV
Week 9	Mon 17 Sept	Forensic linguistics	LB
	Wed 19 Sept	Forensic linguistics	LB
Week 10	Mon 24 Sept	Genre	EV
	Wed 26 Sept	Information structure	EV
Week 11	Mon 01 October	Information structure	SC
	Wed 03 October	Information structure	SC
Week 12	Mon 08 October	Corpus linguistics	EV
	Wed 10 October	Review	EV

**Texts:****Required:**

Paltridge, Brian 2006. *Discourse analysis: An introduction*. London: Continuum. (Victoria University Book Centre, \$59.99)

**Recommended:**

A list of Recommended reading is available in a separate handout, and additional readings relating to specific topics will be recommended in lectures and tutorials from time to time.

**Any other relevant material/equipment:** None.

**Assessment:**

This course will be examined by a combination of in-term assessment and a final examination. The final grade will be awarded on the basis of your marks for three assignments (10%, 25% and 15% respectively) and a three-hour final examination (50%). The final examination is not an 'open book' examination.

	<u>Length</u>	<u>Due date</u>	<u>Contribution to final grade</u>
Assignment 1	650-800 words	12.00 noon, Wed 25 July 2007	10%
Assignment 2	1600-2000 words	12.00 noon, Wed 15 August 2007	25%
Assignment 3	1000-1200 words	12.00 noon, Wed 03 October 2007	15%
Final exam	3 hours	To be scheduled in exam period, 19 October - 10 November 2007	50%

- Details of the assignment tasks will be provided in separate handouts.
- Course cover sheets for assignments will be provided in class.

- Make sure you keep a copy of all work that you hand in.
- Assignments should be submitted at the School office (VZ210) by 12.00 noon on the due date, or to the course coordinator at the beginning of the lecture on the due date.

### ***Guidelines for presenting assignments***

- Refer to the *Linguistics Programme Style Sheet* for guidance on referencing and other matters
- Set margins to at least 2.5cm
- Set line spacing to 1.5
- Set font size to 12pt
- Include page numbers
- Provide a word count at the end of the assignment (not including references and appendices)
- Print on one side of A4 paper
- Include a course assignment cover sheet
- Staple pages together
- Do not present your assignment in a sleeve or in a bulky folder.

### **Penalties:**

Assignments handed in after the due date will receive a reduced grade unless accompanied by a medical certificate or other evidence of exceptional circumstances. In any case where you are not able to submit an assignment by the due date, you must get explicit permission from the course coordinator before the due date to hand it in late and negotiate the length of the extension. *Only assignments carrying a course assignment cover sheet signed by the course coordinator have a valid extension.*

Any assignment which is handed in late, and which does not carry a valid extension, will be penalised by one grade (e.g. B reduced to B-, or B- reduced to C+) if it is handed in up to 24 hours after the deadline, by two grades if it is handed in up to 48 hours after the deadline, and by three grades if it is handed in up to one week after the deadline. Assignments handed in later than one week after the deadline will not receive a grade, but may be considered for mandatory course requirements. Assignments which carry a valid extension will be penalised in a similar fashion if they are handed in after the rescheduled due date. Note that mandatory course requirements specify that all work must be handed in by 5pm on Friday 12 October 2007.

You are strongly advised to begin work early on assignments to be sure of getting access to relevant books and articles, to collect appropriate examples, to avoid last-minute rush, and to ensure that your work is not needlessly penalised.

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

Assignment 1 addresses objectives 1 and 2 for this course (see above). Assignment 2 focuses on objective 4, though the other objectives are also relevant. Assignment 3 addresses objectives 1, 2 and 3. The final exam covers all four objectives.

### **Workload:**

In order to make satisfactory progress in this course you should expect to devote, on average, 18 hours a week to it. This includes attendance at lectures and tutorials, preparation for tutorials, background reading and preparation for assignments and the examination. Some students will find that they need to do more than this, and students aiming for high grades will almost certainly need to do more.

### **Attendance:**

You are expected to attend all lectures and your allocated tutorial each week.

## **Mandatory Course Requirements (Terms):**

You must hand in the three assignments by 5pm on Friday 12 October 2007. You must make a satisfactory attempt at all three assignments. "Satisfactory" means that if an assignment does not reach a C standard, it 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. You must also get a grade of D or better in the final examination.

## **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 name of your School's Disability Liaison Person is in the relevant prospectus or can be obtained from the School Office or DSS.

### **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** and **Dr Stuart Brock, Murphy Building, room 312**. Assistance for specific groups is also available from the Kaiwawao Māori, Manaaki Pihipihinga or Victoria International.

### **Manaaki Pihipihinga Programme**

This programme offers:

- Academic mentoring for all Māori & Pacific students at all levels of undergraduate study for the faculties of Commerce & Administration and Humanities & Social sciences. Contact [Manaaki-Pihipihinga-Programme@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Manaaki-Pihipihinga-Programme@vuw.ac.nz) or phone 463 6015 to register for Humanities & Social Science mentoring and 463 8977 to register for mentoring for Commerce and Administration courses
- Post graduate support network for the above faculties, which links students into all of the post grad activities and workshops on campus and networking opportunities
- Pacific Support Coordinator who can assist Pacific students with transitional issues, disseminate useful information and provide any assistance needed to help students achieve. Contact; [Pacific-Support-Coord@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Pacific-Support-Coord@vuw.ac.nz) or phone 463 5842.

Manaaki Pihipihinga is located at: 14 Kelburn Parade, back court yard, Room 109 D (for Humanities mentoring & some first year commerce mentoring) or Room 210 level 2 west wing railway station Pipitea (commerce mentoring space). Māori Studies mentoring is done at the marae.

### **Student Services**

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.