

School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies Course Outline

LALS 517, Special topic: Language, identity and social relations and their relevance for applied linguists, Trimester 3, 2007

1. Course Coordinator:

Dr. Meredith Marra

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<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/lals>

2. Staff:

Lecturers

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3. Class times and rooms:

Lectures:

1 - 14 November 2007

Weekdays 4-6pm

EA004

NOTE: Students who are studying other MA courses at times which clash with this course should consult the course coordinators of those courses to see if distance study can be undertaken on days where classes clash.

4. Announcements:

Noticeboards are in the corridor of VZ Level 2.

5. LALS main office:

VZ210, 2nd floor Von Zedlitz Building, Kelburn Parade

6. Course Administrator:

Rachel Scholes, Postgraduate administration Tel: 463 5600, Fax: 463 5604
Rachel.Scholes@vuw.ac.nz

7. Content:

This course will explain the centrality of 'identity' to applied and socio-linguistics, and explore identity displays and constructions through language use in a range of social settings. It will introduce and debate key theoretical constructs such as indexicality, positioning, stance, the presentation of self, style, stylisation, framing, accommodation and authenticity. It will critique different methodological approaches to the study of identity, such as survey-research, ethnography, and the critical analysis of written and spoken texts of identity. It will open up some of the political dimensions of identity negotiation, such as insider/outsider status, social inclusiveness/ exclusion/othering, and consider the changing nature of selfhood in the late-modern world.

Topics will include:

- Studying social meaning in applied linguistics
- Theorising the link between language variation/use and social identities
- Research methods in the study of identity
- Discourse and self-representation
- 'Othering' in discourse: ingroups and outgroups
- Standard and vernacular ways of speaking; social indexicality and authority
- Sociolinguistic accommodation and relational closeness
- Styling, stylisation and the sociolinguistic performance of identity
- Professional identities and talk as work
- The performance of fictive and playful identities

A detailed syllabus will be provided at the first meeting.

8. Objectives:

By the end of the course students should:

- (1) be familiar with different theoretical traditions of identity research in applied and socio-linguistics
- (2) be able to recognise and debate some key social dimensions of identity and their implications
- (3) be able to critique and evaluate published research in this area
- (4) do small-scale replications of some key sociolinguistic studies of identity

The two assessment tasks relate directly to the achievement of the four stated objectives. The first assignment addresses objectives 1-3, and the second assignment draws on all four objectives.

9. Expected workload:

This course is taught intensively over a two-week period.

You are expected to prepare for the course by doing background reading (see for example, the list of reading provided below). In order to make satisfactory progress in this course you should expect to devote a total of 150 hours to it. This includes attendance at classes, background reading, and work on written assignments. While the lectures are all scheduled within the two-week period, the assessment due dates fall across the third trimester.

10. Readings:

There is no set text for the course.

The following sources have been put on closed reserve for LALS 517. At the end of the lectures, the items will be placed on 3 day loan.

- Antaki, C. and Widdicombe, S. (eds.) (1998) *Identities in Talk*. Sage.
- Coupland, N. (2007) *Style: Variation and Identity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Coupland, N. and Jaworski, A. (eds.) (1997) *Sociolinguistics: A Reader and Coursebook*. Palgrave.
- Goffman, E. (1959) *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*. Doubleday.
- Jaworski, A. and Coupland, N. (eds) (2006) *The Discourse Reader* (second edition). Routledge.
- Duranti, A. and C. Goodwin (eds.) *Rethinking Context: Language as an Interactive Phenomenon*. Cambridge.
- Giddens, A. (1991) *Modernity and Self-identity: Self and Society in the Late Modern Age*. Polity.
- Giles, H. and Coupland, N. (1991) *Language: Contexts and Consequences*. Open University Press.
- Gumperz, J. J. (ed.) *Language and Social Identity*. Cambridge.
- Hall, K. and Bucholtz, M. (eds.) (1995) *Gender Articulated: Language and the Socially Constructed Self*. Routledge.
- Kramsch, Claire (1993). *Context and Culture in Language Teaching*. Oxford.
- Le Page, R. B. and Tabouret-Keller, A. (1985). *Acts of identity: Creole-based Approaches to Language and Ethnicity*. Cambridge.
- Norton, B. (2000) *Identity and Language Learning*. Longman.
- Omoniyi, T. and White, G. (eds.) (2006) *Sociolinguistics of Identity*. London: Continuum.
- Cameron, D. (2000) *Good to Talk: Living and Working in a Communication Culture*. Sage.
- Shotter, J. and Gergen, K. (eds.) (1989) *Texts of Identity*. Sage

Vicbooks has two locations - Student Union Building on Kelburn Campus and Rutherford House on Pipitea Campus (which stocks textbooks for Law and Commerce only). They distribute student notes (for Law (all stages) and Commerce from stage 2 upwards only) from the Pipitea shop and the student notes shop on the ground floor of the Student Union Building.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz
We can courier books to customers or they can be picked up from either shop the day after placing an order online.

We can be contacted by telephone
Kelburn 463 5515
Pipitea 4636160

Opening hours
8am - 6pm Mon - Fri (during termtime - we close at 5pm in the holidays)
10am - 1pm Saturday

11. Assessment requirements:

Assessment for LALS 517 consists of two written assignments:

1. A critical review of a published article dealing with sociolinguistics and identity (30%) (1,500 words maximum)
Due date: Friday 14 December 2007 (midday).
Please submit your assignment in electronic format.
2. A practical task centring on the analysis of identity construction in one of a range of text-types (70%) (3,000 words maximum)
Due date: Friday 18 January 2008 (midday).
Please submit your assignment in electronic format (where possible).

There is no final examination

Submitting assignments electronically

Send assignments as email attachments. Files should be sent to your course email address (i.e. lals-517@vuw.ac.nz)

Requirements for electronic documents:

- Save the file as one of the following: Microsoft Word (.doc), Rich Text Format (.rtf), WordPerfect (.wpd) or Adobe (.pdf)
- Send the assignment as a single file
- Set page size to A4
- Set margins to be at least 2cm
- Use 1.5 line spacing
- Use 12 point font size
- Include page numbers
- Include a title page which shows the course number and name, your name, the course lecturer, the title of the assignment, and the date the assignment is due
- Provide a word count at the end of the assignment (not including the Reference section).

12. Penalties:

In line with school policy, assignments handed in after the due date may receive a reduced grade unless accompanied by a medical certificate or other evidence of exceptional circumstances. Please do *not* exceed the stated word limit.

13. Mandatory Course Requirements:

Students should:

- Participate in all classes and complete all in-course written work by the specified dates
- let the lecturer know IN ADVANCE if they are unable to participate in a particular class

17. Communication of additional information:

Any additional information will be announced in lectures or sent via email.

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: http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html

Information on the following topics is available electronically at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/studying/downloads/course_outlines_general_information.pdf

- Academic Grievances
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support

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.victoria.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct

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

www.victoria.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.victoria.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.victoria.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html

Students with Impairments

The University has a *Policy on Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments* (<http://policy.victoria.ac.nz/Amphora!~policy.vuw.ac.nz~POLICY~00000001116.pdf>). This policy aims to give students with impairments 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

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 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 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) is available to provide a variety of support and services. Find out more at:

www.victoria.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) is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building.