

## SCHOOL OF LINGUISTICS AND APPLIED LANGUAGE STUDIES

### LALS 101 Language and Communication, Trimester 2 2009

#### 1. Trimester dates

Teaching dates: 13 July to 16 October

Mid-trimester break 24 August to 6 September

There is no external exam

#### 2. Course Coordinators:

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#### 3. Lecturing Staff:

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Tutors will introduce themselves to you in class.

#### 4. Class times and locations

Lectures	Mon 2.10-3.00	Weds 2.10-3.00	Thurs 2.10-3.00
	MCLT101	MCLT101	MCLT102

Tutorials	Mon	Mon	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs
	1.10-2.00	3:10-4:00	5:10-6:00	12.00-12.50	10.00-10.50	4.10-5.00
	VZ108	VZ107	VZ107	VZ509	VZ509	VZ509

## 5. Course delivery

Teaching in LALS 101 is by means of lectures, some of which will involve presentation of relevant video material, and tutorials, in which concepts introduced in lectures will be discussed.

## 6. Communication of additional information

Noticeboards are in the corridor of Von Zedlitz on level 3. Notices to course members will also be placed on the Blackboard site for LALS 101.

## 7. Course content

See the final page of this document for a lecture schedule.

## 8. Learning objectives

Students passing the course 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.

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.

## 9. Expected workload

The expected workload for a 18-point course is 180 hours spread over the trimester, including the mid-trimester break. This will include 36 hours of lectures (3 per week over 12 weeks) and 10 hours of tutorials (1 per week in weeks 2 to 11). The remaining time (approximately 10 hours per week) will be spent in reading and in preparing assignments and revising for the test.

## 10. Group work

n/a

## 11. Readings

### Essential 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 lecture schedule.

You will also need the Tutorial Materials notebook, available from Student Notes.

For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of VicBooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two all undergraduate textbooks will be sold from VicBooks and student notes from the Student Notes Distribution Centre on the ground floor of the Student Union Building.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz). Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from the shop. Customers will be contacted when they are available. Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

### Recommended Reading:

Other recommended texts for this course 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.

## 12. Assessment requirements

Assessment will be based on five pieces of work, including an in-class test as indicated below. Assignment topics are included on pp.45-53 of the Tutorial Materials notebook.

Piece of work	Date due	Value	Learning objectives addressed
Assignment 1	30 July	20%	1-2
Assignment 2	13 August	20%	1-3
Assignment 3	17 September	20%	1-4
Assignment 4	1 October	20%	1-5
In-Class Test (50mins)	15 October	20%	2-5

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 a cover sheet, available from on Blackboard.

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+

### 13. 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 assignments are all due on **Thursdays at 2:10 pm**. Unless you have a valid extension granted for your assignment, the following penalties will apply:

	Penalty
For assignments handed in after Thursday 2:10 pm but before the following Thursday at 2:10 pm	Maximum grade possible is C and no personal comment will be provided
For assignments handed in after Thursday 2:10 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.

### 14. Mandatory course requirements

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 16.

### 15. Statement on legibility

Students are expected to write clearly. Where work is deemed 'illegible', the options are:

- the student will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame after which penalties will apply;
- the student will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) and lateness penalties apply;
- if the student does not transcribe it to an acceptable standard, the work will be accepted as 'received' (so any associated mandatory course requirements are met) but not marked.

### 16. Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

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

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

## **17. 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* or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

The AVC(Academic) website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/Publications.aspx>

Wk	Lect	Date	Area	Topic	Language Matters	Lecturer
1	1	13-Jul		Introduction: where are we going?		PW
	2	14-Jul	Origins	Where does language come from?	Ch1	PW
	3	15-Jul	Origins	Why don't we all talk the same?	Ch2	PW
2	4	20-Jul	Origins	Things ain't what they used to be	Ch3	PW
	5	22-Jul	Origins	Linguistic rellies	Ch4	PW
	6	23-Jul		Library skills		Lib staff
3	7	27-Jul	Origins	Bee talk and monkey chatter	Ch5	AC
	8	29-Jul	Origins	Body language and gesture		AC
	9	30-Jul	Structure	Going On and On: the Never-ending Story	Ch8	JP
4	10	3-Aug	Structure	How do you spell accommodation?	Ch6	AC
	11	5-Aug	Structure	How many words do the Eskimos use?	Ch7	AC
	12	6-Aug		Video: Human language evolves	video	JP
5	13	10-Aug	Structure	Primitive languages	Ch9	JP
	14	12-Aug	Structure	Who needs grammar?	Ch10	JP
	15	13-Aug	Structure	Hv u hd txt tdy?	Ch11	JP
6	16	17-Aug	Use	How and why do languages die?	Ch12	JP
	17	19-Aug	Use	Terms of address and issues of politeness	Ch13	JP
	18	20-Aug		Gender and language	Ch14	JP
7	19	7-Sep	Use	Can language be sexist?	Ch15	JP
	20	9-Sep	Use	Video: Discovering the human language	video	PW
	21	10-Sep	Use	What language do you use to your grandmother?	Ch16	JP
8	22	14-Sep	Use	Can you tell the difference between sign and mime?		DM
	23	16-Sep	Mind	Sign language acquisition in children		DM
	24	17-Sep	Mind	Video: Silent children, new language	video	RM
9	25	21-Sep	Mind	Acquiring a first language	Ch18	PW
	26	23-Sep	Mind	Does bilingualism rot the brain	Ch19	PW
	27	24-Sep	Mind	Video: Baby it's you	video	PW
10	28	28-Sep	Mind	Building another tongue	Ch20	AC
	29	30-Sep	Mind	You've tasted the whole worm	Ch21	PW
	30	1-Oct	Use	Signs and metaphors		SM
11	31	5-Oct	Use	Performing with language		SM
	32	7-Oct	Mind	Is language a strait-jacket?	Ch22	PW
	33	8-Oct	Mind	When language breaks down	Ch23	PW
12	34	12-Oct		Who cares about language?	Conc	PW
	35	14-Oct		Summary; any questions?		PW
	36	15-Oct		TEST		PW