



SCHOOL OF LINGUISTICS AND APPLIED LANGUAGE STUDIES

**Linguistics Programme
LING 410 Special Topic: Literary Linguistics**

**TRIMESTER 3 2009-2010
16 November 2009-20 February 2010**

Trimester dates: 24 November 2009- 4 February 2010

Mid-trimester break: 24 December 2009 to 4 January 2010

LING 410 has no examination

Names and Contact details

Course coordinator

Dr Sky Marsen

Office: VZ 318

Telephone: 463 5629

E-mail: sky.marsen@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: tba

Class times and locations

Tuesdays – Thursdays 10-12

Location: Old Kirk 501

Course delivery

LING 331 has one 2-hour lecture and one 2-hour tutorial per week. After the Christmas break, the course will have one 1-hour lecture, followed by one 1-hour student presentation time per week. The 2-hour tutorials per week will run throughout the trimester.

Communication of additional information

Additional information will be communicated through e-mail and Blackboard, www.blackboard.vuw.ac.nz

Course content

The course explores literary narrative from a linguistic perspective, and examines the importance of style in creating different aesthetic and emotive effects. By analysing the structure, style and themes of selected novels, the course aims to develop an appreciation of the ways in which language represents physical reality through stylistic strategies.

In the course, we will discuss topics relating to the stylistic elements of literary narratives. We aim to answer questions such as:

- How do syntactic structure and lexical choice create different reader effects?
- What are the fundamental characteristics of narrative?
- How does language create point of view and representation?
- What is the role of modalities in narrative?
- What is the role of deictic markers in framing discourse?

Learning objectives

After taking the course, you should:

- Understand and be able to evaluate stylistic strategies in relation to their communicative effects.
- Be able to analyse a narrative text in relation to structural, stylistic and semantic structures.
- Understand and be able to apply major narrative- semiotic models of text analysis, such as the actantial model and the semiotic square.
- Understand the role of syntax in style, and be able to appreciate and produce different stylistic effects through syntactic manipulation.
- Be able to formulate research objectives and a research plan to analyse the linguistic aspects of written narrative.

Expected workload

Generally you should allow for about 18-20 hours work outside of class per week.

Texts

Required Texts

1. Novels

James, Henry (1897): *What Maisie Knew*

McEwan, Ian (1990) *The Innocent*

Pratchett, Terry (1990) *Eric*

Vonnegut, Kurt (1963) *Cat's Cradle*

You should also read Goethe's (1808): *Faust* for comparison with Pratchett's *Eric. Faust* Part 1 is essential and Part 2 is recommended. We will not be analysing this text, but knowledge of its philosophy, characters and story would be helpful.

You can purchase these books at various outlets in Wellington (such as Unity Books, Borders, Arty Bees, and Whitcouls) or online. You may also order your copy through VicBooks.

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. 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.

2. Theory:

Extracts from selected sources will be distributed during the course.

Recommended Texts

1. Novels

These novels offer good examples of the principles that we will cover in the course and complement the required novels listed above:

Ishiguro, Kazuo: *A Pale View of the Hills*

Joyce, James: *Ulysses*

Rushdie Salman: *Fury*

Woolf, Virginia: *To the Lighthouse*

2. Theory

Here is a list of relevant theoretical texts:

Adams, J. K. (1991) Intention and narrative. *Journal of Literary Semantics* 20: 63-77.

Bakhtin, Mikhail (1973) [1963]: *Problems of Dostoyevsky's poetics*. Trans. R.W. Rostel. Ann Arbor: Ardis.

Banfield, Ann (1978) Where epistemology, style and grammar meet literary history, *New Literary History* 9, pages 415-454.

Chatman, S. (1978) *Story and discourse: Narrative structure in fiction and film*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Ehrlich, Susan (1990) *Point of View: A Linguistic Analysis of Literary Style*. London: Routledge.

Fontanille, Jacques (2006) *The Semiotics of Discourse*. New York: Peter Lang.

- Fowler, Roger (1986) *Linguistic Criticism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Fowler, Roger (2003) *Linguistics and the Novel*. London: Routledge.
- Genette, Gerard (1980) [1972] *Narrative discourse: An essay in method*. Trans. By J. E. Lewin. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Hawkes, Terence (1977) *Structuralism and Semiotics*. London: Methuen.
- Hebron, Malcolm (2004) *The Language of Literature*. Basingstoke: Palgrave.
- Kundera, Milan (1993): *The Art of the Novel*. New York: Harper Collins.
- Lodge, David (1998) *The Art of Fiction*. London: Penguin.
- Marsen, Sky (2006) *Narrative Dimensions of Philosophy*. London: Palgrave.
- Marsen, S. (2006) How to mean without saying: presupposition and implication revisited.
Semiotica 160-1/4, 1-21
- Marsen, Sky (2004) To Be an Actor or to Be an Observer: A Semiotic Typology of Narrator Roles
in Written Discourse. *Semiotica* 149, pp. 223-243.
- Martin, Bronwen and Ringham, Felizitas (2006) *Key terms in semiotics*. London: Continuum.
- Prince, Gerald (1982) *Narratology: The form and functioning of narrative*. Amsterdam: Mouton.
- Prince, Gerald (2000) Forty-one questions on the nature of narrative. *Style* 34.2: 317-18.
- Propp, Vladimir (1968)[1928] *Morphology of the folktale*. Trans. L. Scott. Austin: University of Texas Press.
- Toolan, Michael (1998) *Language in literature*. London: Arnold.
- Verdonk, Peter (2002) *Stylistics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Relevant Journals (electronic versions available through the library)

Journal of Literary Semantics

Narrative

New Literary History

Poetics Today

Semiotica

Style

Assessment requirements

Task	Length	Credit	Due Date
Response Essay	About 2,500 words	25%	17 December
Research Essay	Final about 4,500 words	30%	4 February
	Plan about 500 words + working bibliography	15%	19 January
Seminar Presentation Abstract	30 minutes + discussion	15%	January (tba)
In-class quiz	N/A	15%	21 January

Essay topics will be given in class.

The seminar presentation will introduce a research topic in literary linguistics and describe the research questions and relevant literature. The presentation will be preceded by an abstract of the talk. You must pass all assignments to pass the course.

Criteria for assessment

The assessment will be based on an analysis of the four novels as well as supplementary material in relation to selected theoretical principles. You should show you are able to formulate research objectives in relation to the linguistic analysis of literary texts and to be able to conduct independent research. You should also show you can critically evaluate and apply the models and interpretive theories described during the course.

Submitting Assignments

1. Submit all assignments by due date. If you need an extension, consult with the coordinator. Assignments submitted late without permission are penalised by 2% per late day, including weekends. An assignment that is more than one week late may be refused a grade.
2. Use 1.5 line spacing and allow enough margin for comments.
3. Submit in both hard copy and by e-mail as a Word document.

Victoria University grades

Marks	85+	80-84	75-79	70-74	65-69	60-64	55-59	50-54	40-49	<40
Grades	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D	E

Mandatory course requirements (Terms)

In order to qualify for grade assessment at the end of the course, you must meet these conditions:

1. Complete and pass all assignments
2. Attend all tutorials (unless there is justifiable cause to be absent), complete the reading tasks, and participate in discussions.

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 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>

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_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx