

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF LINGUISTICS AND APPLIED LANGUAGE STUDIES

MASTER OF ARTS IN TESOL AND APPLIED LINGUISTICS
LALS 514: Understanding Second Language Learning

TRIMESTER 1 2013
4 March – 3 July 2013

Trimester dates

Teaching dates: 21 March to 13 June 2013
Easter break: 28 March to 3 April 2013
Mid-trimester break: 22–28 April 2013
Last piece of assessment due: 13 June 2013

Withdrawal dates

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at
www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds

Names and Contact Details

Jean Parkinson (Course Coordinator)

Von Zedlitz (VZ) 417
Tel: 463 5233 ext 8009
Email: jean.parkinson@vuw.ac.nz
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/lals>
Office hours: By appointment



Anna Siyanova

Von Zedlitz (VZ) 203
Tel: 463 5922
Email: anna.siyanova@vuw.ac.nz
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/lals>
Office hours: By appointment



Course Administrator

Janet Attrill
LALS Main Office
Von Zedlitz (VZ) 210
Tel: 463-5894
Email: Janet.Attrill@vuw.ac.nz

Postal Address

School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies
Victoria University of Wellington
PO Box 600
Wellington 6410
NEW ZEALAND

Class times and locations

Thursday 4.10-6pm, 24 Kelburn Parade, Room 103

Lectures will take place on the following dates:

21 March, 4 April, 11 April, 18 April, 2 May, 9 May, 16 May, 23 May, 30 May, 6 June

Teaching/learning summary

For distance students, the course is available at <http://blackboard.vuw.ac.nz>. When you enrol you will automatically be given a computer user account, which will be on your Confirmation of Study form. Usually, it is the first six letters of your family name and four letters of your first name. So if your name is Robert Cameron, your user name might be camerorobe. Your password will be your student ID number. You need to use this computer user account when you access journals from off-campus. For help, contact scs-hda@vuw.ac.nz or phone (04) 463 5050. If you want to use other student computing services, you need to call the ITS Help Desk on (04) 463 5050. Staff will re-confirm your username and re-set your password after confirming your identity. A useful website is <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/its/student-services> and if you are an international student, the following site could be useful for you: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/international/>.

Before you log into Blackboard or make any use of your Victoria University programmes, you will need to change your original password. To do this, please visit: <https://password.student.vuw.ac.nz/psynch/nph-psf.exe?lang=en-us>. Please log in with your user name and your student ID (your student number) as the initial password to change it. You can also find the link to change your password in the top of the box on the left on the Blackboard login page.

Your user ID is printed in the top right section of the Confirmation of Study form that the university sends you. Typically it is the first six letters of your family name followed by the first four letters of your first name. If your name results in a user ID that is the same as someone else's, there will be a number added to the end of your user name. Look on your Confirmation of Study form to check your user name.

Distance students are welcome to come to the class if they are in Wellington.

Communication of additional information

Additional information concerning this course will be displayed on Blackboard.

Course Prescription

This course explores the question of how a second language is learned. It focuses on the process involved and the implications of these processes for language pedagogy. Particular emphasis is given to how language use, interaction, and instruction affect the course of language development.

Course content

LALS514 will provide members with opportunities to study:

- a. The conceptual foundations of different theoretical approaches in the field of second language learning.
- b. The way that second language acquisition research is contributing to developments in language pedagogy.

Week	Topics
21 March	Early theories
Easter break	
4 April	Interlanguage
11 April	Emergentism
18th April	Formulaic language
Assignment 1 due: Friday 26 April	
Midterm break	
2 May	Explicit and implicit knowledge & processing capacity
9 May	Interaction: The Output Hypothesis
16 May	Interaction: Corrective Feedback
23 May	Focus on form
30 May	Sociocultural perspective
6 June	Sociolinguistic perspectives
Assignment 2 due: Thursday 13 June	

Learning objectives

Students who pass this course should:

- a. Be knowledgeable about the major theories of second language acquisition.
- b. Be able to analyze learner language from a linguistic perspective
- c. Be able to critique methods of language pedagogy with reference to second language learning.

Expected Workload

Students are expected to devote a total of about 150 hours, spread throughout the trimester, to this course in order to maintain satisfactory progress. The following gives an indication of how that time may be distributed.

For each of the 10 class weeks:

6 hours for required and extended reading and to prepare for class or Blackboard discussion

2 hours class attendance OR participation in Blackboard discussion

For the assignments (including reading, researching, and writing up):

Assignment 1: 35 hours

Assignment 2: 35 hours

Readings

Readings for each week's topic will be available through blackboard as electronic downloadable copies of readings (or links to download sources). These will not be available in a pre-printed book of readings.

You are expected to participate in a critical discussion of the reading material in class (on-campus class members) or on Blackboard (distance class members). Through your participation in discussion and in activities related to the readings, you will demonstrate your progress towards meeting the course objectives in a broad way, as compared with the in-depth evidence provided by your assignment work.

Postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from vicbooks' new store, Ground Floor Easterfield Building, Kelburn Parade.

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 nominated collection points at each campus. 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

Gass, S. M. and Selinker, L. (2008). *Second Language Acquisition*. New York : Routledge/Taylor and Francis Group. (electronic resource in the library)

Mitchell, R. & Myles, F. (2004). *Second Language Learning Theories*. London: Arnold.

VanPatten, B. and Williams, J. (2007). *Theories in 2nd Language Acquisition*. Mahwah, N.J.: Lawrence Erlbaum.

Assessment requirements

You will be assessed on two assignments and on your blackboard and classroom contributions. There is no examination. The purpose of the assignments is to allow you to apply what you have learned in class through analyzing learning language and language teaching practice.

Component	Learning objective	Value	Word count	Due date
Blackboard and classroom contributions	a, b, c	10%	N/A	Throughout
Assignment 1	b, c	45%	1800-2000 words	Friday, 26 April
Assignment 2	a, c	45%	1800-2000 words	Thursday 13 June

Blackboard and classroom contributions:

Distance students: Blackboard contributions

You can earn 10 marks (10% of the course assessment) for contribution to class discussion. You will gain one mark for each course week in which you post a relevant and appropriate response to required readings (maximum 300 words), and respond to the contribution of at least one other student. To earn 1% each week for your contribution, you must contribute in a timely manner. Timely means that you must post your contribution by the end of the course week (i.e. post your response to week 1 readings by Sunday 24th March).

On Campus students: classroom contributions

You can earn 10 marks (10% of the course assessment) for relevant oral contribution to class discussion, as well as a written response to readings (maximum 300 words) to be brought with you to each class. You gain one mark per week for this contribution. If you are unable to attend a lecture, you should contribute online, fulfilling requirements for distance students.

Assignments and assessment criteria:

Details of assignments and assessment criteria will be posted on Blackboard.

Submission of Work

General guidelines

- Set margins to at least 2.5 cm

- Set line spacing to 1.5
- Set font size of 12 point
- 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 References)

Assignments should be submitted online, by clicking a link on the assessment page on the Blackboard site. If you have difficulty with this, a backup email mailbox is: LALS-MA@vuw.ac.nz, but please use this only if you are unable to submit through Blackboard. In this event, please also use your name as the name for your document and copy it to me jean.parkinson@vuw.ac.nz.

Penalties

No specific penalty will be imposed if you obtain permission to submit the assignment after the deadline. If you find that you need an extension, you must get explicit permission from the course coordinator before the due date. Extensions will only be granted when the assignment is not completed due to unforeseeable circumstances such as unforeseen illness or family emergencies. For assignments handed in late without an extension the maximum grade possible is B- and no personal comment will be provided.

Assignments that are handed in on time will be marked and commented on and returned in a timely manner. Late assignments will be marked when possible, and receive no comments.

Ensure that the number of words you write for assignments is within the required range. Words that exceed the limit will not be read.

Mandatory course requirements

In order to pass this course, you must:

- Complete both assignments on time.
- Fulfil requirements for Blackboard and classroom contributions as stated above. To earn 1% each week for your contribution, you must contribute in a timely manner. Timely means that for an on-campus student your written response must be brought with you to the class. For a distance student, you must post your contribution and response any time up until the Sunday of each week

It is assumed that you will attend all lectures (or, for distance students, participate each week on the blackboard discussion forum in a timely manner). If you are unable to attend a lecture, you should contribute online, fulfilling requirements for distance students.

Class representative

A student representative will be elected for the whole LALS MA program. Details will be posted on Blackboard once the course starts.

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>

Use of Turnitin

Student work provided for assessment in this course will be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <http://www.turnitin.com>. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted material on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions is not made available to any other party.

Where to find more detailed information

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study. Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress. Most statutes and policies are available at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the Academic Office website, at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic.