



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF LINGUISTICS AND APPLIED LANGUAGE STUDIES

LINGUISTICS PROGRAMME LING 324 LANGUAGE VARIATION AND CHANGE 20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 2 2014

Important dates

Trimester dates: 14 July to 16 November 2014

Teaching dates: 14 July to 17 October 2014

Mid-trimester break: 25 August to 7 September 2014

Last assessment item due: 16 October 2014

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Lectures

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 11am – 11.50am in Alan MacDiarmid Building 106

Note that there are 11 weeks of lectures beginning in Week 1. There are no lectures in Week 12. A total of six of the Friday lecture times will be taken up with student presentations (see Content Outline at the end of this document).

Tutorials:

One tutorial per week, either:

Monday 12:00-12:50 in CO118; or

Monday 2:10-3:00 in MY531

Please go to <https://signups.vuw.ac.nz> to sign up for a tutorial. This facility will close on 18 July 2014.

Tutorials commence in the second week (beginning 21 July). Check the lists *before* that date.

There is no scheduled tutorial for this course in the last week of the trimester. Do not miss your first tutorial. You may not change tutorials without consulting the course co-ordinator.

The tutorial programme is an essential element of this course. Students will find they cannot acquire techniques of linguistic analysis without attending tutorials regularly.

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator and Lecturer

Dr Elizabeth Pearce

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Course Lecturer

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Course Administrator

Dayna Taramai

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Communication of additional information

Notices relating to the course, will be posted on Blackboard and on the Linguistics Undergraduate Notice Board next to VZ309 on floor 3 of the Von Zedlitz building.

Prescription

An introduction to the study of language variation, concentrating on variation in time, i.e. language change. Not offered in odd-numbered years. 100% internal assessment.

Course content

A week-by-week summary of the topics covered in the course is given on the 'Content Outline' sheet at the end of this document. The following is an outline of the topics treated in the course.

- (i) Sound change:
 - common types of sound change
 - phonological characterization of sound change
 - comparative reconstruction: sound change and analysis of language family relationships
- (ii) Morphological change
 - effects of sound change and analogical change on morphology
- (iii) Semantic change
 - changes in the meanings of words
 - new vocabulary
- (iv) Syntactic change
 - change in constituent ordering

- syntactic change and morphological change: interrelationships
- (v) Change in progress: how to identify and analyze ongoing change
- (vi) Dialects
 - political, social, geographic dimensions to language change
 - language contact and effects on change
- (vii) Creole languages and aspects of their genesis from pidgins
- (viii) Case studies: Austronesian languages
- (ix) Language attrition and death

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Identify the kind of material that can be used as a basis for analyzing change in language.
2. Analyze and describe change in language data at the levels of
 - (a) phonology
 - (b) morphology
 - (c) syntax
 - (d) semantics.
3. Apply the principles of comparative reconstruction in the determination of language family relationships.
4. Distinguish the effects of borrowing as against internal change in data of a particular language or language family.
5. Apply the analytical tools 1-4 in an appropriately formatted written assignment on an aspect of language change.

Teaching format

The course delivery is through the lectures and tutorials as listed under Class times and locations. Tutorials commence in the second week (beginning 21 July). Do not miss your first tutorial. Students are expected to contribute to discussions in tutorials.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

1. Submit all assessment items on time (unless an extension is granted).
2. Sit the final test

Workload

In order to make satisfactory progress in this course you should expect to spend 200 hours on this course over the whole trimester (including the two week mid-trimester break), which means on average around 14 hours per week. There is a total of 44 class contact hours (lectures and tutorials) in the trimester. The remaining workload hours (an average of 11 hours per week) are needed for preparation for and revision after lectures (the latter to confirm your understanding of the lecture material), background reading and assignment preparation. Some students will find they need to do more than this, and students aiming for high grades will almost certainly need to do more.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	Word count	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Problem Set 1	15%		2	31 July
2	Problem Set 2	20%		2,3	21 August
3	Report	10%	600	1,4	Before 3 October
4	Assignment	35%	2,000	1-5	10 October
5	Test (50 minutes)	20%		1-4	16 October

This course has a final Test, but no Final Exam.

The maximum length for Problem Set 1 is 6 A4 pages, and for Problem Set 2, 10 A4 pages, in both cases including diagrams, figures, tables.

Submission and return of work

Assignments should be handed in to the lecturer on the day the assignment is due or to the LALS Office (VZ 210). Please keep a back-up copy of your assignment. You can expect that your work will be graded and returned to you by not more than two weeks after you submit it. Where more than one Question is included on an assignment, specific marks will be assigned to the individual questions. The marking criteria accord with how well the work that is produced fulfils the instructions that are given with each assignment task.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

In line with the Linguistics Programme policy, assignments handed in after the due date will receive a considerably reduced grade (see below) unless accompanied by a medical certificate or other evidence of exceptional circumstances. If you require an extension for good reasons, ask the course coordinator ahead of the date for handing in the assignment. Such an extension may be given only up to the point at which the Assignments are handed back.

Penalties

Assignments which are handed in after the time and date on which they are due will be subject to a scale of penalties involving a reduction in the grade they are given, the severity of the grade reduction corresponding to the severity of the lateness. The details of the penalties will be set out on each Assignment.

Note that Problem Sets 1 and 2 will not be graded if handed in after the date that they are returned in class (7 to 14 days after the due date). Information on other penalty arrangements will be included with detailed instructions for each piece of set work.

You are strongly advised to begin work early on your assignment to be sure of getting access to the appropriate books and articles, to avoid last-minute rush, and to ensure that your work is not needlessly penalised. If your work is handed in late, it may also be returned to you late.

Plagiarism is not acceptable in assessed work, and will be penalized. The penalty will depend on the severity of the plagiarism. Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism

Note that if no work is submitted for assessment before the last two weeks of teaching, there will be nothing on which to base any aegrotat consideration.

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities in examinations and other assessment procedures.

Set texts

LING 324/424 Course Notes (approx. \$20)

The Course Notes can be purchased at vicbooks (www.vicbooks.co.nz)

Recommended reading

Bynon, Theodora. 1979. *Historical Linguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [or later edition]

Campbell, Lyle. 1998. *Historical Linguistics: An Introduction*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.

Crowley, Terry. 1997. *An Introduction to Historical Linguistics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press [3rd edition or later]

Hock, Hans Henrich. 1986. *Principles of Historical Linguistics*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Lehmann, Winfred P. 1992a. *Historical Linguistics*. Third edition. London: Routledge.

Trask, R. L. 1996. *Historical Linguistics*. London: Arnold.

Lists of recommended texts relating to particular topics are provided in the lecture material in the Course Notes, which also includes a comprehensive bibliography for the course. Additional specific readings may be indicated from time to time in the lectures. A number of books and periodicals useful for this course have been placed on 3 day loan and closed reserve.

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be covered during the course.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications

- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

CONTENT OUTLINE

Week	Date	Topics	Tutorials & Assessments due
1	Jul 14 16 17	Introduction Sound change Types of sound change I	
2	Jul 21 23 24	Phonology of change Phonology of change Phonology of change	Sound change
3	Jul 28 30 31	The discovery of Indo-European Indo-European Indo-European	Phonology of change Due: Problem Set 1
4	Aug 4 6 7	Comparative reconstruction Comparative reconstruction Student Reports	Comparative reconstruction
5	Aug 11 13 14	Sound change II Morphological change: Analogy Student Reports	Comparative reconstruction
6	Aug 18 20 21	Morphological change: Analogy Grammaticalization Semantic change	Analogy Due: Problem Set 2
BREAK			
7	Sep 8 10 11	The study of change in progress Studying variation Student Reports	Semantic change
8	Sep 15 17 18	Syntactic change Syntactic change Student Reports	Variation
9	Sep 22 24 25	Dialects and isoglosses Sprachbunde and languages in contact Student Reports	Syntactic change
10	Sep 29 Oct 1 2	Neogrammarian vs. diffusionist views Student Reports Student Reports	Dialects
11	Oct 6 8 9 10	Pidgins and creoles Austronesian languages Austronesian languages	Pidgins/Creoles/Review Due: Assignment
12	Oct 13 15 16	NO LECTURE NO LECTURE Test	No scheduled tutorial