



## FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

### SCHOOL OF LINGUISTICS AND APPLIED LANGUAGE STUDIES

#### LINGUISTICS PROGRAMME LING 424 LANGUAGE VARIATION AND CHANGE 30 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:** 17 October 2014

**Withdrawal dates:** Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds](http://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](http://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).

#### Two Research Seminars:

1. During week beginning 11 August (Time and place TBA)
2. During week beginning 15 September (Time and place TBA)

#### Tutorials:

One tutorial per week, either:

Monday 12:00-12:50 in CO 118:or

Monday 2:10-3:00 in MY 531

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

Office: VZ303

Phone: 463 5616

Office hours: TBA

Email: [Elizabeth.Pearce@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Elizabeth.Pearce@vuw.ac.nz)

[www.victoria.ac.nz/lals](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/lals)

### **Course Lecturer**

Professor Miriam Meyerhoff

Office: VZ 301

Phone: 463 5614

Office hours: TBA

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### **Course Administrator**

Dayna Taramai

Office: VZ210

Phone: 463 5255

Office hours: Monday – Friday 9am – 4.15pm

Email: [Dayna.Taramai@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Dayna.Taramai@vuw.ac.nz)

## **Communication of additional information**

Notices relating to the course, will be posted on Blackboard and on the Linguistics Honours Notice Board next to VZ307 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, and to the techniques employed in the reconstruction of language families. Co-taught with LING 324.

## **Course content**

In this course we are aiming to understand language variation over time, i.e., how languages change. The course will deal with methods of describing and analyzing changes that have occurred in the past, methods of reconstructing earlier unattested language forms and ways of exploring relationships between languages and classifying them into "families". The course will also deal with causes and processes of change, effects of borrowing and contact between languages and the development of pidgin and creole languages. We will study aspects of change in English and the make up of the Austronesian language family as particular illustrations of the processes and issues involved in the description of language change.

For a more detailed outline of topics covered in the course, see the Content Outline at the end of this document.

## 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. Design an investigation into an aspect of language change and set out the findings of such an investigation in an appropriate format.

## Teaching format

The course delivery is through the lectures, tutorials and seminars 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 and seminars.

## 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. Attend the two Research seminars.

## Workload

In order to make satisfactory progress in this course you should expect to spend 300 hours on this course over the whole trimester (including the two week mid-trimester break), which means on average around 22 hours per week. There is a total of 45 class contact hours (lectures, research seminars and tutorials) in the trimester. The remaining workload hours (an average of 18 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 limit	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Problem Set 1	10%		2	31 July
2	Problem Set 2	20%		2,3	21 August
3	Oral Report	10%	(5 mins)	1-5	1 October
4	Assignment 1	20%	1,500	1-5	15 September
5	Assignment 2	40%	3,000	1-5	17 October

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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)

If you encounter any problems in your work for this assignment, discuss these with the course coordinator **well before** the due date for the assignment.

## Set texts

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

The Course Notes can be purchased at vicbooks ([www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://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 Book, 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:
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## 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](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades)
- Resolving academic issues: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract](http://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](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure)
- Victoria graduate profile: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)

## CONTENT OUTLINE

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Tutorials &amp; Assessments due</b>
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  <b>Due: Problem Set 1</b>
4	Aug 4 6 7	Comparative reconstruction Comparative reconstruction <b>Student Reports</b>	Comparative reconstruction
5	Aug 11 13 14	Sound change II Morphological change: Analogy <b>Student Reports</b>	Comparative reconstruction
6	Aug 18 20 21	Analogy Semantic change [ <b>Student Reports</b> ]	Analogy  <b>Due: Problem Set 2</b>
BREAK			
7	Sep 8 10 11	The study of change in progress Studying variation <b>Student Reports</b>	Semantic change
8	Sep 15  17 18	Syntactic change and word order change  Grammaticalization <b>Student Reports</b>	Variation <b>Due: Assignment 1</b>
9	Sep 22 24 25	Dialects and isoglosses Sprachbunde and languages in contact <b>Student Reports</b>	Syntactic change
10	Sep 29 Oct 1 2	Neogrammarian vs. diffusionist views Pidgins and creoles <b>Student Reports</b>	Dialects
11	Oct 6 8 9	The Bioprogramme hypothesis Austronesian languages Austronesian languages	Pidgins/Creoles/Review
12	Oct 13-16 17	NO LECTURES	No scheduled tutorial <b>Due: Assignment 2</b>