

School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies Course Outline

LING 211, Introduction to Linguistics, Trimester 1, 2008

1. Course Coordinator:

Laurie Bauer
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2. Staff:

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If you send emails to any staff about this course, please put 'LING211' in the title line.

Tutors

Tutors will introduce themselves and provide details of office hours at the first meeting of each tutorial class.

3. Class times and rooms:

Lectures: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00-9:50 in HMLT105

Demonstration classes: Approximately one out of three of the lecture class times will be devoted to the practical demonstrations of various kinds. Students may be required to prepare material in advance to gain full advantage from attendance at these classes.

Tutorials: One tutorial per week. Please go to <<https://signups.vuw.ac.nz>> to sign up for a tutorial. All tutorials are held in VZ107. This facility will close on 3 March 2008.

Tutorial lists will be posted on the Linguistics Notice Board (see 4. below) during the first week of the trimester. Tutorials commence in the second week (beginning 3 March). Check the lists *before* that date. 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. Short tutorial exercises must be prepared before each tutorial. Students will find they cannot acquire techniques of linguistic analysis without attending tutorials regularly.

4. Announcements:

Noticeboards are in the corridor of VZ Level 3. Notices will also be posted on Blackboard.

5. LALS main office:

VZ210, 2nd floor Von Zedlitz Building, Kelburn Parade

6. Course Administrator:

Vivien.Trott, Undergraduate administration Tel: 463 5894, Fax: 463 5604

Vivien.Trott@vuw.ac.nz

Web contact: www.blackboard.vuw.ac.nz

7. Content:

Lectures will cover each of the following

- (i) Morphology: examining how words are structured.
- (ii) Semantics: considering how to analyse meaning.
- (iii) Syntax: examining the way words combine to form sentences.
- (iv) Phonetics and phonology: examining the sounds of human languages.

A schedule of lectures is attached to this course outline.

8. Objectives:

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Explain concepts basic to modern linguistics.
- Identify characteristics shared by all human languages.
- Explain why a language is referred to as a system.
- Use descriptive linguistic terminology to discuss language structure in a precise way.
- Use descriptive linguistic terminology to discuss issues of linguistic usage in a precise and informed way.
- Distinguish linguistic elements at the levels of (a) morphology; (b) semantics; (c) syntax; (d) phonology.
- Analyse a variety of languages at one or more of these levels of analysis.

Each of the pieces of assessed work, including the test, will test several of these objectives.

9. Expected workload:

You are expected to spend 220 hours on this course over the whole trimester, which means on average around 16 hours per week. 4 of those hours are consumed with class attendance, and at least another 4 with preparation for and revision after classes, including reading to confirm your understanding of the lecture material. You also need to spend time on assignments, and on overall background reading and preparation of the final test.

10. Group work:

Not applicable.

11. Readings:

Every student will need to bring a copy of the Coursebook (obtainable from the Student Notes Distribution Centre, Student Union Building; cost approx \$25.00) **to all classes**. The current version of this Coursebook is 4.1

Lists of recommended texts relating to particular topics are provided in the lecture material in the Coursebook, which also includes a comprehensive bibliography for the course. A large number of books and periodicals useful for this course have been placed on 3 day loan and closed reserve.

Recommended:

The **recommended textbooks** for this course are

Bauer, Laurie 2007. *The Linguistics Student's Handbook*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Crowley, Terry, John Lynch, Jeff Siegel & Julie Piau 1995. *The Design of Language: An Introduction to Descriptive Linguistics*. Auckland: Longman Paul.

or

Fromkin, Victoria & Robert Rodman 1993 (or earlier edition). *An Introduction to Language*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

Fromkin, Victoria, David Blair & Peter Collins 1999 (4th Australian ed.) *An Introduction to Language*. Sydney: Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

It is expected that every student will have access to one or more of these books, which are held in multiple copies by the University library.

Vicbooks has two locations - Student Union Building on Kelburn Campus and Rutherford House on Pipitea Campus (which stocks textbooks for Law and Commerce only). They distribute student notes (for Law (all stages) and Commerce from stage 2 upwards only) from the Pipitea shop and the student notes shop on the ground floor of the Student Union Building.

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

We can courier books to customers or they can be picked up from either shop the day after placing an order online.

We can be contacted by telephone

Kelburn 463 5515

Pipitea 4636160

Opening hours

8am - 6pm Mon - Fri (during termtime - we close at 5pm in the holidays)

10am - 1pm Saturday

12. Materials and equipment:

Not applicable.

13. Assessment requirements:

Assessment will be based on 4 brief assignments, and a final test. Where applicable, word-limits will be stated on the individual assignment handouts.

		Due date	Contribution to final grade
i	Assignment 1: Morphology	17 March	20%
ii	Assignment 2: Lexical semantics	7 April	20%
iii	Assignment 3: Syntax	5 May	20%
iv	Assignment 4: Phonetics and Phonology	19 May	20%

Assignments should be handed in to the lecturer no later than the day the assignment is due or to the LALS Office (VZ210). Please keep a back-up copy of your assignment.

Reasonable accommodation is made with respect to assessment procedures for students with disabilities (see also General University Policies below).

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

Marks out of 15 correspond to grades as in the following table, which will be used in the five assignments:

below 8	E	13-13.5	B
8-9.5	D	14-14.5	B+
10-10.5	C	15-15.5	A-
11-11.5	C+	16-16.5	A
12-12.5	B-	17-20	A+

The pieces of work listed above will assess your ability to manipulate linguistic terminology and the skills in linguistic analysis that you have acquired and your familiarity with basic concepts in each of the major areas of linguistics covered in the course.

Submitting assignments and tasks

General guidelines

When submitting typed or word-processed assignments:

- 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 Reference section)

Hard copy submissions

- Type on one side of A4 paper
- Staple pages together
- Avoid presenting assignments in bulky folders or sleeves unless necessary
- Avoid inserting individual pages in clearfile sleeves

14. Penalties:

In line with school 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. If you require an extension for good reasons, ask the course convener ahead of the date for handing in the assignment. ONLY ASSIGNMENTS CARRYING A COVER-SHEET SIGNED BY THE COURSE CONVENER HAVE A VALID EXTENSION PERMITTED TO THEM.

The five assignments are all due on **Mondays at 4:00 pm**. Unless you have a valid extension granted for your assignment, the following penalties will apply:

	Penalty
For assignments handed in after Monday 4:00 pm but before the following Monday at 4:00 pm	Maximum grade possible is C and no personal comment will be provided
For assignments handed in after Monday 4:00 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.

15. Responsibilities for practicum arrangements (practicum courses only):

Not applicable.

16. Mandatory Course Requirements (Terms):

In addition to obtaining at least a C grade overall, students must meet the following mandatory requirements in order to pass this course:

- All students must submit three of the four assignments. [Even if students submit only three assignments, the grade will be calculated over all four: i.e. the missing assignment will score nothing, and 20% of possible marks will be lost.]
- All students must sit the test.
- All students must attend at least one tutorial before the end of week 3 of the course.

The final date for handing in work to count for the course is Friday 30 May, 2008 at 5:00 pm.

17. Communication of additional information:

Additional information or information on changes will be conveyed to students via class noticeboards and Blackboard.

General University policies and statutes

See the document on Blackboard.

Lecture Schedule

Week	Lecture	Area	Topic	Lecturer
1	1	Introduction	Where now?	LB
	2	Morphology	What is a word?	LB
	3	Morphology	Mr Purple People Eater	LB
2	4	Morphology	Bits of words	LB
	5	Morphology	Words round the world	LB
	6	Morphology	Daddy, my castle broke	LB/PW
3	7	Semantics	Beer with me, I'm from New Zealand	PW
	8	Semantics	The morning star is the evening star	PW
	9	Semantics	Putting words together	PW/LB
4	10	Syntax	How do we know what a sentence bad is?	EP
	11	Syntax	This makes a phrase but does that do so too?	EP
EASTER				
5	12	Syntax	I can't be having spoken like that.	EP
	13	Syntax	Noun spotting	EP/LB
	14	Syntax	She's a subject, isn't she?	EP
	15	Syntax	This is the verb that ate the noun that killed the adverb that trod on the adjective that lived in the sentence.	EP
	16	Syntax	What's a doing word doing in a place like this?	EP/LB
7	17	Syntax	On paying fees to fish	EP
	18	Syntax	That's just semantics	EP
	19	Syntax	Trees with big branches	EP/LB
MID-TRIMESTER BREAK				
8	20	Phonetics	Sounds good	PW
	21	Phonetics	What the [l] (is like)	LB
	22	Phonetics	The IPA's consonants	PW/LB
9	23	Phonetics	An l for an l	LB
	24	Phonetics	Our sounds	LB
	25	Phonetics	Say 'ah'!	LB/PW
10	26	Phonology	The fat cat sat on the mat	PW
	27	Phonology	You belong to me	PW
	28	Phonology	Is that a regular rule?	PW/LB
11	29	Phonology	Smile when you say that.	LB
	30	Phonology	Is that pot or port?	LB/PW
	31	Phonology	Why me? And why here?	LB/PW
12	32	Phonology	Envy that car!	LB/PW
	33	Conclusion	Where next?	LB
	34		TEST	