



## School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies Course Outline

### LING 324, Language Variation and Change, Trimester 1, 2008

#### 1. Course Coordinator:

Elizabeth Pearce

#### 2. Staff:

##### Lecturer

**Elizabeth Pearce**

VZ303

Ext. 5616

Office hours: TBA

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<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/lals>

##### Guest lecturer

**Winifred Bauer**

**Tutor: Elizabeth Pearce**

#### 3. Class times and rooms:

##### Lectures:

Mon	10.00am	HMLT 003
Wed	10.00am	HMLT 003
Thur	10.00am	HMLT 003

##### **Tutorials: One tutorial per week in VZ107.**

Please fill in the tutorial choice form to indicate your preferences.

Tutorial lists will be posted on the Linguistics Undergraduate Notice Board (see **3.** below) during the first week of the semester. 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. The tutorials are designed to complement and support the material taught in the lectures. Regular attendance is therefore required for your success in the course.

#### 4. Announcements:

Notices relating to the course, including tutorial lists, exam timetables, etc. will be posted on the Linguistics Undergraduate Notice Board next to VZ309 on floor 3 of the Von Zedlitz building.

5. **LALS main office:** VZ210, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Von Zedlitz Building, Kelburn Parade

#### 6. LING 324 Course Administrator:

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

[Vivien.Trott@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Vivien.Trott@vuw.ac.nz)

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**Web contact:** [www.blackboard.victoria.ac.nz](http://www.blackboard.victoria.ac.nz)

#### 7. Aims:

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.

#### 8. Objectives:

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

- (i) Identify the kind of material that can be used as a basis for analyzing change in language.
- (ii) Analyze and describe change in language data at the levels of
  - (a) phonology
  - (b) morphology
  - (c) syntax
  - (d) semantics.
- (iii) Apply the principles of comparative reconstruction in the determination of language family relationships.
- (iv) Design experiments/questionnaires for the investigation of language change in progress.
- (v) Distinguish the effects of borrowing as against internal change in data of a particular language or language family.

#### 9. Content:

A week-by-week summary of the topics covered in the course is given on the separate handout 'Course Outline Summary'.

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:
  - (a) Māori: changes in phonology and syntax
  - (b) Austronesian languages: family and characteristics
- (ix) Language attrition and death
- (x) Theoretical models of change (some aspects).

## 10. Texts:

### Required:

- (i) The **set textbook** for this course is

Crowley, Terry, *An Introduction to Historical Linguistics*, 2nd edition, Auckland: Oxford University Press, 1992. [or later edition]

It is expected that every student will have access to this book.

Further specific readings for individual topics are indicated in the 'Lecture material' section of the Course Book.

### (ii) **Course Book**

Every student will need to bring a copy of the Course Book (obtainable from the Student Notes Distribution Centre: cost \$18.17) **to all classes**.

### Recommended:

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.

**Vicbooks** has two locations - Student Union Building on Kelburn Campus and Rutherford House on Pipitea Campus (which stocks textbooks for Law and Commerce only).

We 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](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto: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

## 11. Assessment:

Assessment will be based on 2 Problem Sets, a Report, an Assignment and a Final Test.

	<u>Assigned</u> <sup>1</sup>	<u>Date due</u>	<u>Percentage of total marks</u>
Problem Set 1	27 Feb	14 Mar	15%
Problem Set 2	13 Mar	4 Apr	20%
Report		by 8 May	10%
Assignment	27 Mar	15 May	35%
Test (one hour)		29 May	20%

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.

The Report consists of a five minute oral presentation and a two-page summary (maximum length: 600 words). The maximum length for the Assignment is 2,000 words.

The pieces of set work should be handed to your tutor/lecturer personally or put in the box outside the secretary's room, VZ 210, on the 2nd floor of the Von Zedlitz building. Please keep a back up copy of all work handed in.

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

## 12. Penalties:

In line with department 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. Note that Problem Sets 1 and 2 will not be graded if handed in after the date that they are returned in class (10 to 14 days after the due date). Information on other penalty arrangements will be included with detailed instructions for each piece of set work.

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.

**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 below.

## 13. Relationship between assessment and course objectives:

Included in the assessment for the course are two Problem Sets, the Tutorial Report, the Assignment and a final Test. The Problem Sets will test your skills in applying the methods of analysis which are used in the description of sound change in languages (objectives (ii)a/b and (iii)). The Report is a presentation on an aspect of the circumstances of either (i) a creole language, (ii) a dying language, or (iii) a 'language contact' case. The presentation tests your abilities in researching and presenting material on one of these aspects of language contact and change. The Assignment, an essay, will give you the opportunity to develop an in-depth analysis of one or more aspects of change on the basis of evidence from one or more particular languages. A list of topics will be distributed, but students will also be encouraged to consult with the course lecturer to obtain approval for a topic of their own choosing if they so wish. Both the Assignment and the Test will cover the content and the objectives of the course as a whole.

Students must attempt all five of the above parts of the assessment in order to pass the course. A student's final grade will take account of all these pieces of work and will be awarded in consultation with her/his tutor.

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<sup>1</sup> Copies of assignment material will also be placed on the LING 324 Blackboard site.

#### **14. Workload:**

In order to make satisfactory progress in this course you should expect to devote, on average, 18 hours a week to it. This includes attendance at lectures and tutorials, preparation for tutorials, background reading and preparation for tests and assignments. Some students will find they need to do more than this, and students aiming for high grades will almost certainly need to do more.

#### **15. Mandatory Course Requirements (Terms):**

Requirements for this course are that you must make a satisfactory attempt at the four set pieces of in-term work listed under **11.** above and the Final Test. "Satisfactory" means that where a set piece of work has not reached a C standard, it must nevertheless reflect the fact that the task has been taken seriously and that a reasonable amount of effort has been devoted to it. Note that, as indicated under **12.** above, Problem Sets 1 and 2 will not be graded if handed in after the date that they are returned in class. Evidence of a satisfactory attempt for a Problem Set handed in after the date of return would fulfill the Mandatory Course Requirements for the particular piece of work, even if no grade is assigned. All students must sit the Final Test. The final date for handing in work to count for the course is Friday 6 June at 5:00pm.

#### **16. Attendance:**

Tutorials form an essential part of all Linguistics courses. It is expected that students will prepare for and attend all of their scheduled tutorials.

#### **17. Academic integrity and plagiarism**

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

*The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.*

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

*Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.*

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, 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 those regarding assessment and course of study requirements, and formal academic grievance procedures. Details can be found on the Blackboard site for LING 324, under the link "General University Policies".

## COURSE OUTLINE

Week	Date	Topics	Tutorials
1	Feb 25 27 28	Introduction Sound change Types of sound change I	
2	Mar 3 5 6	Phonology of change Types of sound change II The discovery of Indo-European	Sound change
3	Mar 10 12 13 14	Laws of sound change Comparative reconstruction Comparative reconstruction <b>Due: Problem Set 1</b>	Phonology of change
4	Mar 17 19 20	Comparative reconstruction Comparative reconstruction <b>Student Reports</b>	Comparative reconstruction
5	Mar 26 27	Morphological change: Analogy Analogy/ <b>Student Reports</b>	Comparative reconstruction
6	Mar 31 Apr 2 3 4	Māori: Changes in phonology & syntax (WB) Māori: Changes in phonology & syntax (WB) <b>Student Reports</b> <b>Due: Problem Set 2</b>	Analogy
7	Apr 7 9 10	Semantics and change Word meaning shifts <b>Student Reports</b>	Semantic change
BREAK			
8	Apr 28 30 May 1	The study of change in progress Studying variation <b>Student Reports</b>	Variation
9	May 5 7 8	Syntactic change and word order reversals Grammaticalization Ergativity and change	Syntactic change
10	May 12 14 15 16	Dialects and isoglosses Sprachbunde and languages in contact Neogrammarian vs. diffusionist views <b>Due: Assignment</b>	Dialects
11	May 19 21 22	Pidgins and creoles The Bioprogramme hypothesis Austronesian languages	Pidgins and creoles
12	May 26 28 29	Austronesian languages Language attrition & language loss <b>Test</b>	Review