



School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies Course Outline

LING 401, Topics in Syntax and Semantics, Full Year, 2008

1. Course Coordinator:

Elizabeth Pearce

VZ 303

Ext. 5616

Office hour: see VZ 303 door notice

Email: elizabeth.pearce@vuw.ac.nz

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

2. Staff:

Tutors: N/A

3. Class times and rooms:

A total of 24 hours of **lecture/seminar** classes to take place in the 3-5pm time slot on Thursdays throughout Trimesters 1 and 2 in MY 301 according to a schedule that will be posted.

4. Announcements:

Notices relating to the course will be posted on the Honours Notice Board outside VZ 307 on Floor 3 of the Von Zedlitz building.

5. LALS main office:

VZ210, 2nd floor Von Zedlitz Building, Kelburn Parade

Rachel Scholes, Postgraduate administration Tel: 463 5600, Fax: 463 5604

Rachel.Scholes@vuw.ac.nz

Sarah Dunstan, Admin Assistant, Tel: 463 5255, Fax: 463 5604

Sarah.Dunstan@vuw.ac.nz

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

7. Content:

Part of the content of this course will be based on the Textbook (see §11 below). Other accompanying content of this course will be set out in the schedule of seminar topics which will be developed progressively from an initial outline as emphases and directions are identified.

8. Objectives:

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

- (i) Read and understand current literature on selected topics in the Minimalist framework.

- (ii) Marshal evidence from language data in order to construct hypotheses in the terms of a syntactic model.
- (iii) Know where and how to access material relevant for research in syntax.
- (iv) Set out the findings of an investigation into a topic in syntax in the format that is appropriate to a research paper in syntax.

9. Expected workload:

In order to make satisfactory progress in this course you should expect to devote to it, on average, 10 hours a week throughout the year, to make up a total of 300 hours. This includes the 24 hours of attendance at classes and 48 hours of class preparation time. The remaining workload hours are applied to background reading and preparation for assignments, proportional to their assessment weighting. Some students will find they need to do more than this, and students aiming for high grades will almost certainly need to do more.

10. Group work: N/A

11. Readings:

The set textbook for this course is:

Hornstein, Norbert, Jairo Nunes and Kleanthes K Grohmann. 2005. *Understanding Minimalism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Lists of references will be distributed in class. These will include lists of general works on current syntactic theory and lists of readings appropriate to the topics covered in the course.

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: N/A

13. Assessment requirements:

Assessment will be based on four pieces of work:

	<u>Due date</u>	<u>Contribution to final grade</u>
i) Review (maximum 600 words)	20 Mar	10%
ii) Report (maximum 800 words)	1 May	15%
iii) Assignment 1 (maximum 15 pages)*	10 July	25%
iv) Assignment 2 (maximum 30 pages)*	9 Oct	50%

*Page count is the maximum length for typed, doubled-spaced A4 pages including diagrams, tables and references.

Two copies of each of the set pieces of work should be handed in to the LALS Office (VZ 210) or directly to the course Coordinator. Please keep back-up copies of your submitted work.

Reasonable accommodation is made with respect to assessment procedures for students with disabilities (see General University Policies and Statutes at the end of this document).

The Review and the Report are based on published papers and they review and discuss central issues in an aspect of syntactic theory.

Both the Review and the Report have the aim of providing students with initial experience in developing the skills for meeting objectives (i) and (ii) in §8.

Both Assignment 1 and Assignment 2 are research papers on a topic in syntax. These Assignments test the ability of the students to meet the Objectives (i) - (iv) in §8. In essence, the student should be able to demonstrate that he/she has (a) knowledge of the basic principles of and some recent developments in the theoretical framework and (b) the ability to apply the model to the analysis and description of language particular phenomena. The individual student will determine the topics of their papers in consultation with the course lecturer. The length of the papers may vary in accordance with the topics selected, but the maximum length is as stated above.

Submitting assignments and tasks

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 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 the Linguistics Programme 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.

Information on penalty conditions is contained in the instructions for the individual Assignments.

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 (see General University Policies and Statutes at the end of this document).

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.

15. Responsibilities for practicum arrangements (practicum courses only): N/A

16. Mandatory Course Requirements (Terms):

Requirements for this course are that you must attend all the classes as timetabled and that you must make a satisfactory attempt at the four set pieces of in-term work listed under §13. above. "Satisfactory" means that where pieces of work set have not reached a C standard, they must nevertheless reflect the fact that the assignment has been taken seriously and that a reasonable amount of effort has been devoted to the topic. No assessment work submitted after 17 October will be graded.

17. Communication of additional information:

Additional information or information on changes will be conveyed to students in class and/or via email to all class members.

18. 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 STATUTES AND POLICIES

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* available in hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the Victoria homepage at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html

Information on the following topics is available electronically under “Course Outline General Information” at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general>

- Academic Grievances
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support