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Victoria
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

Te Whare Wānanga
o te Ūpoko o te Ika a Māui

School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies
Course Outline

LING 406, Special Topic: Language Variation and Change, Trimester 1, 2008

1. Course Coordinator:
Elizabeth Pearce

2. Staff:
   Lecturers

   Elizabeth Pearce
   VZ303
   Ext. 5616
   Office hours: TBA
   Email: Elizabeth.Pearce@vuw.ac.nz
   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 and their location 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 6 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, 2nd floor Von Zedlitz Building, Kelburn Parade

6. Course Administrator:

  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

  or lals@vuw.ac.nz

  Web contact: 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 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

11. Assessment:
Assessment will be based on 2 Problem Sets, a Report, and 2 Assignments.

	Assigned	Date due	Percentage of total marks
Problem Set 1	27 Feb	14 Mar	5%
Problem Set 2	13 Mar	4 Apr	10%
Report		by 8 May	10%
Assignment 1		11 Apr	25%
Assignment 2		30 May	50%

This course has 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 1 is 1,500 words and the maximum length for Assignment 2 is 3,000 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).

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

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, two Assignments and a Tutorial Report. 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, (iii) a 'language contact' case, or another topic that you choose in consulation with the course coordinator. The presentation tests your abilities in researching and presenting material on one of these aspects of language contact and change. The Assignments will assess your ability to collect data and analyse it with reference to classifications and theories covered in the course as a whole, and are expected to fulfill most of the remaining objectives, with allowances for particular interests of students.

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.

14. Workload:
In order to make satisfactory progress in this course you should expect to devote, on average, 22 hours a week to it. This includes attendance at lectures and tutorials, preparation for tutorials, background reading and preparation for 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 five set pieces of in-term work listed under **11.** above. "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	Introduction	
	27	Sound change	
	28	Types of sound change I	
2	Mar 3	Phonology of change	Sound change
	5	Types of sound change II	
	6	The discovery of Indo-European	
3	Mar 10	Laws of sound change	Phonology of change
	12	Comparative reconstruction	
	13	Comparative reconstruction	
	14	**Due: Problem Set 1**	
4	Mar 17	Comparative reconstruction	Comparative reconstruction
	19	Comparative reconstruction	
	20	**Student Reports**	
5	Mar 26	Morphological change: Analogy	Comparative reconstruction
	27	Analogy/ **Student Reports**	
6	Mar 31	Māori: Changes in phonology & syntax (WB)	Analogy
	Apr 2	Māori: Changes in phonology & syntax (WB)	
	3	**Student Reports**	
	4	**Due: Problem Set 2**	
7	Apr 7	Semantics and change	Semantic change
	9	Word meaning shifts	
	10	**Student Reports**	
	11	**Due: Assignment 1**	

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Week	Date	Topics	Tutorials
8	Apr 28	The study of change in progress	Variation
	30	Studying variation	
	May 1	**Student Reports**	
9	May 5	Syntactic change and word order reversals	Syntactic change
	7	Grammaticalization	
	8	Ergativity and change	
10	May 12	Dialects and isoglosses	Dialects
	14	Sprachbunde and languages in contact	
	15	Neogrammarian vs. diffusionist views	
11	May 19	Pidgins and creoles	Pidgins and creoles
	21	The Bioprogramme hypothesis	
	22	Austronesian languages	
12	May 26	Austronesian languages	Review
	28	Language attrition & language loss	
	29	**Test: Not applicable**	
	30	**Due: Assignment 2**	