





School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies Course Outline

LALS 101, Language and Communication, Trimester 2, 2008

1. Course Coordinator:

<p>Prof Laurie Bauer Von Zedlitz (VZ) 306 Tel: 463 5619 Email: laurie.bauer@vuw.ac.nz http://www.victoria.ac.nz/lals Office hours: Thur 3-4, Fri 9-10</p>	
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2. Lecturing Staff:

<p>Janet Holmes Von Zedlitz 301 Tel: 463 5614 Email: janet.holmes@vuw.ac.nz http://www.victoria.ac.nz/lals Office hours: tba</p>		<p>Paul Warren Von Zedlitz 211 Tel: 463 5630 Email: paul.warren@vuw.ac.nz http://www.victoria.ac.nz/lals Office hours: tba</p>	
<p>Sky Marsen Von Zedlitz 318 Tel: 463 5629 Email: sky.marsen@vuw.ac.nz http://www.victoria.ac.nz/lals Office hours: tba</p>		<p>David McKee Von Zedlitz 316 Tel: 463 5640 (fax) Email: david.mckee@vuw.ac.nz http://www.victoria.ac.nz/lals Office hours: tba</p>	

<p>Rachel McKee Von Zedlitz 315 Tel: 463 5626 Email: janet.holmes@vuw.ac.nz http://www.victoria.ac.nz/lals Office hours: tba</p>		<p>Stuart Webb Von Zedlitz 307 Tel: 463 9779 Email: stuart.webb@vuw.ac.nz http://www.victoria.ac.nz/lals Office hours: tba</p>	
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Tutors will introduce themselves to you in class.

3. LALS office:

Receptionist:

Nicky Kane

Email: nicky.kane@vuw.ac.nz or lals@vuw.ac.nz

Room 210, 2nd floor, von Zedlitz (vZ) Building,
 Kelburn Parade

4. Course Administrator:

Vivien Trott, Undergraduate administration, Tel: 463 5255, Fax: 463 5604

Vivien.Trott@vuw.ac.nz

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

5. Vicbooks:

Opening hours: 8am - 6pm Mon - Fri (during term; they close at 5pm in the holidays); 10am - 1pm Saturday.

6. Submitting assignments and tasks

General guidelines

- Staple or clip pages together
- Avoid presenting assignments in bulky folders or sleeves unless necessary
- Do not insert assignments or pages of assignments in clearfile sleeves

7. Course announcements:

Noticeboards are in the corridor of Von Zedlitz on level 3.

8. Class times and locations:

Lectures are held on Mondays and Wednesdays at 2:10 in HULT 323 and Thursday 11:00 in the same room.

Tutorials will all be held in VZ 107.

9. Course content:

See the back page of this document for a lecture schedule.

10. Course objectives:

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

1. Make suitable use of reference material, including dictionaries, books, journals and other works, as appropriate to the field;
2. Appreciate some of the complexity of linguistic behaviour;
3. Understand and articulate some very general features of language, such as the inevitability of language change and the importance of structure dependence;
4. Understand and articulate some popular misconceptions about language, showing why they are erroneous;
5. Discuss actual language usage as reflected in genuine data they have seen.

The assignments are designed to provide training in the use of reference tools, in the presentation of material, in working with genuine language data, and in thinking about language as a human phenomenon.

11. Expected workload:

In order to make satisfactory progress in this course you should expect to devote, on average, 12 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.

12. Group work:

n/a

13. Readings:

The set text for this paper is

Bauer, Laurie, Janet Holmes and Paul Warren 2006. *Language Matters*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

You are expected to buy this text, as **you will be required to read a chapter in preparation for most of the lectures**, as indicated in the table below.

You will also need the tutorial workbook, available from Student Notes.

Other recommended texts for this paper are:

Bauer, Laurie & Peter Trudgill (eds) 1998. *Language Myths*. London: Penguin.

Crystal, David 1987. *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

You will also find these books in the University library. Readings from them and other sources will be given in lectures.

14. Materials and equipment:

n/a

15. Assessment requirements:

Assessment will be based on five pieces of work, including an in-class test as indicated below:

Piece of work	Date due	Value
Assignment 1	24 July	20%
Assignment 2	7 August	20%
Assignment 3	11 September	20%
Assignment 4	25 September	20%
In-Class Test	9 October	20%

Assignments 1-4 should be no longer than 1000 words. Assignments should be handed in to your lecturer/tutor or put in the drop box for the School opposite the lifts on level 2 of Von Zedlitz building. Assignments should carry a cover sheet, available from the School office.

Please keep a back-up copy of your assignment.

Extensions: You should not require extensions for your assignments. However, if some circumstances arise in which you do, please contact the course co-ordinator, **preferably in advance**, to arrange one. If the course co-ordinator agrees to an extension, he will give you a cover-sheet to hand in with your assignment. You do not have a valid extension unless you have a cover-sheet to hand in with your assignment.

Marks out of 20 correspond to grades as in the following table, which will be used in the assignments:

0-7.5	0-39%	E	13-13.5	65-69%	B
8-9.5	40-49%	D	14-14.5	70-74%	B+
10-10.5	50-54%	C	15-15.5	75-79%	A-
11-11.5	55-59%	C+	16-16.5	80-84%	A
12-12.5	60-64%	B-	17-20	85-100%	A+

16. Statement of penalties:

In line with 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 (see 'Extensions' above).

The assignments are all due on **Thursdays 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 Thursday 4:00 pm but before the following Thursday at 4:00 pm	Maximum grade possible is C and no personal comment will be provided
For assignments handed in after Thursday 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 below.

17. Mandatory course requirements (Terms):

All students must sit the test and make a satisfactory attempt at THREE of the assignments. "Satisfactory" means that where they 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. Even when only three assignments are handed in, the final mark will be calculated over four; that is a mark of 0/20 will be entered for the missing assignment. To be accepted as fulfilling these mandatory course requirements, assignments for which no mark is given must be received no later than October 10.

18. Communication of additional information:

Additional information will be provided on Blackboard.

19. 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>

23. 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>

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

Schedule of lectures

Week	Lecture	Date	Area	Topic	Language Matters	Lecturer
1	1	7-Jul		Introduction: where are we going?		LB
	2	9-Jul	Origins	Where does language come from?	Ch1	LB
	3	10-Jul	Origins	Why don't we all talk the same?	Ch2	LB
2	4	14-Jul	Origins	Things ain't what they used to be	Ch3	LB
	5	16-Jul	Origins	Linguistic rellies	Ch4	LB
	6	17-Jul		Library skills		Library staff
3	7	21-Jul	Origins	Bee talk and monkey chatter	Ch5	LB
	8	23-Jul	Origins	Body language and gesture		LB
	9	24-Jul	Structure	How do you spell accommodation?	Ch6	LB
4	10	28-Jul	Structure	How many words do the Eskimos use?	Ch7	SW
	11	30-Jul	Structure	Who needs grammar?	Ch10	PW
	12	31-Jul	Structure	Hv u hd txt tdy?	Ch11	PW
5	13	4-Aug	Structure	Primitive languages?	Ch9	LB
	14	6-Aug	Use	How and why do languages die?	Ch12	LB
	15	7-Aug		Video: Human language evolves	video	LB
6	16	11-Aug	Mind	Acquiring a first language	Ch18	RM
	17	13-Aug	Mind	Video: Baby it's you	video	PW
	18	14-Aug	Mind	Building another tongue	Ch20	SW
7	19	1-Sep		Can you tell the difference between sign and mime?		DM
	20	3-Sep		Sign language acquisition in children		DM
	21	4-Sep		Video: Silent children, new language	video	RM
8	22	8-Sep	Use	Terms of address and issues of politeness	Ch13	JH
	23	10-Sep	Use	Gender and language	Ch14	JH
	24	11-Sep	Use	Can language be sexist?	Ch15	JH
9	25	15-Sep	Use	Signs and metaphors		SM
	26	17-Sep	Use	Performing with language		SM
	27	18-Sep		Video: Acquiring the human language	video	LB
10	28	22-Sep	Use	F#@! language		LB
	29	24-Sep	Mind	Does bilingualism rot the brain	Ch19	PW
	30	25-Sep	Mind	You've tasted the whole worm	Ch21	PW
11	31	29-Sep	Mind	Is language a strait-jacket?	Ch22	PW
	32	1-Oct	Mind	When language breaks down	Ch23	PW
	33	2-Oct		Video: Discovering the human language	video	LB
12	34	6-Oct		Who cares about language?		LB
	35	8-Oct		Summary; any questions?		LB
	36	9-Oct		TEST		LB