



**School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies**  
**Course Outline**

**LING 427 Syntax, Trimester 1, 2009**

**1. Course Coordinator:**

**Elizabeth Pearce**  
VZ 303  
Ext. 5616  
Office hour: see VZ 303 door notice  
Email: [elizabeth.pearce@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:elizabeth.pearce@vuw.ac.nz)

**2. Staff: as above**

**3. Class times and rooms:**

**Lectures:** Mon, Wed, Thurs 2:10-3:00  
in HM LT 001 Mon & Wed and in HM LT 002 Thurs  
**Tutorial:** Mon 3:10-4:00 in MY 303  
**Research seminars:** Mon 30 March 4:10-5:00, Room TBA  
Mon 11 May 4:10-5:00, Room TBA

Tutorials commence in the second week (beginning 9 March). Do not miss your first tutorial.

Note that the **tutorial programme** is an essential element of this course. Students will find they cannot acquire techniques of syntactic analysis without attending tutorials regularly.

**4. Announcements:**

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

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

**6. Course Administrator:**

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

[rachel.scholes@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:rachel.scholes@vuw.ac.nz)

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

### **7. Aims:**

The course aims to develop the ability of students to apply methods of analysis and description of primary language data using the current theoretical framework based in X-bar syntax and introduces students to research based in the X-bar framework.

Whilst the perspectives will be both theoretical and empirical, a very strong emphasis will be placed on methods of argumentation and problem solving. In accordance with this emphasis, in-class work will focus on practical exercises and problem solving.

### **8. Learning Objectives:**

At the end of this course, students should be able to

- understand the basic concepts of X-bar theory and how the theory is applied to the analysis of sentence data,
- apply the X-bar model in the analysis of sentence data from English and other languages,
- understand the role of tree structures, and be able to apply them, in the modelling of semantic relations between items in sentences,
- form conclusions based on the analysis of sentence data from the perspective of a formal framework,
- the ability to understand and evaluate literature in syntax developing out of X-bar theory,
- the ability to 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. Course Content:**

A schedule of classes is attached at the end of this course outline.

### **10. Course delivery**

See under 3, 9 and 18.

### **11. Expected work load:**

You are expected to spend 300 hours on this course over the whole trimester, which means on average around 21 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 to confirm your understanding of the lecture material. You also need to spend time on assignments and on overall background reading.

### **12. Texts:**

Every student will need to bring a copy of the **Coursebook** (obtainable from the Student Notes Distribution Centre, Student Union Building; cost \$11.76) **to all classes.**

There is **no single text book** with content that corresponds directly to the content of this course. The following books are, however, the **recommended textbooks** for this course:

- Carnie, Andrew. 2007. *Syntax: A Generative Introduction*. Second Edition. Oxford: Blackwell. Or: First Edition (2002).
- Cowper, Elizabeth A. 1992. *A Concise Introduction to Syntactic Theory*. Chicago & London: University of Chicago Press.
- Haegeman, Liliane. 1994. *Introduction to Government and Binding Theory*. 2nd Edition. Oxford: Blackwell. Or: First Edition (1991).
- Ouhalla, Jamal. 1999. *Introducing Transformational Grammar: From Principles and Parameters to Minimalism*. 2nd Edition. London: Arnold.

Detailed reading lists in the individual topic areas and other reading matter relating to particular topics are provided in the Coursebook. Other supplementary material supporting the content of the lectures may also be distributed in class. A large number of books and periodicals useful for this course have been placed on 3 day loan and closed reserve.

**13. Materials and equipment:**  
not applicable

**14. Assessment requirements:**

Assessment will be based on the items listed below:

	<u>Handed out</u> <sup>1</sup>	<u>Due date</u>	<u>Contribution to final grade</u>
i) Assignment 1	2 March	23 March	25%
ii) Assignment 2	23 March	4 May	35%
iii) Assignment 3	4 May	5 June	40%

All Assignments are due by **4pm** on the date specified.

**Two copies** of each Assignments should be handed in to the lecturer on the day the assignment is due or to the LALS Office (VZ 210). Please keep a back-up copy of your assignment.

Assignments 1 and 2 are designed to give you experience in the application of methods of syntactic analysis to data from a language other than English. Assignment 3 provides you with the opportunity to develop a more sustained analysis of data pertaining to a particular topic in the syntax of a particular language and including relevant discussion of literature on the topic.

The maximum length for each Assignment is as follows:

Assignment 1	2,500 words (or 12 x 1.5 spaced A4 pages)
Assignment 2	3,500 words (or 15 x 1.5 spaced A4 pages)
Assignment 3	4,000 words (or 20 x 1.5 spaced A4 pages)

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<sup>1</sup> Copies of assignment material will also be placed on the LING 427 Blackboard site.

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.

### **15. 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. If you require an extension for good reasons, ask the course coordinator ahead of the date for handing in the assignment. ONLY ASSIGNMENTS CARRYING A COVER-SHEET SIGNED BY THE COURSE COORDINATOR HAVE A VALID EXTENSION PERMITTED TO THEM. Such an extension may be given only up to the point at which the Assignments are handed back.

Assignments which are handed after the time and date on which they are due will be subject to a scale of penalties involving a reduction in the grade they are given, the severity of the grade reduction corresponding to the severity of the lateness. The details of the penalties will be set out on each Assignment.

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.

### **16. Assessment and Course objectives**

Assignments 1 and 2 are designed to give you experience in the application of methods of syntactic analysis taught in class to data from a language other than English. Assignment 3 provides you with the opportunity to develop a more sustained analysis of data pertaining to a particular topic in the syntax of a particular language and including relevant discussion of literature on the topic.

### **17. 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. You must make a satisfactory attempt at the three set pieces of in-term work listed under **13** 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. In order for an assignment to meet the Mandatory Course Requirements, it must be handed in no later than 12 June 2009. Note also that in addition to the penalties indicated in **12**, in order for an assignment to receive a mark, even if an extension is given, it must be handed in by the time that marked assignments are returned in class, normally not later than 10/14 days after the official due date.

## 18. Attendance

Tutorials form an essential part of all Linguistics courses and, crucially so, in LING 427 in which material covered in lectures and tutorials builds sequentially on material covered in preceding classes. It is expected that students will prepare for and attend **all** of their scheduled tutorials.

Attendance at the two **Research Seminars** listed under **3** is a requirement for this course.

## 19. General University Policies:

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 327, under the link "General University Policies".

## 20. Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

## 21. Trimester dates:

<b>March</b>	Mon 2	FIRST TRIMESTER BEGINS
<b>April</b>	Fri 10	Good Friday. MIDTRIMESTER BREAK BEGINS
	MonTue 1314	Easter Monday and Tuesday, University holidays
	Mon 27	FIRST TRIMESTER RESUMES
<b>June</b>	Fri 5	FIRST TRIMESTER ENDS. Lectures cease
	Mon 8	Midyear study period begins
	Fri 12	Midyear examinations begin
<b>July</b>	Wed 1	Midyear examinations end
	Thur 2	MIDYEAR BREAK BEGINS

## TIMETABLE OF CLASSES

LING 427 Syntax 2009

Lecture Schedule : Mon, Wed, Thurs 2:10-3:00 in HM 1

	LECTURES	ASSESSMENT
Mar	2 Review: Sentence meaning and organization	
	4 Review: Sentence meaning and organization	
	5 Subordinate clauses	
	9 Subordinate clauses	
	11 Subordinate clauses	
	12 Subordinate clauses	
	16 Noun phrases	
	18 Noun phrases	
	19 Verb phrases	
	23 Lexical categories	Assignment 1
	25 Functional categories	
	26 Functional categories	
	30 Functional categories	RESEARCH SEMINAR
Apr	1 Head-movement	
	2 Head-movement	
	6 Phrasal movement	
	8 Phrasal movement	
	9 Phrasal movement	
<b>MID-COURSE BREAK</b>		
	27 Argument roles	
	29 Argument positions	
	30 Argument raising	
May	4 VP-internal structure	Assignment 2
	6 VP-internal structure	
	7 VP-internal structure	
	11 Propositional logic	RESEARCH SEMINAR
	13 Quantification	
	14 Quantifier syntax	
	18 Logical Form and questions	
	20 Logical Form and movement	
	21 Aspect	
	25 Typologies	
	27 Typologies	
	28 Typologies	
Jun	1 QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY	
	3 Binding theory	
	4 Binding Theory	
	5 <b>End of 1/3 Teaching: 5 June</b>	Assignment 3