

## SCHOOL OF LINGUISTICS AND APPLIED LANGUAGE STUDIES

### LINGUISTICS LING 221 SOCIOLINGUISTICS

**TRIMESTER 2 2009**  
13 July to 15 November 2009

#### **Trimester dates**

Teaching dates: 13 July to 16 October

Study week: 19 to 23 October

Examination/Assessment period: 27 October to 15 November (Students must be available to attend examinations during this period)

#### **Names and contact details**

Course Coordinator: Dr Meredith Marra  
VZ 404, 463 5636

Email: [Meredith.Marra@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Meredith.Marra@vuw.ac.nz)

There will be several guest lecturers (including the tutors), and a section taught by:

Prof Janet Holmes  
VZ 301, 463 5614

Email: [Janet.Holmes@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Janet.Holmes@vuw.ac.nz)

Contact details for your tutor will be provided at the first tutorial.

#### **Class times and locations**

Lectures: Mon, Wed, Thurs 3-4pm MYLT220

Tutorials: ONE per week.

Indicate your preferred times on the tutorial choice form distributed in the first lecture.

Tutorial lists will be posted on Blackboard and the Linguistics undergraduate notice board during the first week of teaching. Your first tutorial will be in the week beginning 20 July. Check the lists before that date. You may not change tutorials without consulting the course co-ordinator or Brian King ([Brian.W.King@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Brian.W.King@vuw.ac.nz), VZ409).

#### **Course delivery**

The course consists of three lectures and one tutorial per week, with the exception of week one. Blackboard will be used for extra information including a revision programme for key terms and lecture notes where possible.

This course has a 2 hour exam which will take place during the examination period (27 October to 15 November).

### *Information for week one:*

Please note that there will only be two classes in week one, on Monday and Thursday.

The Thursday class (16 July) is a one-off technical class which will be held in the Kirk Cybercommons (level 2). Each student should attend one 25 minute session. Because of restricted space, the class has been divided into groups. Please note your allocated room and time which will be posted on Blackboard and in the first lecture.

### **Communication of additional information**

The Linguistics undergraduate notice board is next to VZ 309. Keep an eye on it for any additional information. We will also post information on Blackboard.

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

### **Course content**

This course aims to investigate some of the ways in which linguistic and social variables interact in speech communities. We will examine both multilingual and monolingual speech communities. The course will introduce students to ways of analysing language in a range of social contexts. A lecture outline will be provided in class and posted on Blackboard.

### **Learning objectives**

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

1. Outline the major relationships between language and society.
2. Define the main sociolinguistic concepts used to analyse these relationships.
3. Identify the main features of studies of sociolinguistic variation.
4. Describe the most common methodologies for studying language in society.

The required work is designed to assess how well you have achieved the course objectives. The critical review and the tutorial presentation will ensure you are familiar with basic sociolinguistic concepts, and will assess your ability to understand, interpret, evaluate and present sociolinguistic material (objectives 1 and 2). The research assignment focuses on sociolinguistic variation (objective 3); it will assist you to become familiar with a range of research methods (objective 4), and to develop skills in sociolinguistic analysis. The final exam will require you to demonstrate your familiarity with sociolinguistic concepts, will assess the breadth of your reading in sociolinguistics, and will require you to apply what you have learnt to the analysis of material presented in the exam (ie all objectives). Satisfactory completion of all these tasks will ensure you know enough sociolinguistics to proceed to more advanced study in this area.

### **Expected workload**

In order to make satisfactory progress in this course you should expect to devote, on average, 15 hours a week to it. This includes attendance at lectures, tutorials and discussion classes, preparation for tutorials, background reading and preparation for assignments and the exam. As an example of how you might spend your time, see the table below. Some students will find they need to do more than this, and students aiming for high grades will almost certainly need to do more.

### A possible breakdown of tasks:

These calculations are based on 12 weeks of lectures + the mid-trimester break + the study break to a total of 15 weeks

<i>Each week</i>	<i>Task</i>	<i>Time allowance (hours)</i>	
LECTURES	Attending lectures	3	
	Prep reading before the lecture and summarising your notes after the lecture	4	
TUTORIALS	Attending tutorial	1	
	Prep and follow up for tutorials	1.5	
ASSESSMENT	Background reading	2.5	2.5
	Writing up assignments – spread over 15 weeks	1.5	
	Exam revision	1.25	5.25
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>14.75 ie 15 approx</b>

### Group work

Although you may be required to do your tutorial presentation in pairs, you will be assessed individually.

### Readings

#### Essential texts:

#### Student Notes:

There is a LING 221 Lecture book which is essential for all those taking this course. It contains lecture outlines and information on assessment and the final exam etc.

You cannot manage without it.

In response to feedback from students, we have also prepared a book for tutorials which incorporates readings and exercises. Although these readings are available online via Blackboard, many students find it useful to have hard copies of these articles. We therefore recommend you buy this Tutorial book from student notes as well.

**Required text:**

*You will find this the most useful single textbook to buy for this course.*  
Holmes, Janet 2008 (3<sup>rd</sup> ed). *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*. London: Longman.

**Recommended:**

*These are available in the library.*

- Coulmas, Florian (ed) 1997. *The Handbook of Sociolinguistics*. Oxford: Blackwell.  
Coupland, Nikolas & Adam Jaworski (eds) 1997. *Sociolinguistics; A Reader and Coursebook*. London: Macmillan. (Please note there is a new edition to be published in 2009)  
Fasold, Ralph 1984. *The Sociolinguistics of Society*. Oxford: Blackwell.  
Fasold, Ralph 1990. *The Sociolinguistics of Language*. Oxford: Blackwell.  
Hudson, Richard 1996. (2<sup>nd</sup> ed). *Sociolinguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.  
Llamas, Carmen, Louise Mullany & Peter Stockwell 2006. *The Routledge Companion to Sociolinguistics*. Abingdon, [England]; N.Y.: Routledge.  
Mesthrie, Rajend, Joan Swann, A. Deumert & William L. Leap 2000. *Introducing Sociolinguistics*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.  
Meyerhoff, Miriam 2006. *Introducing Sociolinguistics*. London and New York: Routledge.  
Richards, Jack C. & Richard W. Schmidt (eds) 1983. *Language and Communication*. London: Longman.  
Romaine, Suzanne 2000 (2<sup>nd</sup> ed). *Language in Society*. Oxford: Blackwell.  
Saville-Troike, Muriel 2003. (3<sup>rd</sup> ed) *The Ethnography of Communication*. Oxford: Blackwell.  
Trudgill, Peter 2000. (4<sup>th</sup> ed) *Sociolinguistics: An Introduction to Language and Society*. Harmondsworth: Penguin.  
Trudgill, Peter & Jenny Cheshire (eds) 1998. *The Sociolinguistics Reader*. Vol. 1. London: Arnold.  
Wardhaugh, Ronald 2006. (5<sup>th</sup> ed) *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*. Oxford: Blackwell.

**Web and computer-based resources:**

A programme for learning and revising key terms and concepts is available on Blackboard.

For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of VicBooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two all undergraduate textbooks will be sold from VicBooks and student notes from the Student Notes Distribution Centre 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). Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from the shop. Customers will be contacted when they are available. Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

**Assessment requirements**

1. There are TWO in-course written assignments for LING 221
  - (i) A critical review (550 words max) 15% **DUE 12 noon, Mon 17 August 2009**
  - (ii) A research assignment (2000 words max) 25% **DUE 12 noon, Thurs 24 September 2009**

2. A formal oral presentation to at least one tutorial with a written summary to the tutor (this grade will also incorporate tutorial participation – see assessment criteria below). 10%
3. A final 2 hour examination conducted by the Faculty in the final exam period covering all topics discussed during the course. 50%

Students must attempt all 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.

Assignments should be handed in to the School Office (VZ 210) on the 2nd floor of the von Zedlitz building by 12 noon on the due date.  
Keep a back-up copy of all assessed work.

**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.

**Assessment criteria for tutorial participation**

Your tutor will award you a grade for your tutorial participation. About halfway through the course you can request an interim report to indicate your performance to date – NB only your final mark will be counted.

LING 221 SOCIOLINGUISTICS  
TUTORIAL PARTICIPATION TO DATE  
(INFORMAL FEEDBACK)

NAME:

Evidence of preparation

Participation in question time

Engagement with class

Other comments

An 'A grade' will be awarded to students who:

- demonstrate high quality participation based upon thorough preparation
- have an ability to see links between different issues and provide relevant examples
- are supportive group members who listen to others, ask appropriate questions of the group, the tutor and individual members.
- work to keep the tutorial on track, and involve other people.

## **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 cover sheet
- Provide a word count at the end of the assignment (not including the Reference section)
- Type on one side of A4 paper
- Staple pages together
- Avoid presenting assignments in bulky folders or sleeves unless necessary

### **Penalties**

In line with school 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.**

The assignments are due by **12 noon** on the due date, after which a penalty of 5% per working day applies. Penalties increase each day (at 12 noon) until one week after the due date when the maximum grade possible is C and no personal comment will be provided. Assignments handed in after this time receive no mark.

Plagiarism is not acceptable in assessed work, and will be penalised. The penalty will depend on the severity of the plagiarism. See below.

### **Mandatory course requirements**

In addition to the assessment requirements which contribute to their final grade, students are also required to

- i) make a satisfactory attempt at the two graded assignments and the tutorial presentation
- ii) attend *at least* nine of the eleven tutorials (we recommend students attend *all* tutorials)
- iii) undertake satisfactory preparation for tutorials

Tutorials are an essential component of the learning experience in this course and you are expected to attend all tutorials unless you are ill. You should inform your tutor if you are unable to attend a tutorial, and arrange to attend at another time if possible.

"Satisfactory" means that there is evidence that the topic has been taken seriously and a reasonable amount of effort has been devoted to the work.

Where a student has been excused from a tutorial, they are required to complete exercises to ensure the material is covered. These exercises can be found on Blackboard and in the tutorial workbook. The completed exercise should be handed to the tutor at the next tutorial. All students will find these exercises useful for revision.

All specified requirements (ie (i)-(iii) above) must be completed by 5pm on 16 October 2009 in order to satisfy mandatory requirements.

### **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>

### **GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES**

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* or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

The AVVC(Academic) website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avvacademic/Publications.aspx>

