



**SCHOOL OF LINGUISTICS AND APPLIED LANGUAGE STUDIES**  
*Te Kura Taatari Reo*

***Certificate in Deaf Studies: Teaching NZSL***

**DEAF 802: Introduction to the Structure & Use of NZSL**

**COURSE INFORMATION, July 2010**

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**Trimester dates**

12 July to 15 October, 2010

**Teaching block dates:**

July 26 – 30, 2010 (Modular delivery)

**Withdrawal dates**

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at  
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

**Staff**

**Course coordinator:** Dr David McKee david.mckee@vuw.ac.nz

**Course lecturers:** Dr Rachel McKee rachel.mckee@vuw.ac.nz

Sara Pivac Alexander sara.pivac@vuw.ac.nz

**Postal Address:** School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies

Victoria University of Wellington

PO Box 600, Wellington 6140

**Class times:** Monday July 26th – Friday July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010

9 am- 5 pm daily, except Friday: end at 4 pm

**Room:** AM 103

**Announcements:** By email and in class

**LALS main office:** Von Zedlitz 210, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Von Zedlitz Building, Kelburn Parade

### **Aims of the course**

In preparation for teaching NZSL, students will study the structure and use of NZSL, to gain an understanding of the following: history of NZSL, phonology and sign formation in NZSL, NZSL verb morphology, sentence structure and non-manual grammar, the NZSL lexicon, variation and change in NZSL.

### **Learning Objectives**

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. Describe the origins and development of NZSL from 1880 to the present
2. Identify parts of signs, types of signs, and constraints on the formation of signs
3. Identify classes of signs in NZSL (e.g., nouns, verbs, adjectives, pronouns)
4. Explain and demonstrate how NZSL verbs can be modified
5. Explain and demonstrate structures for grammatical functions in NZSL, including assertion, negation, questions, conditionals, contrasting, time reference.
6. Identify reasons for sociolinguistic variation in NZSL
7. Explain types of signs in the lexicon and the concept of high/low frequency vocabulary

### **Course Content**

The course will cover the following topics, as detailed in the 802 course book and DVD

- History of NZSL
- Myths about signed languages
- Phonology of NZSL: parts of signs
- Morphology of NZSL (verbs, adverbs, nouns, pronouns, classifiers)
- Syntax - sentence patterns in NZSL
- Selected grammar structures in NZSL
- NZSL lexicon
- Variation in NZSL

## Course materials

### Required:

DEAF 802 course notes and DVD translation (Distributed in class)

### Recommended (optional):

*New Zealand Sign Language Grammar: A Guide for Learners.* Rachel Locker McKee & David McKee. Deaf Studies Research Unit, Occasional Publication No. 3. 2007 (Available at VUW Student Notes)

*Concise Dictionary of New Zealand Sign Language* Editor: G. Kennedy et al. Bridget Williams Books. (Available at VUW bookshop & major booksellers, e.g., Whitcoulls)

## Assessment

Your work in the course will be internally assessed as follows:

- |                                    |     |                            |
|------------------------------------|-----|----------------------------|
| 1. Test (in class, 90 minutes)     | 30% | In class, Fri July 30th    |
| 2. Assignment 1 (in NZSL on video) | 30% | Postmarked: Monday Aug 23  |
| 3. Assignment 2 (in NZSL on video) | 40% | Postmarked: Monday Sept 20 |

*(Assignments do not have a time length: See assignment instructions.)*

Assessment in DEAF 802 will help you review and show what you have learned in the course. The final grade is based on three assessments. The in-class test will assess your understanding of various topics presented in class related to learning objectives 1-8. Assignment 1 will show that you can recognize and demonstrate types of sign structures in NZSL, as per Objectives 2-5. Assignment 2 will show that you can describe and demonstrate selected grammatical structures in NZSL, focusing on Objectives 3-6. Assignments will be done at home, presented in NZSL on video/DVD, and sent to VUW by mail. Assignment instructions will be given out in class. If you have problems with an assignment please contact David McKee before the due date.

### Mandatory Requirements (to pass the course)

Students must attend 8 half-days out of 10 half-days of class, and complete all three assessment tasks to receive a final grade for this course.

### Expected Workload

Students can expect to do an average of 120 hours of work to make good progress in this course. This includes 35 hours of class time, plus group work, review of class work, reading time, preparation of assignments.

### **Penalties**

Assignments handed in late may be marked down, unless a medical certificate is provided, or other genuine circumstances are explained to the course coordinator *before the due date*. Please contact David if you are having problems completing an assignment on time.

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

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

The AVC(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\\_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx)

#### **Class representative policy:**

<http://policy.vuw.ac.nz/Amphora!~policy.vuw.ac.nz~POLICY~000000000803.pdf>

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

### **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>

### **Students with Impairments** (see Appendix 3 of the Assessment Handbook)

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities the same opportunity as other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, please contact the course coordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively, you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services (DSS) to discuss your individual needs and the available options and support on a confidential basis. DSS are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building:

telephone: 463-6070

email: [disability@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:disability@vuw.ac.nz)

The School's Disability Liaison Person is Dr Diane Bardsley, ph 463 5644

