

SCHOOL OF LINGUISTICS AND APPLIED LANGUAGE STUDIES

LINGUISTICS PROGRAMME

Course Outline

LING 424: Language Variation and Change, Trimester 2, 2010

Trimester dates

Teaching dates: 12 July 2010 to 15 October 2010

Mid-trimester break: 23 August to 5 September 2010

Study week: 18 June to 22 October 2010

Examination/Assessment period: 22 October to 13 November 2010

Withdrawal dates

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

1. Course Coordinator:

Elizabeth Pearce

2. Staff:

Lecturer

Elizabeth Pearce

VZ303

Phone: 463 5616

Office hours: TBA

Email: Elizabeth.Pearce@vuw.ac.nz

<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/lals>

Tutor: Elizabeth Pearce

3. Class times and rooms:

Lectures:

Mon	11.00-11:50am	MYLT 102
Wed	11.00-11:50am	HMLT 104
Fri	11.00-11:50am	MYLT 101

Note that there are 11 weeks of lectures beginning in Week 1. There are no lectures in Week 12.

Research Seminars

Mon 9 August	14:10-15:00	TBA
Mon 13 Sep	14:10-15:00	TBA

Tutorials: One tutorial per week, either:

Wed	13:10-14:00	KP24 201
Thu	14:10-15:00	KP24 201

Please go to <<https://signups.vuw.ac.nz>> to sign up for a tutorial. This facility will close on 16 July 2010.

Tutorial lists will be posted on the Linguistics Notice Board (see 4. below) and Blackboard at the end of the first week of the trimester. Tutorials commence in the second week (beginning 19 July). Check the lists *before* that date. There is no scheduled tutorial for this course in the last week of the trimester. 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. Short tutorial exercises must be prepared before each tutorial. Students will find they cannot acquire techniques of linguistic analysis without attending tutorials regularly.

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:

Vivien.Trott, Undergraduate administration, VZ 210
Phone: 463 5894, Fax: 463 5604 Vivien.Trott@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: Austronesian languages
- (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 approximately \$18) **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.

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 or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from nominated collection points at each campus. 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.

11. Assessment:

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

	<u>Assigned</u>	<u>Date due</u>	<u>Percentage of total marks</u>
Problem Set 1	14 July	30 July	10%
Problem Set 2	30 July	20 August	20%
Report		by 17 September	10%
Assignment 1	August 9	10 September	20%
Assignment 2	August 9	15 October	40%

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 consultation 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.

14. Workload:

In order to make satisfactory progress in this course you should expect to spend 300 hours on this course over the whole trimester (including the two week mid-trimester break), which means on average around 22 hours per week. There is a total of 45 class contact hours (lectures, research seminars and tutorials) in the trimester. The remaining workload hours (an average of 18 hours per week) are needed for preparation for and revision after lectures (the latter to confirm your understanding of the lecture material), background reading and assignment preparation. 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 22 October 4:00pm.

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 lectures, seminars and tutorials.

17. Class Representative

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.

The elected class representative for LING Honours courses is:

Charlotte Williams: charlotte.williams@mfat.govt.nz

18. 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 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

COURSE OUTLINE

Week	Date	Topics	Tutorials
1	Jul 12 14 16	Introduction Sound change Types of sound change I	
2	Jul 19 21 23	Phonology of change Types of sound change II The discovery of Indo-European	Sound change
3	Jul 26 28 30	Laws of sound change Comparative reconstruction Comparative reconstruction Due: Problem Set 1	Phonology of change
4	Aug 2 4 6	Comparative reconstruction Comparative reconstruction Student Reports	Comparative reconstruction
5	Aug 9 11 13	Morphological change: Analogy Research Seminar 1 Analogy Student Reports	Comparative reconstruction
6	Aug 16 18 20	Semantics and change Word meaning shifts Student Reports Due: Problem Set 2	Analogy
BREAK			
7	Sep 6 8 10	The study of change in progress Studying variation Student Reports Due: Assignment 1	Semantic change
8	Sep 13 15 17	Syntactic change and word order reversals Research Seminar 2 Grammaticalization Student Reports	Variation
9	Sep 20 22 24	Dialects and isoglosses Sprachbunde and languages in contact Neogrammarian vs. diffusionist views	Syntactic change
10	Sep 27 29 Oct 1	Pidgins and creoles The Bioprogramme hypothesis Language attrition & language loss	Dialects
11	Oct 4 6 8	Austronesian languages Austronesian languages Austronesian languages	Pidgins/Creoles/Review
12	Oct 11 13 15	NO LECTURE NO LECTURE NO LECTURE Due: Assignment 2	No scheduled tutorial

