

**School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies  
Linguistics Programme**

**LING423 Psycholinguistics**

**TRIMESTER 1 2011**  
28 February to 2 July 2011

**Trimester dates**

Teaching dates: 28 February to 3 June 2011

Mid-trimester break: 18 April to 1 May 2011

Study week: 6–10 June 2011

Examination/Assessment period: 10 June to 2 July 2011

*Students enrolled in this course must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.*

**Withdrawal dates**

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

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

**1. Staff**

**Course Coordinator:**

**Assoc. Prof. Paul Warren**

Von Zedlitz (VZ) 211

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Office hour:



**Lecturers:**

**Dr Sasha Calhoun**

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**Assoc. Prof. Frank Boers**

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**Tutor:**

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**Course Administrator:**

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VZ 210  
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Email: [vivien.trott@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:vivien.trott@vuw.ac.nz)

School webpage: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/lals/>

**2. Class times and locations**

Lectures are shared with LING323

Lecture times: Mon, Weds, Fri 9:00-9:50

Lecture venues: HU LT119 (except for practical classes on Wednesdays in weeks 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11, which will be in KK216, as indicated on lecture schedule)

Tutorial/seminar times & venues: to be arranged through discussion with LING423 students

**3. Course delivery**

The content of LING 423 Psycholinguistics is delivered through a combination of lectures, computer laboratory sessions, and tutorials/seminars, as well as through students' own reading. The computer lab sessions introduce students to techniques used in psycholinguistic research. Usually, students will participate in demo versions of experiments in these sessions, and the results of these experiments are discussed in subsequent tutorials. It is expected that all students will participate in all classes.

**4. Communication of additional information**

Notices relating to the course will be posted on the Linguistics Honours Notice Board adjacent to room VZ307 on floor 3 of the Von Zedlitz building.

Further information relevant to this course will be posted on the LING323 Blackboard site (see <http://blackboard.vuw.ac.nz>), which you can access using your Student Computing Service ID.

**5. Course content**

This course explores the psychological processes involved in producing and understanding language and the nature of mentally represented knowledge associated with language. It also familiarises students with the research methodologies used to investigate such processes and knowledge. Co-taught with LING 323.

weeks 1-4	introduction & language production
weeks 5-8	perception and word recognition
weeks 8-10	sentence processing
weeks 10-11	discourse and conversation
week 11	the psycholinguistics of sign language

week 12      architecture of the language system  
*See the attached lecture schedule for more detailed information*

## **6. Learning objectives**

The course aims to help students better understand the psychological processes involved in language production and comprehension, and the relationship of linguistic theory to psycholinguistic experiment and theory.

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

- i. understand basic psychological processes of language production and comprehension
- ii. understand claims made about the mental representation of language
- iii. apply their understanding under i. & ii. to the analysis of data
- iv. evaluate the role of linguistic theory in the psychological examination of language use
- v. evaluate theoretical positions in psycholinguistic research
- vi. understand and evaluate a range of experimental approaches
- vii. apply experimental and analytical tools in completing assignments and exercises

## **7. Graduate attributes**

As with all LING courses, the learning objectives of this course contribute to the attainment of specific attributes in the areas of creative and critical thinking, communication, time management, and an awareness of ethical issues. For more details please consult our website <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/lals/study/subjects/ling.aspx#graduate>

## **8. Expected workload**

In line with Faculty recommendations, it is expected that in order to make satisfactory progress students should devote 300 hours to this course over the duration of the trimester, including the mid-trimester break, study week and exam period. This averages to about 18 hours per week. This time includes attendance at classes (4 hours), as well as preparation for classes, background reading, practical work, and preparation for assignments and the examination. Some students will find they need to do more than this, and students aiming for high grades will almost certainly need to do more.

## **9. Readings**

### **a. Essential texts:**

LING323 Coursebook (obtainable from the Student Notes Distribution Centre). This should be brought to all classes. Make sure you have the 2011 version of the coursebook.

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 7 February to 11 March 2011. After week two of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from VicBooks on level 3 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 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.

### **b. Recommended Reading:**

Harley, Trevor A. 2008 (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). *The Psychology of Language*. Hove: Psychology Press.

Harley, Trevor A. 2010. *Talking the Talk: Language, Psychology and Science*. Hove: Psychology Press.

Garnham, Alan 1985. *Psycholinguistics: central topics*. London: Methuen.

Garman, Michael 1990. *Psycholinguistics*. Cambridge: CUP.

The Coursebook includes a comprehensive bibliography for this course. A number of books and periodicals useful for this course have been placed on reserve in the library. If you have difficulty accessing material for this course, please let the Coordinator know as soon as possible.

### **10. Assessment requirements**

Practical exercise 1	10%		26 March
Practical exercise 2	10%		13 April
Practical exercise 3	10%		11 May
Research Essay	40%	4000 words	1 June
Take-home exam (9 am-5pm)	30%	3000 words	in exam period (10 June-2 July)

The practical exercises will involve analysis of language data of relevance to psycholinguistics.

The area of the research essay will be selected by the student under guidance from the course coordinator.

The practical exercises relate to objectives vi & vii in §6.

The research essay relates to objectives i to vii.

The take-home exam relates to objectives i. to vi.

You are advised to think about each of piece of assessment well in advance, as some topics involve a small amount of data collection, for which you will need to be prepared. This may mean starting to think about each one before the previous piece of work has been submitted and returned.

Note that you must achieve a mark of at least 40% in the final exam in order to pass this course.

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities in examinations and other assessment procedures.

### **11. 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. Information on penalty arrangements will be included with the detailed instructions for each assignment.

### **12. Mandatory course requirements**

To gain a pass in this course each student must:

- a) Hand in the practical exercise and assignment by the specified dates, having made a serious attempt to complete each of them.
- b) Achieve a standard of 40% or better in the take-home exam.

### **13. Class Representative**

A class representative will be elected for the Honours programme as a whole at the initial meeting of Honours students.

### **14. Statement on legibility**

Students are expected to write clearly. Where work is deemed 'illegible',

- the student will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) and lateness penalties apply;
- if the student does not transcribe it to an acceptable standard, the work will be accepted as 'received' (so any associated mandatory course requirements are met) but not marked.

### **15. 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>

### **16. Where to find more detailed information**

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study). Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress). Most statutes and policies are available at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy), except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx) (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/avcacademic](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic).

## COVER SHEET

COURSE NAME & CODE

LING 423 Psycholinguistics

SURNAME : \_\_\_\_\_

GIVE NAME : \_\_\_\_\_

ID NUMBER : \_\_\_\_\_

LECTURER : \_\_\_\_\_ **Paul Warren** \_\_\_\_\_

ASSIGNMENT TITLE / NO : \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF WORDS : \_\_\_\_\_

DUE DATE : \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please complete the following checklist:**

**tick box**

I have checked my work carefully before submitting

I have included a list of references, properly formatted

I have numbered the pages of this work

I have retained a copy of this work

There is no plagiarism in this work

I value your feedback and will collect my work promptly

**OR**

I do not require any feedback on this work

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE : \_\_\_\_\_

DATE : \_\_\_\_\_