

**SCHOOL OF LINGUISTICS AND APPLIED LANGUAGE STUDIES**

**LINGUISTICS PROGRAMME**

**LING 427 SYNTAX**

**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 June to 9 June 2011

Examination/Assessment period: 10 June to 2 July 2011

**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**

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, Thurs, Fri: 10:00-10:50 in LBLT 118

**Tutorial:** Mon 2:10- 3:00 in KP24 103 or Wed 2:10-3:00 in VZ  
106

**Research seminars:** Mon 28 March 4:10-5:00, Room TBA; Mon  
9 May 4:10-5:00, Room TBA

The choice of the tutorial time will be determined in lecture classes in Week 1 and will be posted on Blackboard and on the Linguistics Noticeboard (see §4).

Tutorials commence in the second week (beginning 7 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:**

Kirsten Sims, Postgraduate administration Tel: 463 5894, Fax: 463 5604  
[Kirsten.Sims@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Kirsten.Sims@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,
- understand and evaluate literature in syntax developing out of X-bar theory,
- 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 workload:**

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 \$13 approx.) **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.

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 7 February to 11 March 2011, 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 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 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.

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

**14. Assessment requirements:**

Assessment will be based on the items listed below (Note that there is no Final Examination):

	<u>Handed out<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Due date</u>	<u>Contribution to final grade</u>
i) Assignment 1	28 February	21 March	20%
ii) Assignment 2	21 March	2 May	35%
iii) Assignment 3	2 May	3 June	45%

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    2,000 words (or 12 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.

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

Reasonable accommodation is made with respect to assessment procedures for students with disabilities (see also *Where to find more detailed information* 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.

### **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 in 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. For more information on plagiarism see <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

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 (see under Learning Objectives **8**) 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**

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 **14** 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 24 June 2011.

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

## **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 participate in **all** of their scheduled tutorials. See also under **17** on attendance at the two Research Seminars.

## **19. 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.

## **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>

## **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).

## TIMETABLE OF CLASSES

LING 427    Syntax    2011

Lecture Schedule : Mon, Thurs, Fri 10:00-10:50 in LBLT 118

		<b>LECTURES</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT</b>
Feb	28	Review: Sentence meaning and organization	
Mar	3	Review: Sentence meaning and organization	
	4	Subordinate clauses	
	7	Subordinate clauses	
	10	Subordinate clauses	
	11	Subordinate clauses	
	14	Noun phrases	
	17	Noun phrases	
	18	Verb phrases	
	21	Lexical categories	<b>Assignment 1</b>
	24	Functional categories	
	25	Functional categories	
	28	Functional categories	<b>RESEARCH SEMINAR</b>
	31	Head-movement	
Apr	1	Head-movement	
	4	Head-movement	
	7	Phrasal movement	
	8	Phrasal movement	
	11	Argument roles	
	14	Argument positions	
	15	VP-internal structure	
<b>MID-COURSE BREAK</b>			
May	2	VP-internal structure	<b>Assignment 2</b>
	5	VP-internal structure	
	6	Argument raising	
	9	Propositional logic	<b>RESEARCH SEMINAR</b>
	12	Quantification	
	13	Aspect	
	16	Quantifier syntax	
	19	Logical Form and questions	
	20	Typologies	
	23	Typologies	
	26	Binding theory	
	27	Binding theory	
	30	NO LECTURES	
Jun	2	NO LECTURES	
	3	NO LECTURES	<b>Assignment 3</b>

**End of 1/3 Teaching: 3 June**