FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF LINGUISTICS AND APPLIED LANGUAGE STUDIES

LINGUISTICS PROGRAMME

Course Outline

LING 424: Language Variation and Change
Trimester 2, 2012
16 July to 17 November

Trimester dates
Teaching dates: 16 July to 19 October 2012
Mid-trimester break: 27 August to 9 September 2012
Study week: 22-26 October 2012
Examination/Assessment period: 26 October to 17 November 2012

Withdrawal dates
Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at
http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawlsrefunds.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.victoria.ac.nz/lals/

> **Tutor: Elizabeth Pearce**

3. Class times and rooms
> **Lectures:**   Mon   12.00-12:50am   HULT 220
>   Wed   12.00-12:50am   HULT 220
>   Fri   12.00-12:50am   HULT 220

Note that there are 11 weeks of lectures beginning in Week 1.
There are no lectures in Week 12.
A total of six of the Friday lecture times will be taken up with student presentations (see
Content Outline at the end of this document).
> **Two Research Seminars:**
>> **1.** During week beginning 13 August (Time and place TBA)
>> **2.** During week beginning 17 September (Time and place TBA)

Tutorials: One tutorial per week, either:
    Wednesday   16:10-17:00   MY 301
    Thursday   13:10-14:00   MY 105

Please go to <https://signups.victoria.ac.nz> to sign up for a tutorial. This facility will close on 20 July 2012.
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 23 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 and on Blackboard.

5. LALS main office   VZ210, 2nd floor Von Zedlitz Building, Kelburn Parade

6. Course Administrator:
    Dayna Taramai, Undergraduate administration, VZ 210
    Phone: 463 5894, Fax: 463 5604 dayna.taramai@vuw.ac.nz

    Web contact: www.blackboard.victoria.ac.nz

7. Course prescription
An introduction to the study of language variation, concentrating on variation in time, i.e. language change, and to the techniques employed in the reconstruction of language families.

8. Teaching learning summary
See under 3, 9 and 17.

9. Course content
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.

For a more detailed outline of topics covered in the course, see the Content Outline at the end of this document.

10. Learning objectives
Students who pass this course 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.

11. Texts
Required:

Every student will need to bring a copy of the Course Book (obtainable from the Vicbooks: cost approximately $20) **to all classes.**

Recommended:

Bynon, Theodora. 1979. *Historical Linguistics*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. [or later edition]

Campbell, Lyle. 1998. *Historical Linguistics: An Introduction*. MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass.

Crowley, Terry. 1997. *An Introduction to Historical Linguistics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press [3rd edition or later]

Hock, Hans Henrich. 1986. *Principles of Historical Linguistics*. Mouton de Gruyter, Berlin.

Lehmann, Winfred P. 1992a. *Historical Linguistics* Third edition. Routledge, London.

Trask, R. L. 1996. *Historical Linguistics*. Arnold, London.

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.

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 9–27 July 2012, 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 4 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.

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

	Assigned	Date due	Percentage of total marks
Problem Set 1	18 July	3 August	10%
Problem Set 2	3 August	24 August	20%
Report		by 28 September	10%
Assignment 1	13 August	14 September	20%
Assignment 2	13 August	19 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 <u>personally</u> 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.

13. 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. <u>Note</u> that Problem Sets 1 and 2 will not be graded if handed in after the date that they are returned in class (7 to 14 days after the due date). Information on other penalty arrangements will be included with detailed instructions for each piece of set work.

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

14. Relationship between assessment and learning objectives
Included in the assessment for the course are two Problem Sets, two Assignments and a Tutorial Report. The <u>Problem Sets</u> 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 <u>Report</u> 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 consulation 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 <u>Assignments</u> 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.

15. 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 turorials) 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.

16. Mandatory Course Requirements
Requirements for this course are that you must make a satisfactory attempt at the five set pieces of in-term work listed under **12** 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. <u>Note</u> that, as indicated under **13** 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 26 October 4:00pm.

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. 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. Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress.aspx. Most statutes and policies are available at 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 (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the Academic Office website, at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic.

CONTENT OUTLINE

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