FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF LINGUISTICS AND APPLIED LANGUAGE STUDIES

MASTER OF ARTS
LALS 542   INTERACTION AND IDENTITY IN LANGUAGE LEARNING

TRIMESTER 3 2012
19 November 2012 – 23 February 2013

Trimester dates
Teaching dates: 19 November 2012 to 17 February 2013
Mid-trimester/Xmas break: 22 December 2012 to 6 January 2013
Last piece of assessment due: 20 February 2013
Examination/Assessment Period: 18 – 24 February 2013

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

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Class times and locations
Class weeks for this course for both on-campus and distance students are the weeks beginning 19 and 26 November, 3, 10 and 17 December, 7, 14, and 28 January, 4 and 11 February.

Please note that the University closes down at the end of Friday 21 December 2012 and re-opens on Monday, 7 January 2013. There will be no university services available during that period, but you will still have access to Blackboard and the library online.

On-campus class meeting time: Monday, 4.10-6.00pm
                                         Room: 24 Kelburn Parade, Room 202

Teaching/learning summary
The course is delivered in two modes: on campus and by distance. On campus classes are run as workshops. For distance students, the course is available at http://blackboard.vuw.ac.nz. Blackboard is Victoria's online teaching and learning system. In both modes, students are expected to participate actively in activities and discussions. Further information about Blackboard is available under Frequently Asked Questions, under the Study tab of the School website.

Communication of additional information
Additional information about this course and information about any changes will be announced in on campus classes and posted on the course website in Blackboard.

Course prescription
This course explores what sociocultural theories of learning contribute to our understanding of the teaching and learning of language in educational contexts. It examines how spoken and written language are used in teaching and learning, and considers implications for classroom practice.

Course content
A schedule detailing week by week topics and required readings will be posted on Blackboard at the beginning of the course.

Learning objectives
Students who pass this course should:
1. have an understanding of the nature and scope of sociocultural theories of learning, particularly with reference to interaction and identity;
2. have explored some contributions of sociocultural theories of learning to our understanding of how spoken and written language are used in learning and teaching;
3. appreciate implications for classroom practice with respect to some first and/or second language contexts for the learning and teaching of language;
4. be able to examine teaching/learning materials and practices critically in terms of their assumptions about how learning occurs.

Expected workload

Students are expected to devote a total of about 150 hours, spread throughout the trimester, to this course in order to maintain satisfactory progress. The following gives an indication of how that time may be distributed:

For each of the 10 class weeks:
  6 hours required and extended reading and to prepare for class or Blackboard discussion
  2 hours class attendance OR participation in Blackboard discussion

For the assignments (including reading, researching, writing up):
  Assignment 1:   30 hours
  Assignment 2:   40 hours

Group work

There are no formal requirements for group work in this course, but students are encouraged to work together wherever possible, either face-to-face or online as appropriate.

Readings
Set texts:
Swain, M. et al. (2011) *Sociocultural Theory in Second Language Education: An Introduction through Narratives.* Bristol: Multilingual Matters, ISBN 978-1-84769-329-7.

Other required readings will not be available in printed form. They will be downloadable during the course from Blackboard, the online teaching and learning system.

All textbooks and student notes for the third trimester will be available 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.

In preparation for each class week you should do the required reading (see the schedule detailing week by week topics and required readings which will be posted on Blackboard at the beginning of the course).

You are expected to participate in a critical discussion of the reading material in class (on-campus students) or on Blackboard (distance students). Through your participation in discussion and in activities related to the readings, you will demonstrate your progress towards meeting the course objectives in a broad way, as compared with the in-depth evidence provided by your assignment work.

Recommended reading:

As a postgraduate student, you should be extending your reading well beyond the required readings. Some reading will be recommended during the course, but much of your extended reading will arise from your own literature searches, particularly for journal articles, and your selection will be guided by your own needs and interests within the framework of the course.

Assessment requirements

This course will be examined by in-term assessment. There is no final examination. The final grade will be awarded on the basis of your marks for two assignments, and your contribution in class discussion:

	Due date	Weighting	Required length
Assignment			
1	4pm Monday 07 January 2013	40%	1500-2000 words
2	4pm Wednesday 20 February 2013	50%	2000-2500 words
Contribution to class discussion		10%	

The required length applies to the 'body' of the assignment (excluding list of references and any appendices). Provide a word count of the assignment 'body' on each assignment. Include quotations and in-text references in the word count of the 'body'.

Details of the two assignments, including marking criteria, will be provided on Blackboard and in class. The two assignments address course objectives 1-4 (see above), as does the discussion in class and online.

You can earn 10 marks (10% of the course assessment) for contribution to discussion online. You will gain one mark for each course week in which you post on the course Blackboard website at least one timely, relevant and appropriate written response to required readings. Timely means that you post your response on Blackboard before the class meeting for the course week (on-campus students, from Week 2), or by the end of the course week (distance students, from Week 1).

Penalties

Please take careful note of the length requirement for each assignment. If an assignment exceeds the word limit, only the first part of the assignment, from the beginning up to the word limit, will be considered for assessment purposes. It is important both academically and professionally that you be able to explain your ideas concisely and coherently.

Submitting assessments

Distance and on-campus students should submit assignments through the Blackboard (BB) system, if possible. Instructions on how to use the BB assignment tool are on the BB website, and below.

To submit an assignment on Blackboard:
- Click the Assessment button on the left of your screen.
- Scroll down to the relevant assignment folder and click on the link to open the folder.
- Click on the Assignment link in that folder.
- Click on the Browse button, then find and select your Assignment file, click on Open, then click on the Submit button (bottom right of your screen) to submit your assignment.

If you are unable to submit an assignment on Blackboard, you may submit it as an email attachment to lals-ma@vuw.ac.nz but please do not use that option unless you absolutely have to.

Formatting assignments
- Submit your assignment as **one** file (which includes the cover sheet and any appendices)
- Set margins to at least 2.5 cm
- Set line spacing to 1.5
- Set font size to 12 point
- Include page numbers
- Include a completed assignment cover sheet (available on the course Blackboard site)
- Provide a word count at the end of the assignment (not including the References section and any appendices)

Your assignment will be returned to you with written feedback after it has been provisionally assessed. It will be returned to you on Blackboard. To access and download your marked assignment, click on the 'My Grades' button at the left of your screen. Go to 'LALS542', and finally **click on your grade** for the assignment to download your marked assignment.

The School will keep a copy of each assignment for use in external and overall assessment of your MA work.

Mandatory course requirements
To gain a pass in this course each student must submit the two assignments specified for this course. As well:

On-campus students must attend all classes and contribute to class activities and discussions (or meet the distance requirements for any course week in which they miss class due to unavoidable absence).

For each 'course week', distance students must post on the course Blackboard Discussion Board a written response to required readings, and at least two responses to classmates' postings. Please note that to meet this requirement, you must have made all the required postings by the end of the course, but not necessarily within the relevant 'course week'. See 'Assessment requirements' above for marks to be gained by posting responses in a timely fashion, i.e. week by week.

Class representative

The MA programme has a student representative whose name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The 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

Use of Turnitin

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine http://www.turnitin.com. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted material on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions is not made available to any other party.

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 www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress. 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 (See Section C).

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