

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF LINGUISTICS AND APPLIED LANGUAGE STUDIES**

**MASTER OF ARTS
LALS 544 DISCOURSE ANALYSIS**

**TRIMESTER 3 2012
19 November 2012 to 23 February 2012**

Trimester dates

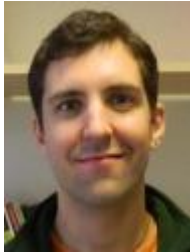
Teaching dates: 19 November 2012 to 10 February 2013
Mid-trimester break: 22 December 2012 to 6 January 2013

Withdrawal dates

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds>

Course Coordinator

Dr Nick Wilson



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[Link to website](#)

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Course delivery

The course is delivered entirely online; the course is available at
<http://blackboard.vuw.ac.nz>.

Blackboard is Victoria's online teaching and learning system. 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.

Class times and locations

This course takes place entirely on-line. As such there are no specific class meeting times, but instead discussion will take place via discussion boards on Blackboard. Class weeks are the weeks beginning 19 and 26 November, 3, 10 and 17 December, 7, 14, 21, and 28 January, 4 February. Each course week follows a calendar week.

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

Communication of additional information

Additional information about this course and information about any changes will be posted on the course website in Blackboard.

Course Prescription

Discourse is language in use. This course explores the analysis of discourse structure in spoken and/or written text, and considers applications in language teaching.

Course content

A schedule detailing week by week topics and required readings will be posted on Blackboard at the beginning of the course. The course will include the following topics: cohesion and coherence, speech acts, conversation analysis, genre, critical discourse analysis, classroom interaction.

Learning objectives

By the end of this course you should:

1. have an understanding of the nature and scope of the study of discourse;
2. have explored some contributions of discourse analysis to our understanding of spoken and written language in use;
3. be able to analyse why people make particular spoken and written language choices and what they mean by them;
4. have an understanding of what it is learners have to learn in order to use spoken and written language appropriately;
5. be able to examine language teaching/learning materials and classroom practices critically in terms of the way they address issues of discourse structure.

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 preparation for Blackboard discussion

2 hours participation in Blackboard discussion over the duration of the week

For the assignments (including reading, researching, and writing up):

Assignment 1: 15 hours

Assignment 2: 25 hours

Assignment 3: 30 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:

There is no set textbook for this course.

The required readings are all journal articles or book chapters. They will be available for students to download from the course Blackboard site and to either read online or print out. In preparation for each class week you should read the required readings (see course content above).

You are expected to participate in a critical discussion of the reading material on Blackboard. 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.

However, as a starting point, it would be helpful to have access to at least one of these books throughout the course:

Accessible introductions

Cook, G. 1989. *Discourse*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Nunan, D. 1993. *Introducing Discourse Analysis*. London: Penguin English.

Paltridge, B. 2000. *Making Sense of Discourse Analysis*. Gold Coast, Queensland: Antipodean Educational Enterprises.

More detailed introductions

Coulthard, M. 1985. *An Introduction to Discourse Analysis* (2nd ed.). London: Longman.

Hatch, E. 1992. *Discourse and Language Education*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

McCarthy, M. 1991. *Discourse Analysis for Language Teachers*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Paltridge, B. 2006. *Discourse Analysis: An Introduction*. London: Continuum.

There are a number of other introductory books in the field which would also be useful if you don't have access to one of these ones. If you have access to a book and you are unsure if it is suitable, check with the course coordinator.

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 three assignments, and your contribution in class discussion:

Assignment	Due date	Weighting	Required length
1	5pm Friday 14 December 2012	20%	analysis + max 200 words
2	5pm Friday 11 January 2013	30%	1200-1500 words
3	5pm Friday 15 February 2013	40%	1500-2000 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 three assignments, including marking criteria, will be provided on Blackboard and in class. Assignment 1 gives you practice at analysing aspects of the discourse structure of written text. It addresses course objectives 2, 3 and 4 (see above). Assignment 2 gives you practice at analysing aspects of the discourse structure of spoken texts, both in natural contexts and in course materials. It addresses course objectives 2, 3, 4 and 5. Assignment 3 focuses on course objectives 1, 4 and 5 (particularly the pedagogical implications of discourse understanding). Discussion in class and online addresses all five course objectives.

You can earn 10 marks (10% of the course assessment) for contribution to discussion online.

You will gain one mark for each 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 by the end of the course week.

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

All 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 title page/ 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 'LALS544', 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 three assignments specified for this course. As well:

For each 'class 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. 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 website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic.