



Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies

LING 406 Special Topic: Research in Sociolinguistics 30 points

Trimester 1, 2013

1. Trimester dates

Teaching dates: 4 March – 7 June 2013

Easter break: 28 March – 3 April 2013

Mid-trimester break: 22-28 April 2013

Study / Assessment period: 10 June - 3 July 2013

2. Withdrawal dates

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

3. Staff

The course coordinator is

Janet Holmes: janet.holmes@vuw.ac.nz VZ 301, ☎ 463 5614

4. Class times

Supervision is expected to total 12 hours over the course of the trimester, one hour a week on average. Regular appointments with supervisor will be agreed between candidate and supervisor.

5. Teaching/learning summary

This course encourages students to develop their knowledge of sociolinguistic research in a chosen area. The final assessment is a substantial research proposal which demonstrates the students' ability to establish an individual research focus with reference to relevant literature (including theories and methodologies) within sociolinguistics.

6. Communication of additional information

Notices relating to the course will be emailed directly to the student.

7. Course prescription

This course will develop students' ability to undertake sociolinguistic research by focusing on what is required in the production of a substantial research proposal.

8. Aims

To develop the student's research and writing skills within an area of Linguistics.

9. Learning Objectives

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- i) Build their own list of sources related to the topic of their research;
- ii) Understand and evaluate literature related to their research topic;
- iii) Demonstrate an awareness of the theoretical and methodological issues in the area of Sociolinguistics which is the focus of their research;
- iv) Present a research proposal using the appropriate stylistic conventions for Linguistics

10. Course Content

The precise content of this course will be determined in negotiation between the student and the supervisor. In 2013, it is likely to focus on the acquisition of sociolinguistic competence by pre-school children.

11. Reading

Every student will need to determine their own reading lists, with support from the supervisor. Students will be expected to distinguish between relevant and irrelevant works, and to follow up leads in the literature they read.

12. Assessment requirements

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| Assignment one 15% Topic statement and annotated bibliography (1000 words) Due 31 March 2013 |
| Assignment two 35% Literature review (2500 words) |

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| Due 30 April 2013 |
| Assignment three 50% Research proposal (4500 words) Due 10 June 2013 |

13. Penalties

For Trimester 1, 2013, the final date for handing in the research proposal IN TWO COPIES is **24 June**. NO EXTENSIONS ARE POSSIBLE BEYOND THAT DATE. Since missing the deadline will result in a fail, you should aim to hand in your assignment at least a week earlier than that.

14. Assessment and course objectives

The pieces of work submitted will fulfil the course objectives, and will be assessed in relation to these objectives.

15. Workload

You are expected to spend about 300 hours on this course over the whole trimester, which means on average around 25 hours per week, including the one hour per week of meeting time with your supervisor.

16. Mandatory Course Requirements

To satisfy these requirements each student must submit the written work specified for this course on or by the specified date, demonstrating they have made a serious attempt at the assignments.

17. 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 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>

18. 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/avcademic

19. Student representation

A class representative will be elected for the Honours programme as a whole at the initial meeting of Honours students. You can find out more information on Class Representatives on the [VUWSA website](#).