



## FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

### SCHOOL OF LINGUISTICS AND APPLIED LANGUAGE STUDIES

#### LINGUISTICS

#### LING 226 Special Topic: Linguistics of Signed Languages

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 2 2013

### Important dates

**Trimester dates:** 15 July to 17 November 2013

**Teaching dates:** 15 July to 18 October 2013

**Mid-trimester break:** 26 August to 8 September 2013

**Last assessment item due:** 1 November, 2013

**Study period:** 21–25 October 2013

**Withdrawal dates:** Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds)

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination (aegrotats), refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat)

### Class times and locations

#### Lectures

Tues 9.00 -9.50 MY 220

Wed 1.10 -2.00 MY 102

Thur 3.10 -4.00 MY 102

#### Tutorial options

Wed 2.10 - 3.00 MY 211

Thur 10.00 - 10.50 MY 211

### Names and contact details

#### Course Coordinator & Lecturer

Dr Rachel McKee [rachel.mckee@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:rachel.mckee@vuw.ac.nz)

ph (04) 463 5626

Office: Von Zedlitz 317, Mon 11- 12

#### Lecturers

Dr David McKee [david.mckee@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:david.mckee@vuw.ac.nz)

Office: Von Zedlitz 316, Mon 12-1

Micky Vale [micky.vale@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:micky.vale@vuw.ac.nz)

Office: VZ 314

## Tutor

Rebecca Siu      [rebecca.siu@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:rebecca.siu@vuw.ac.nz)

Office: VZ 401

## Course Administrator

Dayna Taramai      [Dayna.taramai@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Dayna.taramai@vuw.ac.nz)

ph (04) 463 5255

LALS School office, VZ 210 Mon – Fri, 9am – 4.15pm

## Communication of additional information

Announcements and additional information will be posted on Blackboard and/or distributed in class. See [www.blackboard.vuw.ac.nz](http://www.blackboard.vuw.ac.nz)

Email messages and announcements from BB will go to 'myvuw' student email addresses. If you do not check this email account, please set up a 'forward' to your private email address.

## Prescription

This course surveys how fundamental concepts in linguistic description are applied to the analysis of structures in signed languages, at the levels of phonology, morphology, lexicon and syntax. Sociolinguistic issues of variation and language contact will be examined in relation to NZSL.

## Course content

A schedule of lecture topics and relevant readings will be provided in class, and posted in Blackboard, *Course Information*.

## Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Understand distinctions between language and mode, natural sign language and artificial sign systems, sign language and gesture.
2. Identify formational parameters and basic phonological processes in signs.
3. Explain morphological characteristics and processes in signed languages, including inflection and derivation of signs.
4. Describe characteristics of the lexicon of NZSL, including origins, semantic features of signs (eg, visual motivation and metaphor) and the organising principles of a SL dictionary.
5. Discuss issues and patterns in the syntax of signed languages, including the effects of spatial reference, non-manual features and simultaneity.
6. Describe sources of internal variation in signed languages, in relation to social factors of age, region, gender, language acquisition background, and in relation to situational factors.

## Teaching format

Teaching and learning in this course will comprise lectures, discussions and lab activities in tutorials. Reading and language data samples will be available in Course Resources folders on Blackboard. Students are expected to complete assigned readings prior to tutorials. Peer learning will be a component of this course: students without prior experience of communication in sign language will develop some practical knowledge through course activities supported by those students who do have sign language skills. Similarly, students with more theoretical knowledge of linguistics will support others with less, during class activities.

## Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

1. Submit all four assessment tasks
2. Attend at least 8 out of 10 tutorials (tutorial attendance will be marked).

## Workload

Students can expect to do approximately 13 hours of work per week averaged across the trimester. This includes 3 lecture hours, 1 tutorial hour, readings, study and assessment tasks.

## Assessment

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Task</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>Weighting</i>	<i>Learning objectives</i>
1	August 6	Assignment 1 (reading review)	700 words	15%	1 & 2
2	August 22	Assignment 2 (reading review)	700 words	15%	3 & 4
3	October 10	Investigative essay	1500 words & coded data	30%	3,4,5,6
4	November 1	Take-home test	(online)	40%	1 - 6

An aegrotat pass will normally be approved only when a candidate has completed at least 30% of the course assessment.

The grade scale for assignments and final grade in this course is:

0-39%	E	65-69%	B
40-49%	D	70-74%	B+
50-54%	C	75-79%	A-
55-59%	C+	80-84%	A
60-64%	B-	85-100%	A+

## Submission and return of work

- Please submit assignments in hard copy during a class session, or to the pigeonhole in LALS office, VZ 201 by 5pm. Work will normally be returned within 2 weeks of submission.
- Please contact the course coordinator prior to a due date if you want to negotiate an extension due to illness or other genuine circumstances.

## Penalties

- 10% over or under the stated word limit is acceptable.
- Late submission of assignments without an extension is liable to a 2% penalty for each day beyond the deadline.

## Set text

*Australian sign language (Auslan): An introduction to sign language linguistics.*  
Trevor Johnston and Adam Schembri. Cambridge University Press, 2007.  
Available from VicBooks: [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz)

Supplementary articles will be posted as pdfs in Blackboard Course Resources.

## Recommended additional reading

McKee, R. & D. McKee, 2007. *New Zealand Sign Language Grammar: A Guide for Learners.*  
LALS, VUW Occasional Publication. Available at Vic Books and in Central Library **Callmark:**  
HV2510 D278 3, Level 0; Language Learning Centre, DEAF.LAN.11035.B

- Fromkin, Victoria; Rodman, Robert and Hyams, Nina. 2003. *An Introduction to Language*. Seventh edition. Thomson Heinle. **Callmark:** P121 I61 4ed, Level 3
- Pfau, Roland, Steinbach, Markus & Woll, Bencie (eds). (2012) *Sign Language: An International Handbook*. Berlin; Boston: De Gruyter Mouton. **Callmark:** HV2474 .S539 2012, Level 3
- Meir, Irit & Sandler, Wendy (2008) *A Language in Space: The Story of Israeli Sign Language*. New York: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. **Callmark:** HV2474 M514 S, Level 3
- Brentari, D. (ed.) *Sign Languages*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. **Callmark:** P117 S539 2010, Level 3
- Lorraine Leeson and John I. Saeed. (2012). *Irish sign language: a cognitive linguistic account*. Edinburgh University Press. **Callmark:** HV2474 .L44 2012, level 3
- Vermeerbergen, M., L. Leeson, O. Crasborn. (2007). *Simultaneity in signed languages: form and function* John Benjamins. **Callmark:** P117 S614, Level 3
- Emmorey, K. (2002). *Language, cognition, and the brain: Insights from sign language research*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum. **Callmark:** P117 E547 L, Level 3
- Sutton-Spence, R. and Woll. B. 1999. *The linguistics of British Sign Language: An Introduction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. **Callmark:** DEAF.LAN.11853.V2F1, Language Learning Centre, Ask at Counter; HV2474 S967 L, Level 3
- Valli, C., Lucas, C. & Mulrooney, K. 2005. *Linguistics of American Sign Language: A resource text for ASL users* (4th ed.). Gallaudet University Press. **Callmark:** HV2474 V188 L, Level 3

## Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:
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## Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades)
- Resolving academic issues: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract)
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)