FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF LINGUISTICS AND APPLIED LANGUAGE STUDIES

LINGUISTICS PROGRAMME
LING 323 PSYCHOLINGUISTICS
20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 1 2015

Important dates

Trimester dates: 2 March to 1 July 2015
Teaching dates: 2 March to 5 June 2015
Easter/Mid-trimester break: 3–19 April 2015
Study period: 8–12 June 2015
Examination/Assessment Period: 12 June to 1 July 2015

Note: students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Lectures:
Monday 12pm – 12.50pm in KK202
Wednesday 12pm – 12.50pm in KK202
Friday 12pm – 12.50pm in KK204

Tutorial times:
Monday 3.10pm – 4pm in KK201
Monday 4.10pm – 5pm in 24KP103
Wednesday 4.10pm – 5pm in 24KP101

Some of the lecture slots will be used for lab classes in CyberCommons (KK218). See schedule.

One tutorial per week. Tutorials begin in the second week (beginning 9th March). Because the majority of the tutorial times have been timetabled on Mondays there will be no tutorials in the weeks beginning 27 April and 1 June, since those Mondays are public holidays.

Tutorial lists will be posted on Blackboard and on the Linguistics Undergraduate Notice Board during the first week of the trimester. Check the lists **before** that date.

Do not miss your first tutorial. You may not change tutorials without consulting the course coordinator. Tutorials form an essential part of all Linguistics courses. It is expected that students will attend all tutorials.

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator:
Assoc. Prof. Paul Warren
Von Zedlitz (VZ) 320
Tel: 463 5631
Email: paul.warren@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Wednesday 9-9.50, Friday 11-12

Some lectures will be given by Carolyn Wilshire of the School of Psychology – see schedule

Course Administrator
Dayna Taramai
Von Zedlitz (VZ) 210
Tel: 463 5255
Email: dayna.taramai@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Monday – Friday, 9am – 4.15pm

Communication of additional information

Further information relevant to this course will be posted on its Blackboard site (see
http://blackboard.vuw.ac.nz), which you can access using your Student Computing Service ID.

Prescription

An examination of the psychological processes involved in producing and understanding language, including topics such as the representation of meaning in the mental lexicon, syntactic parsing and the use of speech error data as evidence. The course includes discussion of experimental approaches to the study of language processing, involving some practical work.

Course content (see the attached lecture schedule for more detailed information)

weeks 1-4   introduction & language production
weeks 5-8   perception and word recognition
weeks 8-10   sentence processing
week 11   discourse and conversation
week 12   architecture of the language system

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

The course aims to help students better understand the psychological processes involved in language production and comprehension, and the relationship of linguistic theory to psycholinguistic experiment and theory.
Students who pass this course should be able to:
1. understand basic psychological processes of language production and comprehension
2. understand claims made about the mental representation of language
3. apply their understanding under 1. & 2. to the analysis of data
4. evaluate the role of linguistic theory in the psychological examination of language use
5. evaluate theoretical positions in psycholinguistic research
6. understand and evaluate a range of experimental approaches
7. apply experimental and analytical tools in completing assignments and exercises.

Teaching format

The content of LING 323 Psycholinguistics is delivered through a combination of lectures, computer laboratory sessions, and tutorials, as well as through students' own reading. The computer lab sessions introduce students to techniques used in psycholinguistic research. Usually, students will participate in demo versions of experiments in these sessions, and the results of these experiments are discussed in subsequent tutorials. It is expected that all students will participate in all classes.

Mandatory course requirements

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

1. hand in the practical exercises and assignment by the specified dates (taking into account any extension that has been granted), having made a satisfactory attempt at each assessment component. "Satisfactory" means that where a piece of work has not reached a C- standard, it must nevertheless reflect the fact that the assessment has been taken seriously and that a reasonable amount of effort has been devoted to completing it.
2. achieve a standard of 40% or better in the final examination.

Workload

In line with University recommendations, it is expected that in order to make satisfactory progress students should devote 200 hours to this course over the duration of the trimester, including the mid-trimester break, study week and exam period. This averages to about 12 hours per week. This time includes attendance at classes (from 2 to 4 hours, depending on public holidays), as well as preparation for classes, background reading, practical work, and preparation for assignments and the examination. Some students will find they need to do more than this, and students aiming for high grades will almost certainly need to do more.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		Word count	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Practical exercise 1	750	15%	1-5	24 Apr
2	Practical exercise 2	750	15%	1-5	11 May
3	Assignment	2000	30%	1-7	3 Jun
4	Final exam (3hrs; NOT an open-book exam)		40%	1-6	TBA

The practical exercise will involve analysis of language data of relevance to psycholinguistics. The assignment topics will include options in the areas of speech production and language comprehension. Details for each of these assessment components are available separately, including marking criteria and how these relate to learning objectives. They will also be available on the Blackboard site.

You are advised to think about each of the assignments well in advance, as some topics involve a small amount of data collection, for which you will need to be prepared. This may mean starting to think about each one before the previous piece of work has been submitted and returned.

Note that you must achieve a mark of at least 40% in the final exam in order to pass this course.

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities in examinations and other assessment procedures.

Submission and return of work

All assessment items (apart from the final exam) should be submitted via Blackboard, or alternatively delivered to VZ210 (the LALS School Office), by the due date and time, or handed to

the course coordinator in the lecture before the due date and time. Your answers to the practical exercises and your assignments should be typed, with large enough margins, including top and bottom margins, for comments to be added. Phonetic fonts, if you need to use them, can be downloaded from the web – the Doulos SIL font is recommended (available from http://scripts.sil.org/doulossilfont). Addition of phonetic and other symbols by hand onto an otherwise typed assignment is permitted, but please remember to add these symbols.

Every effort will be made to return your work within one week of the submission date, usually in the lecture on the relevant day.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Extensions (with no penalty) will be considered by the course coordinator on the grounds of exceptional personal circumstances as set out in Section 8 of the Assessment Handbook 2014. Students seeking extensions should do so as early as possible, and if an extension is granted they will be issued with a note to that effect which must be stapled to the front of their assessment submission. If the extension is to a date beyond the day on which the assessment item is due to be returned to the class, then the course coordinator may require that you carry out an alternative assessment task.

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. Information on penalty arrangements will be included with the detailed instructions for each assignment.

Materials and equipment and/or additional expenses

Not applicable

Practicum/placement/field trip/internship arrangements

Not applicable

Set texts

Warren, Paul. 2013. *Introducing Psycholinguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

This can be purchased from Vicbooks. The Vicbooks website is: www.vicbooks.co.nz

Recommended reading

Harley, Trevor A. 2008 (3rd ed.). *The Psychology of Language.* Hove: Psychology Press.

Harley, Trevor A. 2010. *Talking the Talk: Language, Psychology and Science*. Hove: Psychology Press.

Garnham, Alan 1985. *Psycholinguistics: central topics*. London: Methuen.

Garman, Michael 1990. *Psycholinguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

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 representative's name and details in this box:

class representative name and contact details:

Student feedback

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be covered during the course. Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

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/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progess (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz