



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF LINGUISTICS AND APPLIED LANGUAGE STUDIES

**MASTER OF ARTS
LALS 544 DISCOURSE ANALYSIS
15 POINTS**

TRIMESTER 3 2015

Key dates

Trimester dates: 16 November 2015 to 21 February 2016

Teaching dates: 16 November 2015 to 7 February 2016

Mid-trimester/Xmas break: 22 December 2015 to 4 January 2016

Last assessment item due: 15 February 2016

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

Thursday 4-6 pm, 24 Kelburn Parade Room 101. [The on-campus class in the first week only will take place on Monday 16th from 1-3 pm in VZ106.]

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator and Lecturer:

Dr Jean Parkinson

Office: Von Zedlitz 409

Office hours: By appointment

Phone: 04 463 5233 ext. 8009

Email: jean.parkinson@vuw.ac.nz

Post: School of Linguistics & Applied Language Studies

Victoria University of Wellington

P O Box 600

Wellington 6140

Course Administrator:

Janet Attrill

Office: Von Zedlitz 210

Phone: 04 463 5894 or 04 463 5600

Email: janet.attrill@vuw.ac.nz

Communication of additional information

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

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

Readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Course week	Week		
16 November* 1-3 pm VZ106	1	Overview of discourse analysis	McCarthy et al., 2002 Paltridge 2011 Ch 1
26 November 4-6 pm KP24101	2	Cohesion and coherence	Nunan, 1993; Koshik, 1999 Basturkmen, 2002
3 December 4-6 pm KP24101	3	Speech acts	Yule 1996 Crandall & Basturkmen, 2004
7 December* 1-3 pm VZ106	4	Conversation analysis	Hutchby & Wooffitt, 2008 Wong 2002
17 December 4-6 pm KP24101	5	Conversation analysis	Huth & Taleghani-Nikazm, 2006 Hall, 2007
No classes			
7 January 4-6 pm KP24101	6	Genre	Thornbury & Slade, 2006 Tardy 2011
14 January 4-6 pm KP24101	7	Corpus Analysis	Paltridge 2012 Ch 7 Mukherjee 2009
21 January 4-6 pm KP24101	8	Critical discourse analysis	Kumaravadivelu 1999 Cots 2006
28 January 4-6 pm KP24101	9	Classroom interaction	Hall & Walsh, 2002 Lee, 2007
4 February 4-6 pm KP24101	10	Classroom interaction	Duff, 2002 Poole, 2005

* The on-campus classes in the first and fourth weeks will take place on Monday 16th November and Monday 7th December from 1-3 pm in VZ106. All other on-campus classes will take place from 4-6 on Thursdays in KP24101.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. understand the nature and scope of the study of discourse;
2. understand some ways discourse analysis contributes to our understanding of spoken and written language in use;
3. analyse why people make particular spoken and written language choices and what they mean by them;
4. have some understanding of what it is learners have to learn in order to use spoken and written language appropriately;

- examine language teaching/learning materials and classroom practices critically in terms of the way they address issues of discourse structure.

Teaching format

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

Mandatory course requirements

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

- Students must submit credible attempts at the three assignments specified for this course.
- 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).
- Both on-campus and distance students must post a written response to required readings on the course Blackboard Discussion Board for each course week. In addition, distance students must post at least two responses to classmates' postings. Please note that to meet this mandatory 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' below for marks to be gained by posting responses in a timely fashion, i.e. week by week.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

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: 15 hours

Assignment 2: 25 hours

Assignment 3: 30 hours

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
Assignment 1: analysis + maximum 200 words	20%	1,2,3,4	Monday 14 December
Assignment 2: 1200-1500 words	30%	2,3,4	Friday 15 January
Assignment 3: 1500-2000 words	40%	1,4,5	Monday 15 February

Contribution to class discussion (max 200 words/topic)	10%	1,2,3,4,5	
--	-----	-----------	--

Details of the three assignments, including marking criteria, will be provided on Blackboard.

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'. Please keep within set word limits.

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), or by the end of the course week (distance students; e.g. the course week for week 1 is Thursday 19 November - Wednesday 25 November).

Note that in assignments it is not permissible to reproduce your own work or parts of your own work which you have submitted for another course, as this would mean you were getting credit for the same work more than once.

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.

Submission and return of work

Distance and on-campus students should submit assignments through Turnitin on the Blackboard (BB) system.

If you are unable to submit an assignment on Blackboard, you may submit it as an email attachment to jean.parkinson@vuw.ac.nz or 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)

For assignments that are handed in on time, every effort will be made to get your assignment returned to you within two weeks of submission with written feedback after it has been provisionally assessed. Late assignments will be marked when possible.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

No specific penalty will be imposed if you obtain permission to submit the assignment after the deadline. If you find that you need an extension, you must get explicit permission from the course coordinator before the due date. Extensions will only be granted when the assignment is not completed due to unforeseeable circumstances such as unforeseen illness or family emergencies.

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.

For assignments handed in late without an extension the maximum grade possible is B- with no expectation of personal comment. Assignments that are handed in on time will be marked and commented on and returned in a timely manner. Late assignments will be marked when possible.

Note that in assignments it is not permissible to reproduce your own work or parts of your own work which you have submitted for another course, as this would mean you were getting credit for the same work more than once.

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 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.

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.

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. 2012. *Discourse Analysis: An Introduction*. Bloomsbury. (ebook available in the VUW library)

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.

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.

Student feedback

Student feedback on this course in 2014 may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php. Students in this cohort expressed an interest in Corpus Analysis and this topic has been included in the 2015 course.

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
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (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
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf
- 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
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- 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