



## FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

### SCHOOL OF LINGUISTICS AND APPLIED LANGUAGE STUDIES

#### LINGUISTICS PROGRAMME

#### LING 407 SPECIAL TOPIC: DIRECTED RESEARCH IN LINGUISTICS

#### 30 POINTS

#### TRIMESTER 1 2016

### Key dates

**Trimester dates:** 29 February to 29 June 2016

**Teaching dates:** 29 February to 5 June 2016

**Easter break:** 24–30 March 2016

**Mid-trimester break:** 25 April to 1 May 2016

**Last assessment item due:** 13 June 2016

**Withdrawal dates:** Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds).

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)).

### Class times and locations

Supervision is expected to total 18 hours over the course of the trimester, one and a half hours a week on average. Regular appointments with the supervisor will be agreed between the student and supervisor.

### Names and contact details

#### Course Coordinator:

Dr Sasha Calhoun

Office: VZ318

Phone: 463 9537

Office hours: by appointment

Email: [sasha.calhoun@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:sasha.calhoun@vuw.ac.nz)

#### Course Administrator

Matthew Vink

Office: VZ210

Phone: 463 5255

Office hours: Monday – Friday 9am – 4.15pm

Email: [matthew.vink@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:matthew.vink@vuw.ac.nz)

Each individual student will be assigned to a supervisor for this course.

## **Communication of additional information**

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

## **Prescription**

This course encourages students to deepen their knowledge of linguistic research through an exploration of literature and methodology in an area of current research in linguistics. The area is to be agreed with a supervisor. This will lead to the development of a research proposal.

## **Course content**

A detailed list of the course content will be agreed between the supervisor and the student at the start of the trimester.

## **Course learning objectives (CLOs)**

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Identify relevant sources related to a current area of linguistic research
2. Understand, evaluate and critique literature related to an area of linguistic research
3. Formulate an original research question, and predictions in relation to that question, arising from a literature review
4. Develop an appropriate methodological approach to investigate the research question, by evaluating previous approaches in the literature
5. Collect preliminary data to help develop the research questions and effective methodology to investigate it

## **Teaching format**

The course will be taught through regular meetings with the supervisor, and further email contact as necessary. The meetings will be discussion-based, and include in-depth discussion of research articles in the area of research, and development of the research question which the student wishes to pursue. Students are expected to be fully prepared for all meetings, and to have read and thought through set readings before class.

## **Mandatory course requirements**

In addition to gaining an overall mark of at least 50%, students must:

- submit a credible attempt at each of the assessment items.

The assessments in this course are carefully designed in order to build knowledge of the area, and develop the research proposal through the term. It is therefore important that students submit each assessment on time in order to be able to build toward the final research proposal. The CLOs in this course are cumulative, so students must submit a credible attempt at all assessments in order to meet the CLOs for the course.

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**

You are expected to spend about 300 hours on this course over the whole trimester. This includes 1½ contact hours/week, approximately 7 hours/week reading/preparing for class, and on average 15 hours/week doing assignments.

## Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due
Topic statement and annotated bibliography (1,000 words)	20%	1, 2	8 April
Lead research article discussion (one class)	10%	1, 2	tba*
Literature review (3,000 words)	40%	1, 2, 3, 4	27 May
Research proposal, including analysis of preliminary data (2,500 words)	30%	3, 4, 5	13 June

\* Students are expected to fully participate in discussion of research articles in every class. However, in one class, they will lead the discussion, including submitting a list of questions/points for discussion in advance. This contribution will be assessed. The date of this session will be agreed between the student and supervisor (but must be by Friday 13 May 2016).

## Submission and return of work

Two copies of all assessments should be submitted, one as a hard copy and one electronic version. Electronic versions should be emailed to the supervisor and the hard copy given directly to the supervisor or handed in at the LALS Office (VZ 210). You should keep a back-up copy of your work. You can expect that your work will be graded and returned to you by not more than two weeks after you submit it.

## Extensions and penalties

### Extensions

In line with the Linguistics Programme policy, assignments handed in after the due date will receive a considerably reduced grade (see below) unless accompanied by a medical certificate or other evidence of exceptional circumstances. If you require an extension for good reasons, ask the course coordinator ahead of the date for handing in the assignment.

### Penalties

Projects which are handed in after the time and date on which they are due will be subject to a scale of penalties involving a reduction in the grade they are given, the severity of the grade reduction corresponding to the severity of the lateness. The details of the penalties will be set out with the instructions that are given with the particular task.

## Set texts and recommended reading

A list of set readings to be discussed in class will be agreed between the supervisor and the student. Students will be expected to follow leads in the literature they read, and identify other relevant literature.

## Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative for LING Honours will be selected in the first trimester. Contact details for the class representative will be distributed via email to all Honours students.

## Student feedback

Student feedback on this course is welcome at any time. As the LING 407 course involves individual students working with different supervisors, it cannot be evaluated using the standard CAD evaluations. However, the Linguistics Honours programme is periodically evaluated as a whole, and enhancements made to our courses based on the feedback of previous students.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/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/students/study/progress/grades](http://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](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract)
- 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/about/governance/structure](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure)
- Victoria graduate profile: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)