



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF LINGUISTICS AND APPLIED LANGUAGE STUDIES

LINGUISTICS PROGRAMME LING 423 PSYCHOLINGUISTICS 30 POINTS

TRIMESTER 1 2016

Important 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

Study period: 6–9 June 2016

Examination/Assessment Period: 10–29 June 2016

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 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).

Class times and locations

Lectures:

Monday 4:10pm – 5:00pm in AM102

Wednesday 4:10pm – 5:00pm in AM102

Thursday 4:10pm – 5:00pm in AM102

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

Lecture classes above are jointly taught with LING 323. LING423 students will attend a tutorial stream designed specifically for students taking Psycholinguistics at Honours level – time and place to be decided.

One tutorial per week, beginning in the second week (beginning 7th March). There will be no tutorials in the final week of the trimester (beginning 30th May). 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: Monday 10:00-10:50, Weds 3:10-4:00



Dr Sasha Calhoun

Von Zedlitz (VZ) 318

Tel: 463 9537

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Office hours: TBA



Course Administrator

Matthew Vink

Von Zedlitz (VZ) 210

Tel: 463 5255

Email: matthew.vink@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Monday – Friday, 9am – 4.15pm



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

Communication of additional information

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

Prescription

This course explores the psychological processes involved in producing and understanding language and the nature of mentally represented knowledge associated with language. It also familiarises students with the research methodologies used to investigate such processes and knowledge.

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

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| weeks 1-4 | introduction & language production |
| weeks 5-7 | perception and word recognition |
| weeks 8-10 | sentence processing |
| weeks 10-11 | discourse and conversation |
| week 11 | architecture of the language system |
| week 12 | perception of contrast |

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 the psychological processes involved in 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 methodologies appropriate to psycholinguistic research
7. apply analytical tools in completing practical exercises
8. design an investigation into an aspect of psycholinguistics and set out the findings of such an investigation in an appropriate format.

Teaching format

The content of LING 423 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.

Workload

In line with University recommendations, it is expected that in order to make satisfactory progress students should devote 300 hours to this course over the duration of the trimester, including the mid-trimester break, study week and exam period. This averages to about 18 hours per week. This time includes attendance at classes (between 2 and 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 | 750 | 15% | 1-7 | 23 Mar |
| 2 | Research proposal | 750 | 15% | 1-8 | 14 Apr |
| 3 | Research essay | 4000 | 40% | 1-8 | 2 June |
| 4 | Take-home test (9am – 5pm, open-book) | 3000 | 30% | 1-6 | on a day to be agreed, between 13 and 29 June |

Details concerning assessment components are available separately, including marking criteria and how these relate to learning objectives. They will also be available on the Blackboard site. The practical exercise will involve analysis of language data of relevance to psycholinguistics. The area of the research proposal and research essay will be selected by each student under guidance from the course coordinator. The submission date for the proposal is set sufficiently early for you to have time to further develop this for the research essay. Note that you will need to think about a topic well in advance, to allow time for any necessary data collection and analysis.

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 handed or emailed to the course coordinator, or delivered to VZ210 (the LALS School Office), by 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 two weeks 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., or later). *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: CUP.

Class representative

A class representative will be elected for the Honours programme as a whole at the initial meeting of Honours students.

Student feedback

Official student feedback was obtained for LING323 in 2015. There was no formal feedback specifically for LING423 because of the small number of students. Feedback for LING323 was generally positive but suggested the following changes, which have been implemented in designing the course for 2016. Because the lecture content is the same for the two course, these changes will affect LING423 students as well: spread the assessment more evenly over the trimester (while allowing sufficient coverage of content before assignments are due); make clearer in classes the connections between results reported from psycholinguistic experiments and the content covering how language is produced and understood; bring in more real-world issues such as language breakdown and communication breakdown. 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
- 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