FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF LINGUISTICS AND APPLIED LANGUAGE STUDIES

LINGUISTICS PROGRAMME
LING 226 SPECIAL TOPIC: FORENSIC LINGUISTICS
20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 2 2016

Key dates

Trimester dates: 11 July to 13 November 2016
Teaching dates: 11 July to 16 October 2016
Mid-trimester break: 22 August to 4 September 2016
Last assessment item due: *28 October 2016*

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 1:10pm – 2:00pm in Murphy MY632
Lectorials/Workshops
Wednesday 1:10-3:00pm in Laby LBLT118

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator
Dr. Corinne Seals
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Phone: 04 463 5608
Office Hours: By appointment
Email: Corinne.Seals@vuw.ac.nz

Course Lecturer
Associate Professor Paul Warren
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Office Hours: By appointment
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Course Administrator

Matthew Vink

Office: Von Zedlitz 210

Email: Matthew.Vink@vuw.ac.nz

Phone: 04 463 5255

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9am – 4.15pm

Communication of additional information

Additional information about this course and information about any changes will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard.

Prescription

This course introduces how linguistic concepts are applied in criminal investigations and legal cases broadly. Topics include the analysis of written threats, spoken threats, text messages from unknown senders, plagiarism cases, police coercion cases, and contract disputes.

Course content

The course is divided into three topic-areas, as listed below. The exact teaching dates of each topic area will vary, but each topic will be given approximately 3 – 4 weeks of teaching time.

Topic Area	Approximate Weeks of Class	Primary Instructor
Discourse of Investigations	1-4	Dr. Corinne Seals
Forensic Phonetics	5-8	Assoc. Prof. Paul Warren
Language of Prosecution	9-11	Dr. Corinne Seals

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1 Demonstrate their understanding of why linguistics is used in criminal investigations and the interpretation of legal texts

2 Identify accepted forensic linguistic techniques used internationally

3 Use forensic linguistic tools and techniques to analyse criminal and legal cases

4 Demonstrate their understanding of the limits of accepted forensic linguistic applications in criminal and legal cases

5 Demonstrate proficiency in using discourse analysis and/or phonetics and phonology to critically examine criminal and legal cases

Teaching format

Each week there is one lecture and one lectorial/workshop. In the lectures, students will learn how linguistic theory and tools can be applied to forensic cases. In the lectorials/workshops, they will apply their learning in hands-on analysis tasks. Students are expected to have completed relevant readings prior to class, and to participate in class discussions and group work. Students are expected to attend all classes.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must submit a credible attempt at all assessment tasks, in order to provide adequate evidence of learning.

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

In order to make satisfactory progress in this course you should expect to devote, on average, 15 hours a week to it, and overall about 200 hours. This includes attendance at lectures and tutorials, preparation for tutorials, background reading and preparation for the test and assignments. Some students will find that they need to do more than this, and students aiming for high grades will almost certainly need to do more.

Assessment

The course will be assessed by two analytical problem set assignments, a group research presentation, and an individual final research paper.

	Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Assignment 1: Problem set (500-1000 words)	25%	3, 5	12/8/16
2	Assignment 2: Problem set (500-1000 words)	25%	3, 5	23/9/16
3	Group research presentation, in class	10%	1,2,4,5	10/10/16 or 12/10/16
4	Individual final research paper write-up (2000 words)	40%	1,2,4,5	28/10/16

Group work: The research presentation involves working in a group to identify a focused topic related to the course material, designing and making a poster and making a 10-15 minute presentation to the class. Assessment on the presentation is based equally on your individual contribution and that of the group as a whole.

Marking criteria will be posted on Blackboard.

Submission and return of work

All student assignments are to be submitted in hard copy form to the LALS main office on the 2nd floor of Von Zedlitz **and** electronically through Blackboard. All assignments will automatically be submitted to Turnitin to check for plagiarism. Feedback will be given to students via Blackboard. Every effort will be made to provide feedback within two weeks following the submission due date.

General guidelines

When submitting typed or word-processed assignments:
• Set margins to at least 2.5 cm
• Set line spacing to 1.5
• Set font size of 12 point
• Include page numbers
• Include a title page which shows the course number and name, your name, the course lecturer, the title of the assignment, and the date the assignment is due
• Provide a word count at the end of the assignment (not including the Reference section)
• References should be cited where appropriate using APA guidelines

Hard copy submissions:

• Put a LALS cover-sheet on the assignment, and complete the information requested there
• Type on one side of A4 paper
• Staple pages together
• Avoid presenting assignments in bulky folders or sleeves
• Avoid inserting individual pages in clearfile sleeves

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

No specific penalty will be imposed if you obtain permission to submit the assignment after the deadline, but you must get explicit permission from the relevant lecturer before the due date. Extensions will only be granted when the assignment is not completed due to unforeseeable circumstances such as severe illness or family emergencies.

Penalties

The assignments must be submitted by the due date. If you require an extension for good reasons, ask the relevant lecturer ahead of the date for handing in the assignment. Unless you have a valid extension granted for your assignment, the following penalties will apply:

- One grade less (5%) per working day and without expectations that comments be provided for late assignments.
- After one week, no mark, but the assignment can still count for mandatory course requirements if submitted by the end of term.

Plagiarism is not and will be penalised. Assignments which are plagiarised cannot be resubmitted.

Set texts

Olsson, J. (2012). Wordcrime: Solving Crime through Forensic Linguistics. London: Continuum.

Textbooks are available from vicbooks: www.vicbooks.co.nz. Links to readings for each lecture that are not in the set textbook will be available on Tallis Aspire via Blackboard.

Recommended reading

A list of recommended reading will be made available through Blackboard and Talis Aspire.

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:

Student feedback

This is a special topic course on offer for the first time. Student feedback will be collected at the end of 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
- 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
- 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