



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

LINGUISTICS & APPLIED LANGUAGE STUDIES

LINGUISTICS PROGRAMME LING 330/430 ADVANCED SOCIOLINGUISTICS 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: 9:00am 17 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

Thursday, 11:00-12:50 in AM102

Names and contact details

Course co-ordinator: Professor Miriam Meyerhoff
von Zedlitz 301
Miriam.Meyerhoff@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: many, by appointment

Course administrator: Mr Matthew Vink
von Zedlitz 210
Matthew.Vink@vuw.ac.nz

Communication of additional information

Communication outside the class will be through Blackboard. Please make sure that (a) you check the course Blackboard site regularly, and (b) check your university email regularly (if you use another email, please set up an forward from your VUW account to the one you prefer to use).

Prescription

This course covers advanced work in sociolinguistics, with a particular focus on methodologies for collecting data and analysing sociolinguistic variation.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. analyse and interpret primary data
2. evaluate the reasoning behind data interpretation
3. evaluate the rationale for using qualitative or quantitative methods in analysing data
4. identify the major sociolinguistic issues addressed in a given study language use
5. report on their own research showing a synthesis of the above
6. relate academic sociolinguistic research to their own experiences
7. provide and ask for peer-support, e.g. in data collection and collaborative problem-solving.

In addition, depending on your final project, you may have developed skills in:

- quantitative analysis of data
- field work in the wider community.

Students in LING 430 will engage more deeply with (1-3) and (5-6)

Teaching format

This course is an advanced sociolinguistics class. We will all assume we know the basics of the field, and rather than being structured as a series of lectures, the discussions and direction of the class will be shaped largely by your thoughts and contributions.

Everyone should do **all** the required reading set for each week. Depending on how many people are enrolled, you'll be responsible for leading the class discussion of the readings in pairs (or maybe threes) at least once during the trimester.

"Leading the discussion" doesn't mean reciting the contents of the required readings (we've all read them, after all). It means identifying major themes, posing questions about things that might be unclear to you, suggesting ways in which the work connects with other aspects of your programme of study or your life experiences. It means helping other students articulate questions or observations that they might have and encouraging dialogue about the topics under discussion.

Workload

In order to make satisfactory progress in this course you should expect to devote, on average, 15 hours a week to it for 330; 20 hours for 430. For each week this includes background reading and participation in the lecture, as well as weekly tasks and exercises. Some of this time is also allocated to the preparation of the assignments and the in-class tests which should also be spread across the course.

People study in different ways and therefore allocate different amounts of time to the core activities in a course. There is no "one size fits all" formula. This is a very rough idea with hours for LING 330 and LING 430:

<i>Each week</i>	<i>Task</i>	<i>Hours (330)</i>	<i>Hours (430)</i>
Lectures	Attend lectures	2	2
	Reading for lecture	5	6
	Prepare class presentation	1	1
Assessment	Background reading	2	5
	Working on assignment	4	5
	Weekly prep for class tests	1	1
TOTAL		15 approx. (200 total in semester)	20 approx. (300 total in semester)

Assessment

Assessment for LING 330 is 2 assignments plus the best 3 of 4 in-course tests. There is no examination.

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Assignment 1: Literature response (750 words)	30%	1,2,3,4	6 September 2016
2	Assignment 2: Original research project (3000 words)	40%	1,5,6,7	17 October 2016, 9:00am
3	In-class tests (best 3 of 4)	30%	2,3,4,	see below

Assessment for LING 430 is 2 assignments plus the best 3 of 4 in-course tests. There is no examination.

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Assignment 1: Literature response (1000 wds)	30%	1,2,3,4	6 September 2016
2	Assignment 2: Original research project (4000 words)	40%	1,5,6,7	17 October 2016, 9:00am
3	In-class tests (best 3 of 4)	30%	2,3,4,	see below

The in-class tests will review readings from that week and the preceding weeks since the last test. (This replaces a final in-class 2 hour test which used to be given and seemed to stress everyone out enormously, so your feedback on how this works as an alternative in 2016 will be very welcome.) The **tests will be in class in Week 2, Week 5, Week 8 and Week 11**.

You are encouraged to partner with other people on your research project (Assignment 2). If you work with a partner or a small group, each of you must submit an original and independent written report for Assignment 2. Tables or figures may, of course, be the same as in your collaborating partner's/partners' assignment(s). This will reflect your combined efforts and resources, but the text itself should be yours alone.

Marking criteria will be provided in class.

Submission and return of work

Assignments 1 and 2 should be handed in to the School Office (vZ 210) on the 2nd floor of the von Zedlitz building by 12 noon on the due date. You will need to also submit your assignment electronically via Turnitin on Blackboard by the due date/time.

Keep a back-up copy of all assessed work.

N.B. Note that if no work is submitted for assessment before the last three weeks of teaching, there will be nothing on which to base an aegrotat consideration.

Marked work can be collected from the School Office normally within two weeks of submission.

Extensions and 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. If you require an extension for good reasons, **ask the course coordinator ahead of the due date**. It's much easier to help if you ask then, than if you ask after the deadline.

The assignments are due by **12 noon** on the due date, after which a penalty of 5% per working day applies. Penalties increase each day (at 12 noon) until one week after the due date when the maximum grade possible is C- and no personal comment will be provided. Assignments handed in after this time receive no mark.

Plagiarism is not acceptable in assessed work, and will be penalised. The penalty will depend on the severity of the plagiarism.

Set texts

Walker, James A. 2010. *Variation in Linguistic Systems*. London: Routledge.

www.vicbooks.co.nz.

Also individual readings in journals and the primary literature as shown on the weekly syllabus.

Recommended reading

Meyerhoff, Miriam, Erik Schleef and Laurel MacKenzie. 2015. *Doing Sociolinguistics: A practical guide to data collection and analysis*. London: Routledge.

You will find other readings that are directly relevant to your research project through the lists of references in set readings and by using online databases, such as LLBA.

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.

Student feedback

Student feedback in 2014 suggested that students valued the student-led presentations and seminar format of the course but that they also liked some lecturing. In 2016, the class will include at least 20 minutes of formal lecture on key concepts in the weekly readings in response to this.

I also saw that people got very stressed out by one two-hour in-class summative test in 2014. For this reason, I am trying a different system with shorter tests in the semester that will check understanding of key concepts in readings, but without the “do or die” pressure of a final one (also found I disliked finishing the course with an ‘exam’).

Student feedback (partial) 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