



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF LINGUISTICS AND APPLIED LANGUAGE STUDIES

NEW ZEALAND SIGN LANGUAGE PROGRAMME NZSL 311 STRUCTURE AND USE OF NEW ZEALAND SIGN LANGUAGE 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: 13 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

Wednesday 10am – 10:50am in Easterfield (EA) 201

Thursday 10am – 10:50am in Easterfield (EA) 201

Friday 10am – 10:50am in Easterfield (EA) 201

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator and Lecturer

Dr Rachel McKee, email: rachel.mckee@vuw.ac.nz, phone: (04) 463 5626

Office: von Zedlitz (VZ) 317, office hours: Monday 12pm – 2pm

Guest Lecturers

Dr David McKee, email: david.mckee@vuw.ac.nz, office: VZ 316

Micky Vale, email: micky.vale@vuw.ac.nz, office: VZ 314

Rebecca Siu, email: rebecca.siu@vuw.ac.nz, office: VZ 401

Course Administrator

Matthew Vink, email: matthew.vink@vuw.ac.nz, phone: 463 5255

Office: VZ210, office hours: Monday – Friday, 9am – 4:15pm

Communication of additional information

Announcements and additional information will be posted and emailed via Blackboard and/or distributed in class. See www.blackboard.vuw.ac.nz.

Email messages and announcements from Blackboard will go to 'myvuw' student email addresses. If you do not check this email account, please set up a 'forward' to your private email address.

Prescription

This course surveys how concepts in linguistic structure are applied to the analysis of sign language, at the levels of phonology, morphology, lexicon and syntax. Sociolinguistic issues in the context of sign language use will be explored, including variation and language contact, and the effects of language attitudes and policy on the NZSL community.

Course content

A schedule of weekly lecture topics can be found in Blackboard, *Course Information*.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. Distinguish between natural sign language, artificial sign systems, and gesture;
2. Identify formational parameters and basic phonological processes in NZSL;
3. Identify and explain morphological characteristics of NZSL;
4. Describe characteristics of NZSL lexicon, including origins and semantic features of signs;
5. Give examples of modality effects on NZSL syntax (eg. Spatial reference, non-manual grammar, simultaneity);
6. Explain conditions and evidence of language contact phenomena in signing communities;
7. Critically evaluate the effects of language attitudes and policy on the status of NZSL;
8. Identify and explain sources and types of internal variation in NZSL.

Teaching format

Teaching and learning in this course will comprise lectures, discussions, student presentations and some language analysis tasks. Students are expected to complete assigned readings prior to classes in order to get the most out of lectures and make an informed contribution to discussion.

Workload

Students can expect to do approximately 200 hours of work for a 20 point course, which equates to approximately 12.5 hours per week over the trimester and assessment period.. This includes 3 class hours per week, readings, study and assessment tasks.

Assessment

Assessment items	Length	%	CLOs	Due date
Key Concept Questions 1	500 words	10%	1 – 4	Fri 5 Aug (wk 4)
Key Concept Questions 2	500 words	10%	4 – 6	Fri 9 Sept (wk 7)
Oral review of reading	15 mins + outline	10%	6 – 8	Wks 7, 8, 9, (individual dates signed up in class)
In-class test	50 minutes	35%	1 – 8	Fri 7 Oct (wk 11)

Essay	2000 words	35%	1 – 5	Fri 4 Nov (exam period)
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Assessment task instructions and marking criteria will be give out in class and posted on Blackboard/Assessment. 10% over or under the stated word limit is acceptable.

An aegrotat pass will normally be approved only when a candidate has completed at least 30% of the course assessment.

Submission and return of work

Please email assignments to rachel.mckee@vuw.ac.nz by 5pm on the due date. Work will normally be returned within 2 weeks of submission.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Please contact the course coordinator by email at least 2 days prior to a due date if you want to negotiate an extension due to illness or other genuine circumstances.

Penalties

Late submission without an extension will be penalised by 2% for each day past deadline.

Set texts

Australian sign language (Auslan): An introduction to sign language linguistics. Trevor Johnston and Adam Schembri. Cambridge University Press. 2007.

Can be purchased online from Book Depository for NZ\$57.64 (free shipping); <https://www.bookdepository.com> If you do not wish to buy, it is on Closed Reserve in the Central Library, Procession Room (Level 2). Supplementary readings will be posted in Blackboard/Course Readings.

Recommended reading

Pfau, Roland, Steinbach, Markus & Woll, Bencie (eds). (2012) *Sign Language: An International Handbook*. Berlin; Boston: De Gruyter Mouton. Callmark: HV2474 .S539 2012, Level 3.

Brentari, D. (ed.) *Sign Languages*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2010. Callmark: P117 S539 2010, Level 3.

Additional reading

Emmorey, K. (2002). *Language, cognition, and the brain: Insights from sign language research*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum. **Callmark:** P117 E547 L, Level 3.

Fromkin, Victoria; Rodman, Robert, and Hyams, Nina. 2003. *An Introduction to Language*. Seventh edition. Thomson Heinle. **Callmark:** P121 I61 4ed, Level 3.

Lorraine Leeson and John I. Saeed. (2012). *Irish sign language: a cognitive linguistic account*. Edinburgh University Press. **Callmark:** HV2474 L44 2012, Level 3.

Meir, Irit & Sandler, Wendy (2008). *A Language in Space: The Story of Israeli Sign Language*. New York: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. **Callmark:** HV2474 M514 S, Level 3.

Sutton-Spence, R. and Woll, B. 1999. *The linguistics of British Sign Language: An Introduction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. **Callmark:** DEAF.LAN.11853.V2F1, Language Learning Centre, Ask at counter; HV2474 S967 L, Level 3.

Valli, C., Lucs, C. & Mulrooney, K. 2005. *Linguistics of American Sign Language: A resource text for ASL users* (4th ed.). Gallaudet University Press. **Callmark:** HV2474 V188 L, Level 3.

Vermeerbergen, M., L. Leeson, O. Crasborn. (2007). *Simultaneity in signed languages: form and function*. John Benjamins. **Callmark:** P117 S614, Level 3.

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

NZSL 311 has not been previously taught, so no feedback is available.

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