



School of Humanities and Languages

ARTS1691, The Use of Language Semester 2, 2014

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1. Course Staff and Contact Details			
Course Convenors			
Name	Carmella Hollo	Room	MB 225
Phone	9385 2813	Email	c.hollo@unsw.edu.au
Consultation Time	Thursday 12-2PM, after 4PM by appointment. Friday 11-1PM		
Name	Dr Mengistu Amberber	Room	MB 241
Phone	9385 2299	Email	m.amberber@unsw.edu.au
Consultation Time	Wednesday 2-3 PM or by appointment		
Tutors			
Name	Dr Effrosini Deligianni	Room	MB 270
Phone	9385 2188	Email	e.deligianni@unsw.edu.au

2. Course Details	
Units of Credit (UoC)	UoC 6
Course Description	Arts 1691 examines how contemporary linguists deal with issues of language use: the nature of human communication, the influence of social attitudes on language, first and second language acquisition, the historical development of languages, language universals and language typology, regional and situational variation in language.
Course Aims	1. This course will enable students to examine the social, psychological, historical and typological aspects of language in use.
	2. The course aims to enable students to develop basic analytical skills in the analysis of language use from the perspective of descriptive linguistics.
Student Learning Outcomes	1. Explain the social and regional dimensions of language variation
	2. Exemplify cross-linguistic variation with reference to language universals and typology
	3. Explicate the main principles of language change and recognise the main principles of first and second language acquisition
Graduate Attributes	Students will be encouraged to develop the following Graduate Attributes by undertaking the selected activities and engaging with the knowledge content. These attributes will be assessed within the prescribed assessment tasks.
	1. Understanding of the knowledge base of descriptive linguistics:
	2. Skills in critical analysis and problem solving skills:
	3. The ability to engage in independent and reflective learning.

3. Learning and Teaching Rationale

ARTS 1691 is one of the two gateway courses in the Linguistics Program. Along with ARTS 1690 it provides an introduction to general linguistics, and the foundation on which students can select Level 2 and 3 courses relevant to their interests.

4. Teaching Strategies

The teaching strategies involve lectures and tutorials. The tutorials are designed to foster individual problem solving skills and engagement in collaborative teamwork.

5. Course Assessment

Assessment Task	Length	Weight	Learning Outcomes Assessed	Graduate Attributes Assessed	Due Date
4 tutorial quizzes	20 minutes each	5% each, 20% altogether	1,2,3	1,2,3	See schedule below
Class test	90 minutes	35%	1,2,3	1,2,3	Lecture time, Friday 26 th September
Take-home problem set	Short essay and exercises	45%	1,2,3	1,2,3	Week 14, Friday 7 th November

Please Note: In addition to fulfilling the above assessment requirements, students are expected to attend at least 80% of their lectures and tutorials in order to pass the course.

Formal Examination

There is no formal examination at the end of this course.

Grades

All results are reviewed at the end of each semester and may be adjusted to ensure equitable marking across the School.

The proportion of marks lying in each grading range is determined not by any formula or quota system, but by the way that students respond to assessment tasks and how well they meet the objectives of the course. Nevertheless, since higher grades imply performance that is well above average, the number of distinctions and high distinctions awarded in a typical course is relatively small. At the other extreme, on average 6.1% of students do not meet minimum standards and a little more (8.6%) in first year courses. For more information on the grading categories see <https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/academiclife/assessment/GuideToUNSWGrades.html>

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Assignments which are submitted to the School Assignment Box must have a properly completed School Assessment Coversheet, with the declaration signed and dated by hand. The Coversheet can be downloaded from

<https://hal.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/courses/course-outlines/>. It is your responsibility to make a backup copy of the assignment prior to submission and retain it.

Assignments must be submitted before 4:00pm on the due date. Assignments received after this time will be marked as having been received late.

Late Submission of Assignments

Late assignments will attract a penalty. Of the total mark, 3% will be deducted each day for the first week, with Saturday and Sunday counting as two days, and 10% each week thereafter.

The penalty may not apply where students are able to provide documentary evidence of illness or serious misadventure. Time pressure resulting from undertaking assignments for other courses does not constitute an acceptable excuse for lateness.

6. Attendance/Class Clash

Attendance

Students are expected to be regular and punctual in attendance at all classes in the courses in which they are enrolled. Explanations of absences from classes or requests for permission to be absent from classes should be discussed with the teacher and where applicable accompanied by a medical certificate. If students attend less than 80% of their possible classes they may be refused final assessment.

Students who falsify their attendance or falsify attendance on behalf of another student will be dealt with under the student misconduct policy.

Class Clash

A student who is approved a permissible clash must fulfil the following requirements:

- a. The student must provide the Course Convenor with copies of lecture notes from those lectures missed on a regular basis as agreed by the Course Convenor and the student.
- b. If a student does attend a lecture for which they had secured a permitted clash they will still submit lecture notes as evidence of attendance.
- c. **Failure to meet these requirements is regarded as unsatisfactory performance in the course and a failure to meet the Faculty's course attendance requirement. Accordingly, Course Convenors will fail students who do not meet this performance/attendance requirement.**
- d. Students must attend the clashed lecture on a specific date if that lecture contains an assessment task for the course such as a quiz or test. Inability to meet this requirement would be grounds for a Course Convenor refusing the application. If the student misses the said lecture there is no obligation on the Course Convenor to schedule a make-up quiz or test and the student can receive zero for the assessment task. It should be noted that in many courses a failure to complete an assessment task can be grounds for course failure.

7. Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's thoughts or work as your own. It can take many forms, from not having appropriate academic referencing to deliberate cheating.

In many cases plagiarism is the result of inexperience about academic conventions. The University has resources and information to assist you to avoid plagiarism.

The Learning Centre assists students with understanding academic integrity and how to not plagiarise. Information is available on their website: <http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism/>. They also hold workshops and can help students one-on-one.

If plagiarism is found in your work when you are in first year, your lecturer will offer you assistance to improve your academic skills. They may ask you to look at some online resources, attend the Learning Centre, or sometimes resubmit your work with the problem fixed. However, more serious instances in first year, such as stealing another student's work or paying someone to do your work, may be investigated under the Student Misconduct Procedures.

Repeated plagiarism (even in first year), plagiarism after first year, or serious instances, may also be investigated under the Student Misconduct Procedures. The penalties under the procedures can include a reduction in marks, failing a course or for the most serious matters (like plagiarism in an Honours thesis) or even suspension from the university. The Student Misconduct Procedures are available here:

<http://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/studentmisconductprocedures.pdf>

8. Course Schedule

Week Commencing:	Lecture Topic/content	Tutorial/Lab Content	Readings
Week 1 Mon 28 July	1. Introduction; Brain	For contents of all tutorials see separate list , to be uploaded in Week1	Textbook Ch 1-2
Week 2 Mon 4 August	2. Language Acquisition	Tutorial 1	Ch 8
Week 3 Mon 11 August	3. Language Acquisition	Tutorial 2	Ch 9
Week 4 Mon 18 August	4. Language in Use	Tutorial 3, Quiz 1 based on lectures 1 and 2 and relevant tutorials	Ch 10
Week 5 Mon 25 August	5. Language in Use	Tutorial 4	Ch 10
Week 6 Mon 1 September	6. Language in Use	Tutorial 5 Quiz 2 based on weeks 3 and 4	Ch 10
Week 7 Mon 8 September	7. Language in Use	Tutorial 6	Ch 10
Week 8 Mon 15 September	8. Historical Linguistics: History of English	Tutorial 7 Quiz 3 based on weeks 5 and 6	Ch 11 and material provided
Week 9 Mon 22 September	9. In-Class test covering material from weeks 1-7	Tutorial 8	Ch 11 and material provided

MID-SEMESTER BREAK Week beginning 29 September			
Week 10 Mon 6 October	10. Historical Linguistics – Universals and Typology	Monday is a long weekend. Thursday tutorials are voluntary and will do revision	Ch 11
Week 11 Mon 13 October	11. Historical linguistics	Tutorial 10-11	Ch 11
Week 12 Mon 20 October	12. Writing Systems	Tutorial 11 Quiz 4 based on weeks 8 and 10	Ch 12
Week 13 Mon 27 October	No lecture. Tutorials only	Tutorial 12	Ch 12 and revision

9. Course Resources

Textbook Details

Fromkin, V. et al, 2012. An Introduction to Language. (7th, Australian Edition). Cengage

Additional Readings

Finegan, E. et al, (1997) Language: Its Structure and Use. (2nd Australian Edition). Harcourt Brace.

Websites

An encyclopaedic reference work cataloguing all the world's 6,912 known living languages <http://www.ethnologue.com>
The World Atlas of Language Structure Online <http://wals.info/>

10. Course Evaluation and Development

Courses are periodically reviewed and students' feedback is used to improve them. Feedback is gathered using various means including UNSW's Course and Teaching Evaluation and Improvement (CATEI) process.

11. Student Support

The Learning Centre is available for individual consultation and workshops on academic skills. Find out more by visiting the Centre's website at: <http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au>

12. Grievances

All students should be treated fairly in the course of their studies at UNSW. Students who feel they have not been dealt with fairly should, in the first instance, attempt to resolve any issues with their tutor or the course convenors.

If such an approach fails to resolve the matter, the School of Humanities and Languages has an academic member of staff who acts as a Grievance Officer for the School. This staff member is identified on the notice board in the School of Humanities and languages. Further information about UNSW grievance procedures is available at:

<https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/Complaints.html>

13. Other Information

myUNSW

myUNSW is the online access point for UNSW services and information, integrating online services for applicants, commencing and current students and UNSW staff. To visit myUNSW please visit either of the below links:

<https://my.unsw.edu.au>

<https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/ABC.html>

OHS

UNSW's Occupational Health and Safety Policy requires each person to work safely and responsibly, in order to avoid personal injury and to protect the safety of others. For all matters relating to Occupational Health, Safety and environment, see

<http://www.ohs.unsw.edu.au/>

Special Consideration

In cases where illness or other circumstances produce repeated or sustained absence, students should apply for Special Consideration as soon as possible.

The application must be made via Online Services in myUNSW. Log into myUNSW and go to My Student Profile tab > My Student Services channel > Online Services > Special Consideration.

Applications on the grounds of illness must be filled in by a medical practitioner. Further information is available at:

<https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/SpecialConsideration.html>

Student Equity and Disabilities Unit

Students who have a disability that requires some adjustment in their learning and teaching environment are encouraged to discuss their study needs with the course convener prior to or at the commencement of the course, or with the Student Equity Officers (Disability) in the Student Equity and Disabilities Unit (9385 4734). Information for students with disabilities is available at: <http://www.studentequity.unsw.edu.au>

Issues that can be discussed may include access to materials, signers or note-takers, the provision of services and additional examination and assessment arrangements. Early notification is essential to enable any necessary adjustments to be made.