

EPHUMA 149: Language in Society

Online

Semester 1 - 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

The Pathways and Academic Learning Support Centre recognises and respects the unique history and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their unbroken relationship with the lands and the waters of Australia over millennia. We are dedicated to reconciliation and to offering opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to access and succeed in higher education. The Centre is committed to providing a culturally safe and inclusive environment for all.

OVERVIEW

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the study of language in relation to society, known as sociolinguistics. Studying sociolinguistics, and more specifically the use of language in its social context, allows students to have a proper understanding of the social role of language.

Local and global perspectives are taken in this course, as we explore how language differs between speakers separated by social variables including social status, ethnicity, gender, and age. Furthermore, we will be exploring how language is used as a marker of social identity and often utilised as a tool of social power.

Another aim of this course is to equip students with language awareness skills in multilingual societies and the application of these skills in everyday life. Some of the methods used include case studies from different communities around the world, which demonstrate how social relationships are established between these communities.

Students are encouraged to engage in objective analysis of various aspects of the social role of language. The main aim is to provide them with an opportunity to develop critical skills necessary for undergraduate study through the embedded teaching of academic literacies.

Academic Progress Requirements

Nil

Requisites

If you have successfully completed EPHUMA311 you cannot enrol in this course.

Contact Hours

Self-Directed Learning

Self-Directed

2 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting Week 1

Self-Directed learning is equivalent to face-to-face contact hours. It involves engagement with course materials that are delivered at a time that suits you via short videos, course notes, podcasts, readings and other activities.

Tutorial

Online

1 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting Week 1

Unit Weighting

10

Workload

Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

COURSE OUTLINE

www.newcastle.edu.au
CRICOS Provider 00109J

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator	Dr Jaime Hunt Jaime.Hunt@newcastle.edu.au 02 4921 6885 Consultation: Please email to schedule an appointment.	
Teaching Staff	Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.	
School Office	Callaghan Ground Floor, General Purpose Building (GP) Ph: 02 4921 5558 enabling@newcastle.edu.au	Ourimbah HO 168, Humanities Building Ph: 02 4348 4076 enabling@newcastle.edu.au

SYLLABUS

Course Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social factors influencing why we say the same thing in different ways• How language varies across different geographical regions and social strata• How language is used differently for different purposes• Language choice, shift, and maintenance in Indigenous, multilingual, and multicultural communities• The role of language in constructs of gender, sexuality, and sexism• Standard and vernacular languages• Attitudes towards language variation and change• The results of contact between different language groups
Course Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Explain how social factors, including gender, age, regional and cultural background, social status, and attitude influence language choice and language style.2. Demonstrate awareness of language variation, shift, and maintenance among Indigenous and multilingual communities in local and global contexts.3. Accurately utilise and demonstrate an understanding of sociolinguistic terminology, concepts, and methodology.4. Demonstrate an appropriate level of academic literacies for tertiary study.
Course Materials	All course materials will be provided on the course Canvas site. Students are not required to purchase a textbook.

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	26 Feb	Introduction to language in society	Introduction: how to succeed in this course	
2	4 Mar	Language variation	Introduction to language in society	
3	11 Mar	Social variation	Language variation	1. Quiz 10% Topics: Module 1 & 2
4	18 Mar	Regional variation A: General concepts	Social variation	
5	25 Mar	Regional variation B: Australian English	Regional variation	
6	1 Apr	Language and age	Mid-semester breathing space	2. Quiz 2 20% Topics: Modules 3 - 5
7	8 Apr	Language and gender	Language and age	
Recess				
Recess				
8	29 Apr	Languages in contact	Language and gender	
9	6 May	Language change	Languages in contact	3. Case Study 40% Topics: Modules 6 - 7
10	13 May	Language maintenance and shift	Language change	
11	20 May	Australian Aboriginal languages	Language maintenance and shift	
12	27 May	Revision	Revision	
13	3 Jun		No tutorial	4. Exam/In Term Test 30% Topics: Modules 8 - 11
Examination Period				
Examination Period				

ASSESSMENTS

This course has 4 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Online Quiz 1	Sunday 17 th March 11:59pm	Individual	10%	1, 3, 4
2	Online Quiz 2	Sunday 7 th April 11:59pm	Individual	20%	1, 3, 4
3	Case Study	Sunday 12 th May 11:59pm	Individual	40%	1, 3, 4
4	Exam	Sunday 9 th June 11:59pm	Individual	30%	1, 2, 3, 4

Late Submissions

The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 5% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

Assessment 1 - Online Quiz 1

Assessment Type	Quiz
Description	Online quiz, multiple choice and short answer questions. Further details provided on Canvas.
Weighting	10%
Due Date	Sunday 17 th March 11:59pm
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Correct answers
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Feedback will be provided on Canvas

Assessment 2 - Online Quiz 2

Assessment Type	Quiz
Description	Online quiz, short answer questions. Further details provided on Canvas.
Weighting	20%
Due Date	Sunday 7 th April 11:59pm
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Correct answers
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Feedback will be provided on Canvas

Assessment 3 - Case Study

Assessment Type	Case Study / Problem Based Learning
Description	Written assessment, 700 words. Further details provided on Canvas.
Weighting	40%
Due Date	Sunday 12 th May 11:59pm
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Rubric will be provided on Canvas
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Feedback will be provided on Canvas

Assessment 4 - Exam

Assessment Type	In Term Test
Description	Short answer questions. Further details provided on Canvas.
Weighting	30%
Due Date	Sunday 9 th June 11:59pm
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Correct answers
Return Method	This assessment will not be returned
Feedback Provided	Feedback will not be provided for this assessment

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

Communication Methods

Email is the principal form of communication at the university and within this course. Always use your student email (NUmail), rather than a private email address, and check this regularly. As Course Coordinator I will try to respond to your email within three (3) working days. I will not normally respond to emails over the weekends. Please be courteous in your email communication and in the online space.

Canvas is used to distribute course material, announcements and other information. It is also used for online quizzes and to allow students to track their individual progressive assessment results throughout the semester via Grades.

Discussions forums in Canvas can be used to ask questions about minor issues. Students are strongly encouraged to use these to communicate with each other, discuss issues relating to the course, and solve minor problems.

Attendance and Engagement

In addition to face-to-face hours in class, out-of-class study and related work will require an additional commitment of up to 10 hours per week of reading, preparation, and study time over the semester. Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact hours including assessment) per semester per 10 unit course.

To maximise your learning opportunities, you should read all relevant material prior to attending class.

It is strongly recommended that you attend your classes every week. Our data shows that you will get better results if you attend class with your peers. If you do have to miss a class, you should catch up on any missed work by accessing lecture recordings if you are enrolled face-to-face. While online tutorials are recorded, on-campus tutorials are not, so you should view other resources available on your Canvas site and contact your course coordinator if you would like advice on how to best catch up on any material that was missed. **If you are unable to attend classes regularly you should reach out to your course coordinator as soon as possible to discuss ways that you can continue to engage with the learning material.**

A plan of regular revision throughout the semester is also strongly recommended to help you manage your time, consolidate information and retain that knowledge for the duration of

the course and beyond.

Assessment items have been designed to reinforce and revise the course material, and ensure you are up to date with course content. You are required to submit all assessable items by the due dates unless prior arrangements have been made.

Additional Contact Details

If you have any questions about your course, please speak with your course coordinator, lecturer or tutor first. For general enquiries, please contact the Pathways and Academic Learning Support Centre Office or your Student Liaison Officer. Contact details for both the office and Student Liaison Officers can be found [here](#).

Yapug students can also contact your Indigenous Enabling Learning Advisor [Hannah Pipe](#) or your Program Convenor [Dan Collins](#).

Adverse Circumstances

The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for Adverse Circumstances must be lodged via the online Adverse Circumstances system for all individual assessment items worth 30% or greater **by 11:00pm on the day the assessment is due**. For assessment items less than 30%, you will need to contact your Course Coordinator by 11:00pm on the due date of the assessment item.

Before applying you must refer to the [Adverse Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Procedure](#) and the [Adverse Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Policy](#).

Please note that students must submit their adverse circumstances application via the online Adverse Circumstances system by 11:00pm on the due date of the assessment item, even if you are using a [Reasonable Adjustment Plan \(RAP\)](#) as your supporting documentation.

Written Assessment Word Limits

If this course includes written assessments, the word limit listed will include headings, sub-heading, in-text citations, quotes and referencing but does not include the list of references, appendices and footnotes. You will not receive a penalty for exceeding the word limit (there is a tolerance of up to 10%), but any work after the maximum word limit may not be included within the allocation of marks.

Academic Misconduct

All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. Please refer to the [Student Academic Integrity Policy](#).

Oral Interviews (Vivas)

As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the [Oral Examination \(viva\) Procedure](#). In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the [Student Conduct Rule](#).

Workplace Health and Safety Requirements

There are no specific WH&S requirements for this course.

Software

Free Microsoft Office software is available to enrolled students [here](#) and includes 5 TB of free cloud storage with OneDrive.

Timetable

Your timetable for this course is available via the myUni Student Portal and can also be found [here](#).

Course Evaluation

Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.

Important Policy Information

The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the [policies](#)

[and procedures](#) that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

This course outline was approved by the Director, PALS. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Director approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.
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