

LING1111: How Languages Work: Linguistics and the Structure of Language

Callaghan

Semester 1 - 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

The School of Humanities, Creative Industries and Social Sciences is committed to providing an inclusive environment in which all cultures are accorded respect and all students and staff are expected to act with honesty, fairness, trustworthiness and accountability in dealings with others. The School recognizes and respects the unique histories and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their unbroken relationship with the lands and the waters of Australia over millennia, and the validity of Aboriginal ways of knowing. We are dedicated to reconciliation and to offering opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to access and succeed in higher education.

OVERVIEW

Course Description	This unit introduces students to the study of language, and what language reveals about the nature of human beings and human behaviour. It introduces the basic theoretical concepts in the structural and social analysis of language. It presents the different levels of structural analysis of language. It examines language acquisition, and geographical and social variation in language.
Academic Progress Requirements	Nil
Requisites	This course replaces LING1001. If you have successfully completed LING1001 you cannot enrol in this course.
Contact Hours	Callaghan Lecture Face to Face On Campus 2 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting Week 1 Tutorial Face to Face On Campus 1 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting Week 2
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

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator	Callaghan Prof Bill Palmer Bill.Palmer@newcastle.edu.au (02) 4921 5157 Consultation: Email me to set up a time to meet, face to face or by zoom.
Teaching Staff	Other teaching staff will be identified on the course Canvas site.
School Office	School of Humanities Creative Industries and Social Sciences Social Sciences Building Callaghan HCISS@newcastle.edu.au +61 4985 4500

SYLLABUS

Course Content	Topics to be covered in this course include: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The nature of language as a human communication system; linguistics as a discipline.2. Making speech sounds: Basic principles of phonetics.3. Sound systems of language: Basic principles of phonology.4. Parts of speech: Nouns, verbs, and other classes of words.5. Building words: Basic principles of morphology.6. Building sentences: Basic principles of syntax.7. Language acquisition: How children acquire their first language.8. Language in society: Social variation in language use; 'standard' and 'non-standard' varieties of English, contexts of language usage
Course Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this course, students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Discuss the nature of language as the human communication system.2. Describe the different structural levels of language.3. Apply the basic principles for the analysis of the different structural levels of language.4. Discuss the range of synchronic variation in language.5. Describe basic principles for the analysis of variation.
Course Materials	Lecture Materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Lectures will be recorded and made available on the Canvas site. Required Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The recommended textbook for this course is available from The School Locker in the Shortland Building: Burridge, Kate & Stebbins, Tonya N. 2019. <i>For the Love of Language: An introduction to Linguistics</i>. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. An additional reading is recommended for week 11. This will be posted on the Canvas site: Eades, D. 2013. <i>Aboriginal ways of using English</i>. Canberra: Aboriginal Studies Press. Ch 5: Aboriginal English. Other Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- There is a Course Workbook which is available on the course Canvas site. It is

essential that students print this out and bring it to each tutorial, or have the pdf available to access on your device, as the exercises that we work on in tutorials are all contained in the Course Workbook.

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Lecture	Tutorial	Readings	Assessment Due
1	26 Feb	What is language? What is linguistics?	No tutorial	Burridge & Stebbins Ch 1 & Ch 2	
2	4 Mar	Building words	Word formation	Burridge & Stebbins Ch 4 & Ch 5	
3	11 Mar	Verbs & their friends	Word classes	Burridge & Stebbins Ch 4 & Ch 5	
4	18 Mar	Nouns & their friends	Word classes	Burridge & Stebbins Ch 4 & Ch 5	
5	25 Mar	Speech sounds: making vowels	Phonetics	Burridge & Stebbins Ch 7	Written Assignment 1 Morphology 23.00 Sunday, 31/3
6	1 Apr	Speech sounds: making consonants	Phonetics	Burridge & Stebbins Ch 7	
7	8 Apr	Sounds at work in languages	Phonology	Burridge & Stebbins Ch 8	Written Assignment 2 Phonetics 23.00 Sunday, 14/4
Mid-Semester Recess					
Mid-Semester Recess					
8	29 Apr	Changing sounds	Phonology	Burridge & Stebbins Ch 8	
9	6 May	Building sentences	Syntax	Burridge & Stebbins Ch 9	Written Assignment 3 Phonology 23.00 Sunday, 12/5
10	13 May	Regional variation	Regional variation	Burridge & Stebbins Ch 10	
11	20 May	Social variation	Social variation	Burridge & Stebbins Ch 15 Eades 2013 Ch 5	
12	27 May	Learning to use language: child language acquisition	Exam revision	Burridge & Stebbins Ch 17	
13	3 Jun	(Self-directed study)	(Self-directed exam preparation)	Reading catchup if needed	Case Study 23.00 Sunday, 9/6
Examination Period					
Examination Period					

ASSESSMENTS

This course has 3 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Written Assignments Assignment 1 Assignment 2 Assignment 3	23.00 Sunday, 31 March 23.00 Sunday, 14 April 23.00 Sunday, 12 May	Individual	30%	1, 2, 3
2	Formal Exam - closed book examination	The exam will be held during the formal examination period, 10-21 June. See formal exam schedule	Individual	35%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3	Case Study	23.00 Sunday, 9 June	Individual	35%	4, 5

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 10% 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 - Written Assignments

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Description	Combination of problem solving and short answers: Assignment 1 - Morphology Assignment 2 - Phonetics Assignment 3 - Phonology
Length	Each assignment is the equivalent of 500 words.
Weighting	30%
Due Date	Assignment 1: 23.00 Sunday, 31 March Assignment 2: 23.00 Sunday, 14 April Assignment 3: 23.00 Sunday, 12 May
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	All assessment is to be handed in via Canvas. There is NO hardcopy submission.
Return Method	A rubric listing assessment and marking criteria will be provided on Canvas.
Feedback Provided	Online Online - Feedback will be provided within 2 weeks of submission date.

Assessment 2 - Formal Exam - closed book examination

Assessment Type	Formal Examination
Description	Closed book examination. Combination of multiple choice, short answers, problem solving.
Length	Examination Duration: 130 minutes
Weighting	35%
Due Date	The exam will be held during the formal examination period, 10-21 June.
Submission Method	Formal Exam
Assessment Criteria	A rubric listing assessment and marking criteria will be provided on Canvas.
Return Method	Not Returned
Feedback Provided	No Feedback

Assessment 3 - Case Study

Assessment Type	Case Study / Problem Based Learning
Description	A sociolinguistic case study that involves you reflecting on your own language use. Further details will be provided on Canvas later in the semester.
Weighting	35%
Length	1500 words
Due Date	23.00 Sunday, 9 June
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	All assessment is to be handed in via Canvas. There is NO hardcopy submission. A rubric listing assessment and marking criteria will be provided on Canvas.

Return Method Online
Feedback Provided Online - Feedback is provided within 3 weeks of submission date.

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.

*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

Communication Methods

Communication methods used in this course include:

- Canvas Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the Canvas course site.
- Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account.

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.

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](#).

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. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to <https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35>.

**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 special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:

1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or
2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system;
3. you are requesting a change of placement; or
4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.

Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at:

<https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236>

**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 at <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/respect-at-uni/policies-and-procedures> that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School 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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