LING2001: Indigenous languages of Australia & the Pacific

Callaghan

Semester 1 - 2024

THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

COURSE OUTLINE

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 course explores the indigenous languages, language families, and language types found in Australia, New Guinea, island southeast Asia and the Pacific. It introduces the basic principles of linguistic typology, using languages of the Australia-Pacific region to illustrate general typological phenomena, and explores the structural nature of the languages of the Australia-Pacific region. Students will learn and practise methods of typological analysis.

Academic Progress Requirements   Nil

Requisites   This course replaces LING3430. If you have successfully completed LING3430 you cannot enrol in this course.

Assumed Knowledge   LING1111 and LING1112

Contact Hours   **Callaghan**
Seminar
Face to Face On Campus
2 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.

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 advised 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

The course explores the indigenous languages of Australia, New Guinea, island southeast Asia and the Pacific. Topics include:
- Phylogenetic and geographic distribution of the Australian, Austronesian and Papuan language families
- Word order typology, including clause order, genitive noun order, and right-headed vs left-headed typology
- Noun typology, including noun classes and nominal classification systems, and possession
- The typology of tense, aspect, modality and evidentiality
- The typological characteristics of Australian Aboriginal languages
- The typological characteristics of Austronesian languages
- The typological characteristics of Papuan languages
- Case studies of one Australian, one Austronesian, and one Papuan language
- Language endangerment in Australia and the Pacific
- Linguistic fieldwork and documentation practice in Australia and the Pacific

Course Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Describe the distribution of the indigenous language families and language types of Australia and the Pacific region.

2. Describe the key concepts and principles of linguistic typology.

3. Describe the main typological characteristics of the indigenous language types of Australia and the Pacific region.

4. Apply principles of typological analysis

Course Materials

Recommended reading:

Readings for each week are given in the course schedule. Recommended weekly readings will be available in course reserves or as ebooks through the library catalogue, and/or will be posted on the course Canvas website. See Canvas site for details of weekly recommended readings.

Further reading:

Supplementary readings are recommended for each week. Details of these further readings are listed on the course Canvas site.

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Readings	Assessment Due
1	26 Feb	Overview of Australian, Austronesian & Papuan languages; Introduction to linguistic typology	Lynch 1998 Ch2. (pp23-44)	
2	4 Mar	Word order; Head-initial vs head-final typology	Song 2001 Ch.1 (pp1-48); Song 2011 (Ch.13 pp253-279)	
3	11 Mar	Nominal issues: Noun classes & nominal classification systems; Possession	Dixon 1986 (pp105-112); Dryer 2007 §2.1 (pp177-191)	
4	18 Mar	Verbal issues: Tense, aspect, modality & evidentiality	de Haan 2011 (Ch.20 pp444-464)	Assig 1: Word order and headedness typology - due 11pm Sunday 24 March
5	25 Mar	Australian Indigenous languages: overview	Koch & Nordlinger 2014 (Ch.1, pp3-22); Koch 2014 (Ch.2 sections 4-5, pp55-76)	
6	1 Apr	Australian Indigenous languages: case study 1	Koch 2007 (pp23-56)	
7	8 Apr	Australian Indigenous languages: case study 2	TBA	Assig 2: Australian typological features - due 11pm Sunday 14 April
Mid-Semester Recess				
Mid-Semester Recess				
8	29 Apr	Austronesian languages: overview	Adelaar 2005 (pp1-42)	
9	6 May	Austronesian languages: case study (Fijian)	Lynch Ross & Crowley 2002 Ch.1 (pp1-21); Lynch Ross & Crowley 2002 Ch.3 (pp34-53)	
10	13 May	Papuan languages: overview	Palmer 2018 (pp1-19)	
11	20 May	Papuan languages: case study (Yimas)	Foley 2018 (pp895-937)	
12	27 May	Investigating languages of Australia & the Pacific: Language endangerment and language death; Documenting languages; Linguistic fieldwork	UNESCO Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Endangered Languages 2003; Epps 2011; Marmion et al. 2014 (pp5-18)	Assig 3: Sociolinguistic context - due 11pm Sunday 2 June
13	3 Jun	No class		
Examination Period				Research report/essay - due 11pm Sunday 15 June
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	Research Project Report / Essay	11pm Sunday 15 June	Individual	40%	1, 2, 3, 4
2	Oral Presentation of Research Proposal	Presentations are made in a week of your choice, agreed by the lecturer. Some class time each week will be available for up to 2 presentations. Contact the lecturer to nominate a date for your talk. Dates are allocated on a first come first serve basis.	Individual	15%	1, 2, 3, 4
3	Written Assignments (x3)	Assignment 1: Word order and headedness typology - due 11pm Sunday 24 March
Assignment 2: Australian typological features - due 11pm Sunday 14 April
Assignment 3: Sociolinguistic context - due 11pm Sunday 2 June	Individual	45% (3x15%)	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 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 - Research Project Report / Essay

Assessment Type   Report
Description   The main assessment item for this course is a research project report or essay. Topics will be posted on Canvas early in the semester.
Weighting   40%
Length   2500 words
Due Date   11pm Sunday 15 June
Submission Method   Online
Assessment Criteria   The work will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:
- A thorough understanding of the chosen topic (15 marks)
- A well-argued approach to the topic using linguistic analysis (15 marks)
- Clarity and precision of expression and presentation (5 points)
- Referencing (5 marks)
Return Method   Online
Feedback Provided   Online

Assessment 2 - Oral Presentation of Research Proposal

Assessment Type   Presentation
Description   The in-class presentation is a 10 minute talk on the topic you have chosen for your research report/essay, followed by a few minutes during which you will answer questions from the class. The talk should summarize the topic you have chosen for your project, and discuss why you have chosen it, what your preliminary research findings are, and why these findings are interesting. This is not meant to be an intimidating process, just a general discussion of the topic you are doing your project on. Your presentation is an opportunity to get feedback on the direction you are taking, that will help you produce a high quality final piece of work.
You are expected to present your seminar as a powerpoint presentation. In addition to the oral presentation, you are required to submit your powerpoint slides through blackboard no later than the day of your presentation.
Weighting   15%
Length   10 minutes

Due Date	Presentations are made in a week of your choice, agreed by the lecturer. Some class time each week will be available for up to 2 presentations. Contact the lecturer to nominate a date for your talk. Dates are allocated on a first come first serve basis.
Submission Method	In Class Online In addition to the oral presentation in class, you are required to submit your powerpoint slides through blackboard no later than 11pm on the day of your presentation.
Assessment Criteria	Presentations will be assessed on the basis of their coverage of the topic, accuracy, clarity of presentation, and clarity of structure.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	In Class

Assessment 3 - Written Assignments (x3)

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Description	Each assignment deals with one or more specific topic covered in the lectures and takes the form of a data set to be analyzed. Each assignment is worth 15% of the total course mark.
Weighting	45% (3x15%)
Length	1500 words (500 words per assignment)
Due Date	Assignment 1: Word order and headedness typology - due 11pm Sunday 24 March Assignment 2: Australian typological features - due 11pm Sunday 14 April Assignment 3: Sociolinguistic context - due 11pm Sunday 2 June
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Each assignment will be marked in accordance with the distribution of marks shown against each question in each assignment, on the basis of the thoroughness of each answer.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online

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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