

## LING6910: Foundation of Linguistics

Callaghan and Online  
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 recognises 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

<b>Course Description</b>	The course provides foundational knowledge in theoretical and methodological principles of linguistics, as well as the linguistic basis of translation and language teaching. Students are introduced to the study of the organisation of information within linguistic systems and to the study of language acquisition and language use. In addition, the ways in which languages differ and the range of such variation are covered.
<b>Academic Progress Requirements</b>	Nil
<b>Contact Hours</b>	<b>Callaghan Lecture</b> Face to Face On Campus 2 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s)  <b>Online Lecture</b> Online 2 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s)
<b>Unit Weighting</b>	10
<b>Workload</b>	Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

# COURSE OUTLINE

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# CONTACTS

<b>Course Coordinator</b>	<b>Callaghan and Online</b> Dr Jayden Macklin-Cordes <a href="mailto:Jayden.Macklin-Cordes@newcastle.edu.au">Jayden.Macklin-Cordes@newcastle.edu.au</a> (02) 4055 0755 Consultation: Wednesdays, 15:00–16:00 (subject to change — see Canvas).
<b>Teaching Staff</b>	Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.
<b>School Office</b>	<b>School of Humanities Creative Industries and Social Sciences</b> Social Sciences Building Callaghan <a href="mailto:HCISS@newcastle.edu.au">HCISS@newcastle.edu.au</a> +61 4985 4500

# SYLLABUS

<b>Course Content</b>	Topics to be covered include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the nature of language as a human communication system</li><li>• the nature of meaning: what words mean; what sentences mean; what speakers mean</li><li>• comparative grammar, semantics, and pragmatics</li><li>• stages in the development of child language</li><li>• competing theories of language learning</li><li>• the influence of social and cultural factors on language use</li><li>• linguistics and language acquisition</li><li>• linguistics and translation</li></ul>
<b>Course Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Describe the nature of language as a human communication system;</li><li>2. Recognise the basic principles of semantics and pragmatics as applied to English and other languages;</li><li>3. Explain the acquisition of language by children and adults;</li><li>4. Debate the influence of social and cultural factors on language use, including pragmatics;</li><li>5. Compare the grammatical and semantic systems of different languages.</li><li>6. Apply your knowledge of the research process to contribute to a research project</li></ol>
<b>Course Materials</b>	<b>Lecture Materials:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Lecture notes will be made available via Canvas preceding the lecture. Lectures will be recorded and made available via Panopto on the Canvas site.</li></ul> <b>Other Resources:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- There is no prescribed textbook for this course. Relevant materials will be provided on the Canvas course site.</li></ul>

# SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Assessment Due
1	26 Feb	What is language? What is linguistics?	
2	4 Mar	Word classes: Nouns and their friends	
3	11 Mar	Word classes: Verbs and their friends	
4	18 Mar	Grammar: Subjects, objects and other participants	
5	25 Mar	Grammar: Building phrases and sentences	
6	1 Apr	No class (Easter Monday)	
7	8 Apr	Morphology: Building words	
<b>Mid-Semester Recess</b>			
<b>Mid-Semester Recess</b>			
8	29 Apr	The sounds of language: Phonetics, phonology and prosody	Assignment: Due 23:59, Friday, 3 May 2024
9	6 May	Semantics: How words relate to each other in meaning	
10	13 May	Semantics: Metaphors, entailment and presupposition	
11	20 May	Pragmatics: Doing things with language — speech acts and the Cooperative Principle	
12	27 May	Pragmatics: Social and cultural factors in language use	
13	3 Jun	Learning languages: Child language acquisition and adult language learning	Case study: Due 23:59, Friday, 7 June 2024  Research participation: Due 23:59, Friday, 7 June 2024
<b>Examination Period</b>			In-term test to take place during examination period – date to be advised.
<b>Examination Period</b>			

# 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	Written Assignment 1	23:59, Friday, 3 May 2024	Individual	40%	1, 2, 3, 4
2	Case Study	23:59, Friday, 7 June 2024	Individual	20%	1, 4, 5
3	In Term Test	This test will take place during the formal examination period – date to be advised.	Individual	35%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
4	Research Participation	23:59, Friday, 7 June 2024	Individual	5%	6

## 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 Assignment 1

### Assessment Type Description

Written Assignment  
This assignment is about word classes, morphology, and the grammar of phrases and sentences. It will consist of short answer questions and problem sets.

### Weighting Length

40%  
Equivalent to 1000 words

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<b>Due Date</b>	23:59, Friday, 3 May 2024
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	All questions and problem sets are marked according to objective criteria specific to the question or data set to be analysed
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online

## Assessment 2 - Case Study

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Case Study / Problem Based Learning
<b>Description</b>	A case study involving pragmatic and semantic analysis.
<b>Weighting</b>	20%
<b>Length</b>	Equivalent to 500 words
<b>Due Date</b>	23:59, Friday, 7 June 2024
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	All questions and problem sets are marked according to objective criteria provided on the course website specific to the question or data set to be analysed.
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online

## Assessment 3 - In Term Test

<b>Assessment Type</b>	In Term Test
<b>Description</b>	The in-term test will cover all the subject matter of the course. It will be an open book exam and will be conducted electronically.
<b>Weighting</b>	35%
<b>Length</b>	Equivalent to 1000 words.
<b>Due Date</b>	This test will take place during the formal examination period – date to be advised.
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	All questions and problem sets are marked according to objective criteria provided on the course website specific to the question or data set to be analysed.
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online

## Assessment 4 - Research Participation

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Participation
<b>Description</b>	Choose between three options: 1) Choose from list of available research projects, participate as a study participant, submit a Research Participation Report. 2) Choose from list of available research tasks, complete the research task, submit a Research Task Report. 3) Choose a talk from the list of talks for the Linguistics Seminar Series, attend talk and submit a Talk Summary. Available research projects, tasks and talks will be listed on Canvas by the end of week 2 of semester.
<b>Weighting</b>	5%
<b>Length</b>	1 hour (approx.)
<b>Due Date</b>	23:59, Friday, 7 June 2024
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Research participation/task completion/seminar attendance will be verified via submission of a Research Participation Report, Research Task Report, or Talk Summary (see assessment description). Once participation/task completion/seminar attendance has been verified, 5% credit will be awarded.
<b>Return Method</b>	Not returned
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	No feedback

# 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).

## Attendance

Attendance/participation will be recorded in the following components:

- Lecture (Attendance is expected. Roll called.)

## 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.
- Face to Face: Communication will be provided via face to face meetings or supervision.

Most contact will be via the course Canvas site and through in-class announcements. Students should monitor the Canvas site, particularly the course announcements. Some information will be communicated via email postings.

## 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>.

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**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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