LING6910 Foundations of Linguistics: Semester 1, 2006

Course Co-ordinator: Associate Professor Peter Peterson
Room: MC126
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Course Overview
The course provides foundation knowledge in theoretical and methodological principles of linguistics. Students are introduced to the study of the organisation of information within linguistic systems and to the study of language acquisition and language use.

Contact Hours
Lecture for 2 Hours per Week for 13 Weeks (or equivalent by distance mode)

Callaghan Campus Timetable
LING6910
FOUNDATIONS OF LINGUISTICS
Course also offered by Distance Education. Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science
Semester 2 - 2006
Lecture Thursday 13:00 - 15:00 MCG25A

Learning Materials/Texts
You will be given a set of Course Readings, which provides foundation readings in the various components of the course. You are encouraged to read more widely to broaden your knowledge of basic concepts.

Assessment Items

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Essays / Written Assignments</th>
<th>Take-home assignments (problem sets and short answer questions) 3 @ 20% (equivalent of 500 words each)</th>
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<td>Essay (2000 words) @ 40%</td>
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Course Objectives
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate understanding of:
1. the nature of language as a human communication system;
2. basic principles of semantics and pragmatics as applied to English;
3. the acquisition of language by children;
4. the influence of social factors on language use.

Course Outline Issued and Correct as at: Week 1 Semester 2 2006

CTS Download Date: 29 June 2006
Course Content
Topics to be covered include:
* the nature of language as a human communication system
* the nature of meaning: what words mean; what sentences mean; what speakers mean
* stages in the development of child language
* competing theories of language learning
* the influence of social factors on language use

Assumed Knowledge
nil

Plagiarism
University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. A student plagiarises if he or she presents the thoughts or works of another as one's own. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:

- copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;
- using another's ideas without due acknowledgment;
- working with others without permission and presenting the resulting work as though it was completed independently.

Plagiarism is not only related to written works, but also to material such as data, images, music, formulae, websites and computer programs.
Aiding another student to plagiarise is also a violation of the Plagiarism Policy and may invoke a penalty.
For further information on the University policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Student Academic Integrity at the following link -

The University has established a software plagiarism detection system called Turnitin. When you submit assessment items please be aware that for the purpose of assessing any assessment item the University may -

- Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or
- Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a plagiarism checking service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking);
- Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

Alteration of this Course Outline
No change to this course outline will be permitted after the end of the second week of the term except in exceptional circumstances and with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of any approved changes to this outline.

Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations
Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date, as advised in the Course Outline, unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension of time for submission of the item. University policy is that an assessment item submitted after the due date, without an approved extension, may be penalised.

Any student:
1. who is applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment: or
2. whose attendance at or performance in an assessment item or formal written examination has been or will be affected by medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, to the appropriate officer on the prescribed form.
Please go to the Policy and the on-line form for further information, particularly for information on the options available to you, at:
Changing your Enrolment
The last date to withdraw without financial or academic penalty (called the HECS Census Dates) is: For semester 2 courses: **31 August 2006**
Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of semester and prior to the commencement of the formal exam period. Any withdrawal from a course after the last day of semester will result in a fail grade.
Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of semester/trimester, except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of semester/trimester must be on the appropriate form, and should be discussed with the School Office.
To change your enrolment online, please refer to [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/enrolment/changingenrolment.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/enrolment/changingenrolment.html)

Contact Details
Faculty Student Service Offices
The Faculty of Education and Arts
Room: GP1-22 (General Purpose Building)
Phone: 0249 215 314

The Dean of Students
Dr Jennifer Archer
Phone: 492 15806
Fax: 492 17151
resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au

Various services are offered by the University Student Support Unit: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/studentsupport/index.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/studentsupport/index.html)

STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS
The University is committed to providing a range of support services for students with a disability or chronic illness.
If you have a disability or chronic illness which you feel may impact on your studies, please feel free to discuss your support needs with your lecturer or course coordinator.
Disability Support may also be provided by the Student Support Service (Disability). Students must be registered to receive this type of support. To register please contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 49 21 5766, or via email at: student-disability@newcastle.edu.au
As some forms of support can take a few weeks to implement it is extremely important that you discuss your needs with your lecturer, course coordinator or Student Support Service staff at the beginning of each semester.
For more information related to confidentiality and documentation please visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website at: [www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability)

STUDENTMAIL AND BLACKBOARD: [www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/](http://www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/)
This course uses Blackboard and studentmail to contact students, so you are advised to keep your email accounts within the quota to ensure you receive essential messages. To receive an expedited response to queries, if emailing staff directly use the course code in the subject line of your email. Students are advised to check their studentmail and the course Blackboard site on a weekly basis.

STUDENT COMMUNICATION
Students should discuss any course related matters with their Course Coordinator in the first instance and then the relevant Discipline or Program Convenor. If this proves unsatisfactory, they should then contact the Head of School if required. Contact details can be found on the School website.

ESSENTIAL ONLINE INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS
Information on Class and Exam Timetables, Tutorial Online Registration, Learning Support, Campus Maps, Careers information, Counselling, the Health Service and a range of free Student Support Services can be found at:
ASSESSMENT: Semester 2, 2006

Your final grade in LING6910 will be determined by your overall performance in the following pieces of work:

1. Linguistic concepts assignment 20%
2. Sociolinguistics essay 40%
3. Semantics assignment 20%
4. Language Acquisition assignment 20%

The assignments (#1, #3, #4) will be in the form of short answers to questions based on the lecture material and supplied readings. You will be given the questions approximately two weeks before the due dates listed above. If you have problems with meeting the deadline for any reason, please let me know, in advance if possible.

The topic for the essay (#2) is as follows:

Discuss some of the ways in which language use varies according to changes in the social setting, including levels of formality. Include examples drawn from your own experience, and relate your discussion to the concepts outlined in lecture notes and supplied readings.

The essay should be approximately 2000 words in length. Please refer to the policy on referencing and plagiarism contained in the LING6910 Course Notes. You may submit early drafts of your essay for guidance and feedback if you wish.

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<th>Grading guide</th>
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<td>49% or less</td>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>An unacceptable effort, including non-completion. The student has not understood the basic principles of the subject matter and/or has been unable to express their understanding in a comprehensible way. Deficient in terms of answering the question, research, referencing and correct presentation (spelling, grammar etc). May include extensive plagiarism.</td>
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<tr>
<td>50% to 64%</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>The work demonstrates a reasonable attempt to answer the question, shows some grasp of the basic principles of the subject matter and a basic knowledge of the required readings, is comprehensible, accurate and adequately referenced.</td>
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<tr>
<td>65% to 74%</td>
<td>Credit</td>
<td>The work demonstrates a clear understanding of the question, a capacity to integrate research into the discussion, and a critical appreciation of a range of different theoretical perspectives. A deficiency in any of the above may be compensated by evidence of independent thought. The work is coherent and accurate.</td>
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<tr>
<td>75% to 84%</td>
<td>Distinction</td>
<td>Evidence of substantial additional reading and/or research, and evidence of the ability to generalise from the theoretical content to develop an argument in an informed and original manner. The work is well organised, clearly expressed and shows a capacity for critical analysis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>85% upwards</td>
<td>High Distinction</td>
<td>All of the above, plus a thorough understanding of the subject matter based on substantial additional reading and/or research. The work shows a high level of independent thought, presents informed and insightful discussion of the topic, particularly the theoretical issues involved, and demonstrates a well-developed capacity for critical analysis.</td>
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Special Consideration/Extension of Time Applications

Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date. Students wishing to apply for Special Consideration or Extension of Time should contact the Course Coordinator, preferably before the due date for the assignment.
Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details

- **Type your assignments:** All work must be typewritten in 11 or 12 point black font. Leave a wide margin for marker’s comments, use 1.5 or double spacing, and include page numbers.

- **Word length:** The word limit of all assessment items should be strictly followed – 10% above or below is acceptable, otherwise penalties may apply.

- **Proof read your work** because spelling, grammatical and referencing mistakes will decrease the value of your work.

- **Keep a copy of all assignments:** All assignments are date-stamped upon receipt. However, it is the student’s responsibility to produce a copy of their work if the assignment goes astray after submission. Students are advised to keep updated back-ups in hard copy and on disk.

Submission of essay to Turnitin

In addition to the following submission requirements, students are required to submit an electronic version of the essay only to Turnitin via the course Blackboard website. Prior to final submission, all students have the opportunity to submit one draft of their essay to Turnitin to self-check their referencing.

On-campus students:

- **Staple the pages** of your assignment together (do not use pins or paper clips).

- **University coversheet:** All assignments must be submitted with the University coversheet: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/school/hss/studentguide/index.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/school/hss/studentguide/index.html)

- **Assignments are to be deposited at any Student Focus. Focus are located at:**
  - Level 3, Shortland Union, Callaghan
  - Level 2, Student Services Centre, Callaghan
  - Ground Floor, University House, City
  - Ground Floor, Administration Building, Ourimbah

  Any changes to this procedure will be announced during the semester.

Distance Students

- Assignments should preferably be emailed to the course coordinator, Associate Professor Peter Peterson at: peter.peterson@newcastle.edu.au

- Alternatively, you may post a hard copy to:

  Associate Professor Peter Peterson  
  School of Humanities and Social Sciences, MC126  
  University of Newcastle NSW 2308

- Assignments mailed to the School are accepted from the date posted.

Re-marks

Students can request to have their work re-marked by the Course Coordinator or Discipline Convenor (or their delegate); three outcomes are possible: the same grade, a lower grade, or a higher grade being awarded. Students may also appeal against their final result for a course. Please consult the University policy at:


Preferred Referencing Style

In this course, it is recommended that you use the Harvard in-text referencing system (similar to the APA system) for referencing sources of information used in assignments. Inadequate or incorrect reference to the work of others may be viewed as plagiarism and result in reduced marks or failure.

An in-text citation names the author of the source, gives the date of publication, and for a direct quote includes a page number, in parentheses. At the end of the paper, a list of references provides publication information about the source; the list is alphabetised by authors’ last names (or by titles for works without authors). Further information on referencing and general study skills can be obtained from Infoskills: [www.newcastle.edu.au/services/library/tutorials/infoskills/index.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/services/library/tutorials/infoskills/index.html)