LING6960 – Research Project

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Consultation hours: Tue 2-4 or by appointment

Course Overview
Semester: Semester 1 - 2008
Unit Weighting: 10 credit points
Teaching Methods: Lecture, Tutorial
Contact Hours: Individual supervision for 1 hour per week for the full term
Contact hours are established between lecturer and student

Brief Course Description
This course extends students’ experience with research methodology in a branch of the discipline of Linguistics. Building upon their previous development of a proposal for research (in LING6950), in this course students develop a research project. Where appropriate, and with clearance from the Faculty Research Ethics Committee, some students will be involved in data collection to support their thesis. Students present their completed work in the form of a research thesis, and seminar presentation. The major modes of delivery are individual and small group research supervision and tutorials.

Learning Materials/Texts
Individual reading in the professional literature; recommended readings as announced in class sessions and via www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au

Course Objectives
Students will be able to:
1. Comprehensively critique, at an advanced level, theoretical and methodological aspects of a particular area of linguistic research presented in the literature.
2. Define an answerable research question in a particular area of linguistic research.
3. Develop a valid and feasible research design and methodology to address the question.
4. Anticipate and plan ways to manage any ethical issues which would arise in implementing the methodology.
5. Produce an organised and coherent written and verbal presentation of the research which conforms to the stylistic standards of published research in the discipline.
Course Content

- Individual consultations with supervisors to develop further understanding of particular theoretical background and research methodology
- Seminars for small group problem solving and discussion
- Seminar presentations of students’ projects

Assessment Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other: (please specify)</td>
<td>1. Assignment 1 – 2000 words, Working draft of written project 10%, Week 9</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Seminar Presentation – 30 minutes, Verbal presentation 25%, Week 11-13</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3. Assignment 2 – 5000 words Written thesis 65%, Week 14</td>
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</table>

Assumed Knowledge

LING6910 (or equivalent)

Callaghan Campus Timetable
LING6950
RESEARCH PROJECT
Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science
Semester 1 – 2008
Seminar Monday 10:00 - 11:00 Contact School to arrange individual supervision

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 - http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000608.html

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); and/or
- submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking.

Written Assessment Items

Students may be required to provide written assessment items in electronic form as well as hard copy.

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, will 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 following the instructions provided in the Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Procedure - Policy 000641.

Note: different procedures apply for minor and major assessment tasks.

Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:

- **Requests for Special Consideration** must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the due date of submission or examination.
- **Requests for Extensions of Time on Assessment Items** must be lodged no later than the due date of the item.
- **Requests for Rescheduling Exams** must be received in the Student Hub no later than ten working days prior the first date of the examination period.

Your application may not be accepted if it is received after the deadline. Students who are unable to meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak to their Program Officer in the first instance.

### Changing your Enrolment

The last dates to withdraw without financial or academic penalty (called the HECS Census Dates) are:

For semester 1 courses: **31 March 2008**

Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of semester. 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 staff in the Student Hubs.

To check or change your enrolment online, please refer to myHub - Self Service for Students

[https://myhub.newcastle.edu.au](https://myhub.newcastle.edu.au)

### Faculty Information

The Student Hubs are a one-stop shop for the delivery of student related services and are the first point of contact for students on campus. The four Student Hubs are located at:

**Callaghan campus**
- Shortland Hub: Level 3, Shortland Union Building
- Hunter Hub: Student Services Centre, Hunter side of campus

**City Precinct**
- City Hub & Information Common: University House, ground floor in combination with an Information Common for the City Precinct

**Ourimbah campus**
- Ourimbah Hub: Administration Building

### Faculty website

Faculty of Education and Arts


### Contact details

**Callaghan, City and Port Macquarie**

Phone: 02 4921 5000

Email: EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au

**The Dean of Students**

Resolution Precinct

Phone: 02 4921 5806

Fax: 02 4921 7151

Email: resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au

**Deputy Dean of Students (Ourimbah)**

Phone: 02 4348 4123

Fax: 02 4348 4145

Email: resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au

Various services are offered by the University Student Support Unit:


### 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.

Web Address for Rules Governing Postgraduate Academic Awards

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 02 4921 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

Online Tutorial Registration:
Students are not required to enrol in the Lecture time for this course via the Online Registration system.

Studentmail and Blackboard: Refer - 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, post questions on the Blackboard discussion forum if there is one, or 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.

Important Additional Information
Details about the following topics are available on your course Blackboard site (where relevant). Refer - www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/

- Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details
- Online copy submission to Turnitin
- Penalties for Late Assignments
- Special Circumstances
- No Assignment Re-submission
- Re-marks & Moderations
- Return of Assignments
- Preferred Referencing Style
- Student Representatives
- Student Communication
- Essential Online Information for Students

Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details
Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date. Late assignments are subject to the penalties described below.

- **Keep a copy of all assignments:** 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 electronic and hard copy formats.

Online copy submission to Turnitin
In addition to hard copy submission, students are required to submit an electronic version of the following assignments to Turnitin via the course Blackboard website available @ www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/

- Assignment 1 – 2000 words, Working draft of written project 10%, due 28 April 2008
- Assignment 2 – 5000 words, Written sub-thesis 65%, due 6 June 2008
Prior to final submission, all students have the opportunity to submit one draft of their assignment to Turnitin to self-check their referencing. Assignments will not be marked until both hard copy and online versions have been submitted. Marks may be deducted for late submission of either version.

**Penalties for Late Assignments**
Assignments submitted after the due date, without an approved extension of time will be penalised by the reduction of 5% of the possible maximum mark for the assessment item for each day or part day that the item is late. Weekends count as one day in determining the penalty. Assessment items submitted more than ten days after the due date will be awarded zero marks.


**Special Circumstances**
Students wishing to apply for Special Circumstances or Extension of Time should apply online. Refer - ‘Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items - Procedure 000641’ available @ [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html)

**No Assignment Re-submission**
Students who have failed an assignment are not permitted to revise and resubmit it in this course. However, students are always welcome to contact their Tutor, Lecturer or Course Coordinator to make a consultation time to receive individual feedback on their assignments.

**Re-marks & Moderations**
A student may only request a re-mark of an assessment item before the final result - in the course to which the assessment item contributes - has been posted. If a final result in the course has been posted, the student must apply under ‘Procedures for Appeal Against a Final Result’ (Refer - [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/)).

Students concerned at the mark given for an assessment item should first discuss the matter with the Course Coordinator. If subsequently requesting a re-mark, students should be aware that as a result of a re-mark the original mark may be increased or reduced. The case for a re-mark should be outlined in writing and submitted to the Course Coordinator, who determines whether a re-mark should be granted, taking into consideration all of the following:
1. whether the student had discussed the matter with the Course Coordinator
2. the case put forward by the student for a re-mark
3. the weighting of the assessment item and its potential impact on the student’s final mark or grade
4. the time required to undertake the re-mark
5. the number of original markers, that is,
   a) whether there was a single marker, or
   b) if there was more than one marker whether there was agreement or disagreement on the marks awarded.

A re-mark may also be initiated at the request of the Course Coordinator, the Head of School, the School Assessment Committee, the Faculty Progress and Appeals Committee or the Pro Vice-Chancellor. Re-marks may be undertaken by:
1. the original marker; or
2. an alternate internal marker; or
3. an alternate external marker (usually as a consequence of a grievance procedure).

Moderation may be applied when there is a major discrepancy (or perceived discrepancy) between:
1. the content of the course as against the content or nature of the assessment item(s)
2. the content or nature of the assessment item(s) as against those set out in the Course Outline
3. the marks given by a particular examiner and those given by another in the same course
4. the results in a particular course and the results in other courses undertaken by the same students.

For further detail on this University policy refer - ‘Re-marks and Moderations - Procedure 000769’ available @ [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000769.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000769.html)

**Return of Assignments**
Arrangements for the return of marked assignments will be announced by the Course Coordinator in lectures and via the course Blackboard site. Students should **not** contact the Student Hub to collect assignments
until notified by the Course Coordinator of collection arrangements. Students must present their student identification card if collecting their assignment from the Student Hub. Refer - ‘Guide to the Assessment Policies and Procedures of the University of Newcastle - Guideline 000779’ available @ http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000779.html (section 6.8.2.viii)

Preferred Refencing Style
In this course, it is recommended that you use the 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). For further information on referencing and general study skills refer - ‘Infoskills’ available @ www.newcastle.edu.au/services/library/tutorials/infoskills/index.html

Student Representatives
Student Representatives are a major channel of communication between students and the School. Contact details of Student Representatives can be found on School websites. Refer - ‘Information for Student Representatives on Committees’ available @ http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/committees/student_reps/index.html

Student Communication
Students should discuss any course related matters with their Tutor, Lecturer, or 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 is available @ http://www.newcastle.edu.au/currentstudents/index.html

Assessment Details

1. Assignment 1 (10%), due Monday, 28 April 2008
   A 2000 word working draft for the proposed individual research project. Detailed guidelines will be given on the course Blackboard site and in individual supervision sessions.

2. Seminar Presentation (25%), due Monday, 12 May 2008
   A 30 minute professional level verbal presentation of the research that the student has carried out, to be scheduled for presentation in class on or after 12 May 2008. Distance learning students may submit a PowerPoint style presentation or a written synopsis, or may present in person if they can arrange to attend a class session.

3. Assignment 2 (65%), due Friday, 6 June 2008
   A 5000 word written sub-thesis, presenting the completed project and the research findings, in a manner that conforms to the stylistic standards of published research in the discipline.

Additional Details
While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of this information prior to printing, please note that important information regarding assessment, including possible changes and updates, will be announced by the Course Coordinator during the semester, in lectures and via the course Blackboard site.

The table on the following page summarises the marking criteria applied within the School of Humanities and Social Science.
Grading guide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Category</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fail (FF)</td>
<td>49% or less</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>Pass (P)</td>
<td>50% to 64%</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>Credit (C)</td>
<td>65% to 74%</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>Distinction (D)</td>
<td>75% to 84%</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>High Distinction (HD)</td>
<td>85% upwards</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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Schedule of Semester

Distance Learning students may attend any class sessions, if they wish and are able, but this is purely optional. Additional class sessions may be added by arrangement between lecturer and students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Week begins</th>
<th>Activities &amp; Assessment at a Glance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>18 Feb</td>
<td>Arrangements for individual supervision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>25 Feb</td>
<td>Project topic and research activities agreed between student and supervisor</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3 Mar</td>
<td>Individual research activity</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>10 Mar</td>
<td>Individual research activity; data collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>17 Mar</td>
<td>Individual research activity; data collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>24 Mar</td>
<td>No classes (Easter holiday)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>31 Mar</td>
<td>Individual research activity; data collection and analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>7 Apr</td>
<td>Class session if needed to discuss research processes and analysis of data</td>
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<td><strong>Mid-Semester Recess: Monday 14 April – Friday 25 April</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>28 Apr</td>
<td>Individual work. Assignment 1 due</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>5 May</td>
<td>Individual work.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>12 May</td>
<td>Seminar presentations due for presentation to class as scheduled</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>19 May</td>
<td>Seminar presentations as scheduled</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>26 May</td>
<td>Seminar presentations as scheduled</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>2 Jun</td>
<td>Individual work. Assignment 2 (sub-thesis) due 6 June</td>
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Examination period: Tuesday 10 June – Friday 27 June (no final exam for this course)