



The University of Southern Queensland

Course specification

Description: The Nature of Language						
Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
LIN	5000	44049	2, 2005	EXT	1.00	Toowoomba

Academic group:	OPACS
Academic org:	OPACSP
Student contribution band:	National Priority Teaching
ASCED code:	070115

STAFFING

Examiner: Darren Dickson
Moderator: Ann Dashwood

RATIONALE

To be able to teach languages, instructors need to be aware of what language is, how it can be described in terms of phonology, semantics and syntax, and how the meaning potential of language is realised in actual usage. Teachers also need to be aware of some recent theories of language as well as an understanding that language operates in a social domain that determines how it is used and how it positions the users.

SYNOPSIS

Students will be introduced to what language is, how it can be described in terms of phonology, semantics and syntax, and how the meaning is realised in actual usage. They will be also introduced to some recent theories of language as well as how language operates in a social domain.

OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course students will show an understanding of:

1. the complex interrelations between phonology, semantics, syntax and pragmatics in the production of meaning by discussing these relationships and giving concrete examples of them;
2. systemic linguistics and show an awareness of other theories of language;
3. the relationships between language, society and culture by describing how language varieties and language use are intertwined with social and cultural factors.

TOPICS

Description	Weighting (%)
1. What is language? A general introduction	10.00

2.	The sounds, sound patterns and contrasting sound patterns of language	15.00
3.	Semantics - the description of word and sentence meaning (much of the work will be interrelated with #2 above and #4 below)	15.00
4.	Syntax and grammar	15.00
5.	A theory of language: Systemic/functional	20.00
6.	Language and society - social dialects, occupation, age, sex, ethnic background	15.00
7.	Language and culture; linguistic determinism	5.00
8.	"Englishes" around the world - their status	5.00

TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at <http://bookshop.usq.edu.au> click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).

Fromkin, Blair & Collins 1999, *An Introduction to Language*, 4th edn, Harcourt Brace, Sydney.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.

Yule, G. 1996, *The Study of Language*, 2nd edn, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Assessment	25.00
Directed Study	95.00
Private Study	50.00

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg(%)	Due date
ASSIGNMENT 1	20.00	20.00	19 Aug 2005
REFLECTIVE JOURNAL 1	5.00	5.00	19 Aug 2005 (see note 1)
ASSIGNMENT 2	30.00	30.00	23 Sep 2005
REFLECTIVE JOURNAL 2	5.00	5.00	23 Sep 2005 (see note 2)
TAKE HOME TEST	40.00	40.00	28 Oct 2005

NOTES

1. Reflective Journal 1 is to be submitted with Assignment 1.
2. Reflective Journal 2 is to be submitted with Assignment 2.

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- 1 Attendance requirements:
There are no attendance requirements for this course. However, it is the students' responsibility to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration.
- 2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
To complete each of the assessment items satisfactorily, students must obtain at least 50% of the marks available for the assignments (or at least a grade of C-).
- 3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
A penalty may be applied if an arrangement for an assignment extension has not been negotiated before the due date.
- 4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
To be assured of receiving a passing grade a student must achieve at least 50% of the available weighted marks for the summative assessment items.
- 5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the weighted aggregate of the marks (or grades) obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.
- 6 Examination information:
N/A
- 7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
N/A
- 8 University Regulations:
Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6. Assessment, and 5.10 Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL <http://www.usq.edu.au/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm> or in the current USQ Handbook.

ASSESSMENT NOTES

- 1 The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch the assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the despatch date, if requested by the Examiner.
- 2 Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be produced within five days if required by the Examiner.
- 3 The examiner may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances.
- 4 The Faculty will normally only accept assessments that have been written, typed or printed on paper-based media.
- 5 The Faculty will NOT accept submission of assignments by facsimile.
- 6 Students who do not have regular access to postal services or who are otherwise disadvantaged by these regulations may be given special consideration. They should contact the examiner of the course to negotiate such special arrangements.
- 7 In the event that a due date for an assignment falls on a local public holiday in their area, such as a Show holiday, the due date for the assignment will be the next day. Students are to note on the assignment cover the date of the public holiday for the Examiner's convenience.
- 8 Students who have undertaken all of the required assessments in a course but who have failed to meet some of the specified objectives of a course within the normally prescribed time may be awarded the temporary grade: IM (Incomplete - Make up). An IM grade will only be awarded when, in the opinion of the examiner, a student will be able to achieve the remaining objectives of the course after a period of non directed personal study.
- 9 Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment or to sit for an examination at the scheduled time may apply to defer an assessment in a course. Such a request must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. One of the following temporary grades may be awarded IDS (Incomplete - Deferred Examination); IDM (Incomplete Deferred Make-up); IDB (Incomplete - Both Deferred Examination and Deferred Make-up).

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- 1 Students must submit all the assignments, journals and take-home test.
 - 2 To pass, students must achieve at least 50% in the take-home test paper.
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