



The University of Southern Queensland

Course specification

The current and official versions of the course specifications are available on the web at <http://www.usq.edu.au/coursespecification/current>.
Please consult the web for updates that may occur during the year.

Description: The Nature of Language

| Subject | Cat-nbr | Class | Term | Mode | Units | Campus |
|---------|---------|-------|---------|------|-------|-----------|
| LIN | 5000 | 91026 | 2, 2009 | WEB | 1.00 | Toowoomba |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Academic group: | FOEDU |
| Academic org: | FOE002 |
| Student contribution band: | National Priority Teaching |
| ASCED code: | 070115 |

STAFFING

Examiner: Kerry Taylor-Leech
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. NOTE: Minimum enrolment numbers apply to this offering. Should enrolments not reach the minimum number required for on-campus study, students may be transferred to the EXT or WEB offering and advised of this change before semester commences.

OBJECTIVES

The course objectives define the student learning outcomes for a course. The assessment item(s) that may be used to assess student achievement of an objective are shown in parenthesis. At the end of the course students will show an understanding of:

1. the relationships between language, society and culture by describing how language varieties and language use are intertwined with social and cultural factors (Essay);
2. the complex interrelations between phonology, semantics, syntax and pragmatics in the production of meaning by discussing these relationships and giving concrete examples of them (Discussion Board 2);
3. systemic linguistics and other theories of language (Essay and Discussion Board 1);
4. demonstrate competence in scholarly writing including correct spelling, grammar, punctuation and bibliographic referencing. (Essay)

TOPICS

| | Description | Weighting (%) |
|-----|---|---------------|
| 1. | What is language? | 15.00 |
| 2. | Language and society - social dialects, occupation, age, sex, ethnic background | 15.00 |
| 3. | Phonetics - the sounds of language | 10.00 |
| 4. | Phonology - sound patterns of language | 10.00 |
| 5. | Morphology | 10.00 |
| 6. | Syntax and grammar | 10.00 |
| 7. | Semantics - the description of word and sentence meaning | 10.00 |
| 8. | Processing language | 5.00 |
| 9. | What is linguistics? | 10.00 |
| 10. | Dead, dying, reviving and language change | 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, V, Rodman, R & Hyams, N 2007, *An introduction to language*, 8th edn, Thomson Wadsworth, Boston, Mass.

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.

Whether you are on, or off campus, the USQ Library is an excellent source of information <http://www.usq.edu.au/library/>. The gateway to education resources is here...
<http://www.usq.edu.au/library/faculties/education/default.htm>

Matthews, PH 2001, *A short history of structural linguistics*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge (available in eBrary).

Yule, G 2006, *The study of language*, 3rd edn, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

| ACTIVITY | HOURS |
|-------------------|--------|
| Directed Study | 65.00 |
| Independent Study | 100.00 |

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

| Description | Marks out of | Wtg (%) | Due date |
|--------------------|--------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| DISCUSSION BOARD 1 | 20.00 | 20.00 | 28 Aug 2009 (see note 1) |
| ESSAY 3000 WORDS | 50.00 | 50.00 | 30 Oct 2009 |
| DISCUSSION BOARD 2 | 30.00 | 30.00 | 30 Oct 2009 (see note 2) |

NOTES

1. Discussion Board entries should be submitted by the due date and need to reflect a continuous engagement with the course. (800 Words.)
2. 1200 WORDS

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 satisfactorily complete an individual assessment item a student must achieve at least 50% of the marks. (Depending upon the requirements in Statement 4 below, students may not have to satisfactorily complete each assessment item to receive a passing grade in this course.)
- 3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
If students submit assignments after the due date without (prior) approval of the examiner then a penalty of 5% of the total marks gained by the student for the assignment may apply for each working day late up to ten working days at which time a mark of zero may be recorded. No assignments will be accepted after model answers have been posted.
- 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 total weighted marks available for the course.
- 5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the aggregate of the weighted marks obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.
- 6 Examination information:
There is no examination in this course.
- 7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
As there are no examinations in this course, there will be no deferred or supplementary examinations.
- 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>.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- 1 Students must submit the assignment, journal and take-home test.
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