LING109

Language, Culture and Communication

S1 Evening 2014

Linguistics

Contents

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor
David Butt
david.butt@mq.edu.au
Contact via david.butt@mq.edu.au

Other Staff
Annabelle Lukin
annabelle.lukin@mq.edu.au
Contact via annabelle.lukin@mq.edu.au

Credit points
3

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit investigates language through issues the major linguists have asked over the last century. These questions begin with: what counts as a sign and how sign systems begin in a community, but organise the brain of the individual. We track the emergence of language in the child and variations of language which are a consequence of new pressures to act, talk, and think throughout our social networks. The unit also examines the variation of languages across 'language families', and the extent to which linguistic tools can be applied in diverse areas of cultural analysis – from electronic channels to verbal art. We consider the power of language by looking at the relationship of language to the ideologies of everyday experience, as well as those that are actively produced and maintained by powerful groups with vested interests.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

> begin the study of Linguistics as a formal discipline

understand some of the complexities of studying language as a meaning making system

recognize and analyse patterns in language

relate these patterns to what language is doing for its speakers in a given social and cultural context

understand how language grows and develops in human culture and individuals

understand some of the ways that language varies in different cultures and contexts

understand the power of language in political contexts of language use

make judgments about the social and cultural implications of these patterns

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
Short Essay	15%	Monday Week 5
Tutorial participation & blog	20%	Ongoing
Module study	40%	Week 12
Examination	25%	Exam period

Short Essay

Due: **Monday Week 5**
Weighting: **15%**

This task will be a short essay (500 words) on the first module topic of Ling109

On successful completion you will be able to:

• begin the study of Linguistics as a formal discipline
• understand some of the complexities of studying language as a meaning making system

Tutorial participation & blog

Due: **Ongoing**
Weighting: **20%**

You are required to read and do a task in preparation for each tutorial. You are also required to put up a minimum of 6 posts on the tutorial blog, based on your tutorial preparation throughout the semester. The first three posts are due by the end of the mid-semester break. The second three must be posted by the end of week 13. Your mark will be based on your blog posts, tutorial preparation, and tutorial contributions.

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Module study

Due: **Week 12**
Weighting: **40%**

 Data collection, analysis and interpretation (1500 words), based on a topic from one of the modules

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Examination

Due: **Exam period**
Weighting: **25%**

As exam worth 25% of your mark will be held in the exam period.

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Delivery and Resources

Class work: one 1-hour lecture + one 1-hour tutorial per week

Independent work: four hours per week, to include reading time, some writing and some fieldwork. All readings are available on e-reserve.

Students are expected to attend lectures and tutorials, do preparatory reading, undertake small group work, and complete a tutorial task each week. **Tutorials** begin in week 2. Tutorials are for working with language data and analysis, and discussing how your ideas relate to those of your colleagues and other people who've studied and written about language, communication and culture. In each tutorial, you will work on issues that were discussed in the previous week's lectures. **Tutorial preparation is assessed** (see tutorial participation and blog in assessment activities).

Technologies: iLearn

Unit Schedule

UNIT SCHEDULE

Week		Lecture topic
1	MODULE 1: Signs and social networks	Signs in speech and writing
2		How do you mean? Signs and sign systems.
3		Social networks and social networking
4	MODULE 2: Language as political instrument	Reading the media

5		Language and ideologies
6		Language and politics
7	MODULE 3: Language, culture and education	Language and schooling: how culture shapes learning
8		Language and culture: language construing reality
9		The language brain
10	MODULE 4: A World of Language Variation	Language, context and text
11		Register, dialect, code
12		A world of languages
13	Course review and exam preparation	--

Learning and Teaching Activities

Lecture

There is a one hour weekly lecture

Reading

e-Reserve hosts the weekly readings for this course.

Tutorials

Tutorial attendance and preparation (activities, blogging) is compulsory and constitutes 25% of the overall mark

Assessment tasks

Assessment tasks are designed to help students engage in a focussed way with course concepts and to apply them to linguistic data.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html

Grading Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html

Grade Appeal Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the Learning and Teaching Category of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Assessment task

- Module study

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

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Assessment tasks

- Short Essay
- Tutorial participation & blog
- Module study
- Examination

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

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Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

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Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

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Assessment tasks

- Short Essay
- Tutorial participation & blog

- Module study
- Examination