



# APPL910

## Exploring Discourse in Context and Action

S1 External 2016

*Dept of Linguistics*

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Arranged by email

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Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MAppLing or PGDipAppLing or MTransInterMApLing or MAppLingTESOL or MTransInterMApLingTESOL

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit focuses on the analysis of spoken, written and multimodal discourses in a range of real-life settings and domains. It locates such discourses in their historical, institutional, and local contexts and presents a range of methodologies associated with key questions raised by scholars and researchers in discourse analysis research and practice, focusing on descriptive, interpretive and explanatory analysis.

## 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:

1. An understanding of discourse as a rich, complex phenomenon with qualities that can be understood through a wide range of different theoretical approaches.
2. An understanding of how discourse functions in everyday and professional encounters, emphasising the links to be made between social and institutional practices, and discursive practices.

3. A basic theoretical and practical foundation for carrying out your own discourse-related research.
4. An understanding of how to combine different research methodologies in a multi-perspectival approach.
5. An understanding of how to work cooperatively with professionals in different contexts who wish to explore the discourses of their communities.
6. In addition to these discipline-based learning outcomes, academic programs at Macquarie seek to develop students' generic skills, that is, skills that are generally applicable to study and workplace requirements in a range of areas.

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<u>Discourse Analysis Task</u>	45%	22 April 2016
<u>Critical Review Essay</u>	50%	13 June 2016
<u>Class/Group Participation</u>	5%	Ongoing

### Discourse Analysis Task

Due: **22 April 2016**

Weighting: **45%**

This assignment is a task which is related directly to the course notes and requires *data analysis* drawing on appropriate methodologies. You will be given some fresh data plus some specific analytical questions to answer. You are expected to give precise answers to the questions, in the form of a *report*.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 1. An understanding of discourse as a rich, complex phenomenon with qualities that can be understood through a wide range of different theoretical approaches.
- 2. An understanding of how discourse functions in everyday and professional encounters, emphasising the links to be made between social and institutional practices, and discursive practices.
- 3. A basic theoretical and practical foundation for carrying out your own discourse-related research.
- 4. An understanding of how to combine different research methodologies in a multi-perspectival approach.
- 5. An understanding of how to work cooperatively with professionals in different contexts

who wish to explore the discourses of their communities.

- 6. In addition to these discipline-based learning outcomes, academic programs at Macquarie seek to develop students' generic skills, that is, skills that are generally applicable to study and workplace requirements in a range of areas.

## Critical Review Essay

Due: **13 June 2016**

Weighting: **50%**

You will write an extended critical review essay integrating three (3) academic articles or book chapters related to a particular Theme of your choice drawn from the Unit. All three readings **must** be from the Unit Readings for APPL910.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 1. An understanding of discourse as a rich, complex phenomenon with qualities that can be understood through a wide range of different theoretical approaches.
- 2. An understanding of how discourse functions in everyday and professional encounters, emphasising the links to be made between social and institutional practices, and discursive practices.
- 4. An understanding of how to combine different research methodologies in a multi-perspectival approach.
- 5. An understanding of how to work cooperatively with professionals in different contexts who wish to explore the discourses of their communities.
- 6. In addition to these discipline-based learning outcomes, academic programs at Macquarie seek to develop students' generic skills, that is, skills that are generally applicable to study and workplace requirements in a range of areas.

## Class/Group Participation

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **5%**

Your participation in classroom-based discussions (internal students) or online group discussions (external students) will be noted, but the content of your contributions will not be evaluated.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 1. An understanding of discourse as a rich, complex phenomenon with qualities that can be understood through a wide range of different theoretical approaches.

## Delivery and Resources

The learning and teaching strategies used in this Unit involve listening to recordings of on-campus lecture sessions; interaction with materials on iLearn; group discussion in iLearn discussion forum; and self-study of course readings.

The course notes (posted on iLearn) form the backbone of this Unit, and should be read in advance of each lecture session.

It is also expected that students in this Unit will read most of the set readings, participate in group discussions, and go beyond the recommended readings to follow areas of specific interest to them in the academic literature.

The course lecturer will be contactable through email to answer any queries that might arise.

## Unit Schedule

The Unit Schedule is available through iLearn.

## 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](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html)

**New Assessment Policy in effect from Session 2 2016** [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy\\_2016.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy_2016.html). For more information visit [http://students.mq.edu.au/events/2016/07/19/new\\_assessment\\_policy\\_in\\_place\\_from\\_session\\_2/](http://students.mq.edu.au/events/2016/07/19/new_assessment_policy_in_place_from_session_2/)

Assessment Policy prior to Session 2 2016 <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy prior to Session 2 2016 <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

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

Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint\\_management/procedure.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.html)

Disruption to Studies Policy [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption\\_studies/policy.html](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/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

## Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they

are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit [ask.mq.edu.au](#).

## 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](http://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](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about\\_us/offices\\_and\\_units/information\\_technology/help/](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/).

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

## Graduate Capabilities

### PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- 2. An understanding of how discourse functions in everyday and professional encounters, emphasising the links to be made between social and institutional practices,

and discursive practices.

- 3. A basic theoretical and practical foundation for carrying out your own discourse-related research.
- 4. An understanding of how to combine different research methodologies in a multi-perspectival approach.
- 5. An understanding of how to work cooperatively with professionals in different contexts who wish to explore the discourses of their communities.

## **Assessment tasks**

- Discourse Analysis Task
- Critical Review Essay
- Class/Group Participation

## **PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills**

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- 1. An understanding of discourse as a rich, complex phenomenon with qualities that can be understood through a wide range of different theoretical approaches.
- 2. An understanding of how discourse functions in everyday and professional encounters, emphasising the links to be made between social and institutional practices, and discursive practices.
- 3. A basic theoretical and practical foundation for carrying out your own discourse-related research.
- 4. An understanding of how to combine different research methodologies in a multi-perspectival approach.
- 5. An understanding of how to work cooperatively with professionals in different contexts who wish to explore the discourses of their communities.

## **Assessment tasks**

- Discourse Analysis Task
- Critical Review Essay
- Class/Group Participation

## PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- 1. An understanding of discourse as a rich, complex phenomenon with qualities that can be understood through a wide range of different theoretical approaches.
- 3. A basic theoretical and practical foundation for carrying out your own discourse-related research.
- 4. An understanding of how to combine different research methodologies in a multi-perspectival approach.
- 5. An understanding of how to work cooperatively with professionals in different contexts who wish to explore the discourses of their communities.
- 6. In addition to these discipline-based learning outcomes, academic programs at Macquarie seek to develop students' generic skills, that is, skills that are generally applicable to study and workplace requirements in a range of areas.

### Assessment tasks

- Discourse Analysis Task
- Critical Review Essay
- Class/Group Participation

## PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- 3. A basic theoretical and practical foundation for carrying out your own discourse-related research.
- 4. An understanding of how to combine different research methodologies in a multi-perspectival approach.



- 5. An understanding of how to work cooperatively with professionals in different contexts who wish to explore the discourses of their communities.
- 6. In addition to these discipline-based learning outcomes, academic programs at Macquarie seek to develop students' generic skills, that is, skills that are generally applicable to study and workplace requirements in a range of areas.

## **Assessment tasks**

- Discourse Analysis Task
- Class/Group Participation

## **PG - Effective Communication**

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- 1. An understanding of discourse as a rich, complex phenomenon with qualities that can be understood through a wide range of different theoretical approaches.
- 2. An understanding of how discourse functions in everyday and professional encounters, emphasising the links to be made between social and institutional practices, and discursive practices.
- 3. A basic theoretical and practical foundation for carrying out your own discourse-related research.
- 4. An understanding of how to combine different research methodologies in a multi-perspectival approach.
- 5. An understanding of how to work cooperatively with professionals in different contexts who wish to explore the discourses of their communities.
- 6. In addition to these discipline-based learning outcomes, academic programs at Macquarie seek to develop students' generic skills, that is, skills that are generally applicable to study and workplace requirements in a range of areas.

## **Assessment tasks**

- Discourse Analysis Task
- Critical Review Essay
- Class/Group Participation

## PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- 2. An understanding of how discourse functions in everyday and professional encounters, emphasising the links to be made between social and institutional practices, and discursive practices.
- 3. A basic theoretical and practical foundation for carrying out your own discourse-related research.
- 4. An understanding of how to combine different research methodologies in a multi-perspectival approach.
- 5. An understanding of how to work cooperatively with professionals in different contexts who wish to explore the discourses of their communities.

### Assessment tasks

- Discourse Analysis Task
- Class/Group Participation

## Changes from Previous Offering

Learning outcomes have been modified for clarity, and a new LO (concerning "understanding discourse") has been added.

Delivery and Resources have also been updated and modified for clarity.

Policies and Procedures have been updated since the Unit was last taught (in 2013).

The assessment tasks have been reduced in number from three to two, and class participation is now noted, but not evaluated.