



LING1109

Language, Culture and Communication

Session 2, Special circumstances 2021

Department of Linguistics

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Session 2 Learning and Teaching Update

The decision has been made to conduct study online for the remainder of Session 2 for all units WITHOUT mandatory on-campus learning activities. Exams for Session 2 will also be online where possible to do so.

This is due to the extension of the lockdown orders and to provide certainty around arrangements for the remainder of Session 2. We hope to return to campus beyond Session 2 as soon as it is safe and appropriate to do so.

Some classes/teaching activities cannot be moved online and must be taught on campus. You should already know if you are in one of these classes/teaching activities and your unit convenor will provide you with more information via iLearn. If you want to confirm, see the list of [units with mandatory on-campus classes/teaching activities](#).

Visit the [MQ COVID-19 information page](#) for more detail.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Co-convenor

Catherine Martin

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Credit points

10

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:

ULO1: Describe basic principles in the study of language as a meaning making system

ULO2: Recognize and analyse patterns in language

ULO3: Relate these patterns to what language is doing for its speakers in a given social and cultural context

ULO4: Understand key vectors of variation in language: code, register, dialect, typological variation

ULO5: Understand how language grows and develops in human cultures and within the individual

ULO6: Select and apply basic tools and techniques for the study of language data

ULO7: Make judgments about the social and cultural implications of linguistic patterns in natural language data

General Assessment Information

Faculty assessment task late submission policy

Requesting an extension to assignment due date

On occasion, you may be in a situation when you aren't able to submit an assessment task on time. Extensions are only given in special circumstances, by completing a Special Consideration request. For more information on Special Consideration, see <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/my-study-program/special-consideration>

Late submission of assignments

If you haven't been approved for an extension and you submit your assessment task late, penalties are applied. You should consult your unit convenor if you are in this position. Late submissions will receive a 5% per day penalty. If you submit the assessment task 10 days or more beyond the due date, without an approved extension, you will be awarded a maximum of 50% of the overall assessment marks. Weekends and public holidays are included.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Take home exam during final exam period	30%	No	15/11/21 (9am) - 18/11/21 (midnight)
Tutorial tasks/preparation	30%	No	Midnight Fri: week7 (10/9/21) & week 12 (29/10/21)
Module study	40%	No	5/11/21 midnight

Take home exam during final exam period

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 18 hours

Due: **15/11/21 (9am) - 18/11/21 (midnight)**

Weighting: **30%**

Exam consisting of two parts: short answer and one long answer.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Describe basic principles in the study of 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 key vectors of variation in language: code, register, dialect, typological variation
- Understand how language grows and develops in human cultures and within the individual
- Select and apply basic tools and techniques for the study of language data
- Make judgments about the social and cultural implications of linguistic patterns in natural language data

Tutorial tasks/preparation

Assessment Type **1**: Field work task

Indicative Time on Task **2**: 18 hours

Due: **Midnight Fri: week7 (10/9/21) & week 12 (29/10/21)**

Weighting: **30%**

Tutorial preparation, participation and task completion/submission constitutes 30% of the overall mark for this unit. Each week students are required to read an article, and do a task in preparation for the tutorial. Students bring notes on the reading and the task for discussion in the tutorial. These tasks are submitted for marking at two points in the semester: end of week 7, and end of week 12. Students receive a mark out of 15 on each of these submissions. The mark will take account not only of the work submitted, but of student participation and contribution in the tutorials.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Describe basic principles in the study of 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 key vectors of variation in language: code, register, dialect, typological variation
- Understand how language grows and develops in human cultures and within the individual
- Select and apply basic tools and techniques for the study of language data
- Make judgments about the social and cultural implications of linguistic patterns in natural language data

Module study

Assessment Type ¹: Case study/analysis

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **5/11/21 midnight**

Weighting: **40%**

Data collection, analysis and interpretation (1500 words), based on a topic that set by the student.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Describe basic principles in the study of 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 key vectors of variation in language: code, register, dialect, typological variation
- Understand how language grows and develops in human cultures and within the individual
- Select and apply basic tools and techniques for the study of language data
- Make judgments about the social and cultural implications of linguistic patterns in natural language data

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment

- the Writing Centre for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Lecture and tutorials

This unit has a one hour live lecture on zoom, and a weekly one hour tutorial, with online availability and face-to-face (COVID permitting).

Weekly readings

Each week students are required to do some reading - see links in Leganto via iLearn.

Tutorial activities

Each week students have a weekly task to prepare and bring to the tutorial. These activities can be found on iLearn.

EXTERNALS ONLY

Externals can attend live lectures, or listen to recordings. Tutorials are replaced by discussion board interaction. External students will be required to submit weekly tutorial activities via the discussion board. There will be an external tutor who will contact you and support your online activities.

Unit Schedule

Ling1109 is offered as four modules, with each module running for 3 weeks. In the final week, the lecture will be revision and exam preparation.

Module 1: Signs and Social Networks [Weeks 1-3]

Language is a social and semiotic system. In other words, it is a resource for meaning in society. In this module we examine the nature of linguistic signs, writing systems and the role of our social networks in constructing our habits of talking and thinking.

Module 2: Linguistics in the Era of Big Data [Weeks 4-6]

Since the 1950s, computers have been used to help us understand languages and texts. This module introduces corpus linguistics, and some of the basic tools for study the large bodies of data we now have available to us.

Module 3: Language as Political Instrument [Weeks 7-9]

Language is ideologically saturated and is always an instrument in the pursuit of power. In this module we look at the ideological nature of language, including that role of grammar as an ideological weapon.

Module 4: A World of Variation [Weeks 10-12]

In this module we focus on the ways in which language and languages vary. The world is estimated to have c. 7000 languages, which offer their speakers distinct ways of making sense of the world. A language also varies across time and space, and by "register", that is, by the many distinct contexts in which we use language.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) 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 or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@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) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Getting help with your assignment](#)
- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

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

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@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/.

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.

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
12/07/2021	Added guidance note for Externals under 'delivery and resources' Cheers Annabelle