



LING3391

Forensic Linguistics

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2022

Department of Linguistics

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Maria Herke

maria.herke@mq.edu.au

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

50cp at 2000 level or above including 10cp of LING units at 2000 level

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Forensic linguistics is a diverse, rapidly-growing field that applies linguistic knowledge and methods to the forensic context of law, language, crime investigation, and judicial procedure. This unit covers the various sub-fields and issues of forensic linguistics, such as, key theoretical and methodological approaches within the field, the work of the forensic linguist, the sub-field of forensic phonetics including speaker identification and voice comparison, authorship attribution of written texts, the linguistic investigation of plagiarism, and the linguist as an expert witness. Key outcomes of the unit are the ability to understand and describe basic concepts and theories in forensic linguistics, to demonstrate basic knowledge of a wide range of issues in forensic linguistics both in the national and international context. Students will have the opportunity to critically observe and linguistically describe relevant evidential data, as well as to analyse linguistic evidence in a scientific manner.

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 key theoretical and methodological approaches within the field of forensic linguistics.

ULO2: Demonstrate basic knowledge of a wide range of issues in forensic linguistics in both the national and the international context.

ULO3: Critically observe relevant evidential data, and linguistically describe and

characterise it.

ULO4: Demonstrate the knowledge and ability to analyse linguistic evidence in a scientific manner.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Participation and engagement	35%	No	Week 4-5
Proposal for Forensic Linguistic case study	25%	No	Week 7
Forensic linguistic case study	40%	No	Week 13

Participation and engagement

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **Week 4-5**

Weighting: **35%**

Students complete a sequence of reading reflections and online peer feedback tasks throughout the teaching session.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Describe key theoretical and methodological approaches within the field of forensic linguistics.
- Demonstrate basic knowledge of a wide range of issues in forensic linguistics in both the national and the international context.

Proposal for Forensic Linguistic case study

Assessment Type ¹: Report

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **Week 7**

Weighting: **25%**

Students present a written plan for a proposed Forensic Linguistic analysis case study. In this assessment, students will nominate a forensic linguistic issue/ problem from the national or international context and they will nominate a proposed professional organisation as their audience. Students will outline the linguistic evidence, either sourced or collected, and a relevant

methodology that they propose to use to address this issue.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Describe key theoretical and methodological approaches within the field of forensic linguistics.
- Demonstrate basic knowledge of a wide range of issues in forensic linguistics in both the national and the international context.
- Critically observe relevant evidential data, and linguistically describe and characterise it.
- Demonstrate the knowledge and ability to analyse linguistic evidence in a scientific manner.

Forensic linguistic case study

Assessment Type ¹: Case study/analysis

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **40%**

Students will analyse the linguistic evidence using the methodology, both of which were outlined in their earlier proposal in Assessment 2. Drawing on evidence and theoretical approaches from the unit and literature, students will then write up their findings as a professional report for their proposed audience.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate basic knowledge of a wide range of issues in forensic linguistics in both the national and the international context.
- Critically observe relevant evidential data, and linguistically describe and characterise it.
- Demonstrate the knowledge and ability to analyse linguistic evidence in a scientific manner.

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

Seminar content will be delivered to you online via your ilearn site in the form of screencast videos (vlogs) and also via a weekly 1 hour seminar. Some lectures will be delivered online and some will be delivered face to face (on campus). See Unit schedule below for the delivery mode each week. If you wish to chat with myself (Maria), then do please email and we can organise a Zoom meeting. The seminars will be a mix of face to face or online synchronous. The week 1 seminar will be via zoom.

•Readings will be placed in Leganto

•Recommended texts:

•Coulthard, M., & Johnson, A. (2010). *The Routledge handbook of forensic linguistics*. Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon ;: Routledge.

••Coulthard, M., Johnson, A. & Wright, D. (2017). *An Introduction to Forensic Linguistics. Language in Evidence.*

Unit Schedule

Week 1	What is Forensic Linguistics?	online
Week 2	Language and the Law	online
Week 3	Author Identification	f2f
Week 4	Writing your proposal and your Expert Witness Identity	online
Week 5	Linguistics Profiling	online
Week 6	Creating a corpus	f2f
Week 7	Corpus. Stylistic Forensics and Scamseek	online
Week 8	Forensic Phonetics 1	f2f
Week 9	Forensic reports	online
Week 10	Forensic Phonetics 11	f2f
Week 11	Forensic Phonetics 111	f2f
Week 12	Forensic Phonetics 1V	f2f
Week 13	Applied examples of FL	online

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](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution 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

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

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

The Writing Centre

The [Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the 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

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via [AskMQ](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

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.

Late Submissions

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.

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
24/07/2022	nothing
24/07/2022	recommended readings added. due date assessment 1 changed