SPHL3300

Language as Evidence

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2024

Department of Linguistics

Contents

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
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Credit points
10

Prerequisites
50cp at 2000 level or above including 20cp from (LING210-220 or LING2210-2240 OR PSY238 or PSYU2238)

Corequisites
20cp in LING or SPH or SPHL units at 3000 level

Co-badged status

Unit description
In this unit, you will integrate material covered in previous units to learn how your program of study fits together. You will explore the use of different types of empirical linguistic data to investigate aspects of language as small as the phoneme or as large as whole texts. The unit is project-based, enabling you to prepare for postgraduate and research studies in speech, hearing and language sciences, or for a wide range of professions in which collection or analysis of language data is relevant. Also covered are topics relating to the research process more generally, including: critical evaluation of the literature; ethical issues in research; defining research questions; collecting, presenting, analysing and interpreting quantitative and qualitative data; providing constructive peer feedback; and effective oral and written presentation skills.

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:** Identify research methods relevant to the study of speech, hearing and language sciences

ULO2: Describe the strengths and limitations of various speech, hearing and language research techniques

ULO3: Identify methods for collecting and analysing empirical speech, hearing and language data

ULO4: Formulate and refine research questions in speech, hearing and language sciences

ULO5: Develop research protocols for presentation in both oral and written form, and revise proposals in light of peer feedback

ULO6: Critically evaluate published research, and provide constructive peer feedback on research proposals in speech, hearing and language sciences

General Assessment Information

Grade descriptors and other information concerning grading are contained in the Macquarie University Assessment Policy.

All final grades are determined by a grading committee, in accordance with the Macquarie University Assessment Policy, and are not the sole responsibility of the Unit Convenors.

Students will be awarded a final grade and a mark which must correspond to the grade descriptors specified in the Assessment Procedure (clause 128).

To pass this unit, you must demonstrate sufficient evidence of achievement of the learning outcomes, meet any ungraded requirements, and achieve a final mark of 50 or better.

Further details for each assessment task will be available on iLearn.

Late Submissions

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (OF THE TOTAL POSSIBLE MARK) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a grade of '0' will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical concern.

For example:

Number of days (hours) late	Total Possible Marks	Deduction	Raw mark	Final mark
1 day (1-24 hours)	100	5	75	70
2 days (24-48 hours)	100	10	75	65
3 days (48-72 hours)	100	15	75	60
7 days (144-168 hours)	100	35	75	40

>7 days (>168 hours)	100	-	75	0

Late submissions for an assessment task will not be accepted once that assessment task has been marked and returned to students.

Late submission of time sensitive tasks, such as timetabled tests/exams, scheduled performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs, will be addressed by the Unit Convenors in a Special Consideration application.

Use of Generative AI

Please refer to instructions from your Unit Convenors on the use and acknowledgement of use of Generative AI in your submitted assignments.

Special Consideration

If you are unable to complete an assessment task on or by the specified date due circumstances that are unexpected, unavoidable, significantly disruptive and beyond your control, you may apply for special consideration in accordance with the special consideration policy. Applications for special consideration must be supported by appropriate evidence and submitted via ask.mq.edu.au.

1. You should only attempt an exam if you are well enough to do so. Note: Special Consideration is not normally granted if an exam has already been attempted. If you are unfit/unable to attempt the exam due to an eligible disruption, please do not attempt the exam. For information regarding Special Consideration and how attempting an exam will impact your application, refer to the Special Consideration webpage

2. In the event of illness or significant disruptions during an examination, you must promptly cease your work. If the incident occurs in an invigilated exam setting, you must inform the supervisor or invigilator immediately. If the disruption takes place outside an invigilated setting (e.g. non-invigilated timed assessment), it should be reported immediately to the appropriate course authority. Subsequently, you should promptly consult the Special Consideration webpage to review the FAQs and eligibility requirements and follow the steps to apply.

3. If you attempt an exam or timed assessment without reporting any issues during the assessment process to the supervisor or invigilator (in the case of invigilated exam) or appropriate course authority (unit convenor for example in the case of non-invigilated exam) and then apply for Special Consideration based on illness during the exam, the application will generally not be considered.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Literature Search	5%	No	Week 5
Reflections I and II	20%	No	Week 7, Week 12
Project proposal	40%	No	Week 13
Peer Feedback	10%	No	Week 9, Week 10
Oral presentation	25%	No	Week 9

Literature Search

Assessment Type [1]: Presentation
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 3 hours
Due: **Week 5**
Weighting: **5%**

You will present the results of a database search related to your proposed individual research topic in your tutorial class.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Formulate and refine research questions in speech, hearing and language sciences

Reflections I and II

Assessment Type [1]: Reflective Writing
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 14 hours
Due: **Week 7, Week 12**
Weighting: **20%**

You will submit two (2) written reflections throughout semester, each worth 10% of the unit mark. Each reflection will be no more than 300 words in length.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify research methods relevant to the study of speech, hearing and language

sciences

- Describe the strengths and limitations of various speech, hearing and language research techniques
- Identify methods for collecting and analysing empirical speech, hearing and language data
- Formulate and refine research questions in speech, hearing and language sciences
- Critically evaluate published research, and provide constructive peer feedback on research proposals in speech, hearing and language sciences

Project proposal

Assessment Type [1]: Project
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 50 hours
Due: **Week 13**
Weighting: **40%**

You will prepare and submit a 2,000 word proposal for an individualised research project that you have designed over the course of the unit. The proposal will cover the following aspects: Project Title, Aims and Background, Significance and Innovation, Design, Methods, National Benefit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify research methods relevant to the study of speech, hearing and language sciences
- Describe the strengths and limitations of various speech, hearing and language research techniques
- Identify methods for collecting and analysing empirical speech, hearing and language data
- Formulate and refine research questions in speech, hearing and language sciences
- Develop research protocols for presentation in both oral and written form, and revise proposals in light of peer feedback
- Critically evaluate published research, and provide constructive peer feedback on research proposals in speech, hearing and language sciences

Peer Feedback

Assessment Type [1]: Participatory task
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 3 hours

Due: **Week 9, Week 10**
Weighting: **10%**

You will provide anonymous peer feedback in the form of comments and/or questions on the oral presentations delivered by a selection of other students in the unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:
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- Describe the strengths and limitations of various speech, hearing and language research techniques
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- Formulate and refine research questions in speech, hearing and language sciences
- Critically evaluate published research, and provide constructive peer feedback on research proposals in speech, hearing and language sciences

Oral presentation

Assessment Type [1]: Presentation
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 20 hours
Due: **Week 9**
Weighting: **25%**

You will deliver a 4-minute oral presentation with two (2) accompanying PowerPoint slides in your tutorial class. The oral presentation and PowerPoint slides should provide a summary of the essential aspects of your project proposal under the following headings: Project Title, Aims and Background, Significance and Innovation, Design and Methods, National Benefit.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Identify research methods relevant to the study of speech, hearing and language sciences
- Describe the strengths and limitations of various speech, hearing and language research techniques
- Identify methods for collecting and analysing empirical speech, hearing and language data

- Formulate and refine research questions in speech, hearing and language sciences
- Develop research protocols for presentation in both oral and written form, and revise proposals in light of peer feedback

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[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

This unit is designed to advance your understanding of language and how to study it. We will consider how to assemble and evaluate evidence for language-related phenomena, and look at best practice in linguistic research methods, with a focus on speech, hearing and language sciences. We will look closely at the research process: defining research questions, literature review and evaluation, ethical issues in research, analysis and interpretation of different types of language data, and effective presentation of research findings.

We will engage with these topics through readings, lectures, tutorial activities, online discussion, library resources, writing activities, and peer review. Details and a weekly schedule can be found on the iLearn site for this unit.

Active participation in the learning activities throughout the unit will require students to have access to a tablet, laptop or similar device. Students who do not own their own laptop computer may borrow one from the university library.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (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). 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) 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 connect.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 Advocacy provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the Service Connect Portal, 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.

Unit information based on version 2024.01R of the Handbook