



LING1111

Foundations of Linguistics

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2026

Department of Linguistics

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit introduces you to the fundamental principles of linguistics, the scientific study of human language. You will explore core components of language such as speech sounds (phonetics and phonology), word formation (morphology), sentence structure (syntax), meaning (semantics), and language use in context (pragmatics). You will also examine language acquisition, sociolinguistics, language processing, language change, and writing systems. Through practical analysis and inquiry you will explore key questions about language and build a strong theoretical and analytical foundation that prepares you for more advanced studies in the speech, hearing and language sciences.

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 concepts and foundational theories in linguistics and apply them to analyse the structure and function of language. (Scientist and Scholar)

ULO2: Apply basic analytical techniques to interpret linguistic data in phonetics, phonology, morphology, and syntax. (Practitioner)

ULO3: Identify and describe examples of linguistic diversity and explain their social and cultural significance using basic linguistic theory, with attention to inclusivity and equity.

(Citizen)

ULO4: Engage with linguistic inquiry in a research-informed environment and demonstrate ethical academic practices. (Professional)

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 to 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. Please see [here](#) for details.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Phonetics and Phonology Portfolio	25%	No	21/08/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Syntax and Morphology Portfolio	35%	No	09/10/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Final Exam	40%	No	Exam Period	Individual	No	Observed

Phonetics and Phonology Portfolio

Assessment Type ¹: Portfolio

Indicative Time on Task ²: 22.5 hours

Due: **21/08/2026**

Weighting: **25%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

In this task you will analyse two sets of speech data illustrating your ability to transcribe speech and produce analyses that show an understanding of phonological processes.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Describe key concepts and foundational theories in linguistics and apply them to analyse the structure and function of language. (Scientist and Scholar)
- Apply basic analytical techniques to interpret linguistic data in phonetics, phonology, morphology, and syntax. (Practitioner)
- Engage with linguistic inquiry in a research-informed environment and demonstrate ethical academic practices. (Professional)

Syntax and Morphology Portfolio

Assessment Type ¹: Portfolio

Indicative Time on Task ²: 31.5 hours

Due: **09/10/2026**

Weighting: **35%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

In this task you will analyse two sets of linguistic data to explore how words and sentences are structured. You will use the concepts and techniques introduced in lectures and tutorials to conduct basic syntactic and morphological analyses.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Describe key concepts and foundational theories in linguistics and apply them to analyse the structure and function of language. (Scientist and Scholar)
- Apply basic analytical techniques to interpret linguistic data in phonetics, phonology, morphology, and syntax. (Practitioner)
- Engage with linguistic inquiry in a research-informed environment and demonstrate ethical academic practices. (Professional)

Final Exam

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 36 hours

Due: **Exam Period**

Weighting: **40%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

This task will assess your understanding of the topics covered throughout the unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Describe key concepts and foundational theories in linguistics and apply them to analyse the structure and function of language. (Scientist and Scholar)
- Apply basic analytical techniques to interpret linguistic data in phonetics, phonology, morphology, and syntax. (Practitioner)
- Identify and describe examples of linguistic diversity and explain their social and cultural significance using basic linguistic theory, with attention to inclusivity and equity. (Citizen)

- Engage with linguistic inquiry in a research-informed environment and demonstrate ethical academic practices. (Professional)

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
- [Academic Success](#) 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.

³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

Delivery and Resources

As a student enrolled in this unit, you will engage in a range of online and face-to-face learning activities, including readings, online activities, lectures and tutorials. Details can be found on the iLearn site for this unit.

In this Unit include lectures are given by a number of different staff members from the Department of Linguistics.

- There is a set textbook: ***An introduction to Language*, by Fromkin, Rodman, Hyams, Amberber, Cox, and Thornton. Australia and New Zealand 10th Edition, South Melbourne, Vic: Cengage, 2021.** Please note that the 10th edition of the unit textbook has had significant updates, and previous editions will not be reliable substitutes.
- Lecture support material, assessment task instructions, and other relevant materials are uploaded to the LING1111 iLearn site. Lecture slides will be made available on the iLearn site.
- Students are expected to attend or listen to all of the lectures. Lectures are recorded and are available through ECHO360.
- The tutorial material is designed for students to practise the analytical techniques that have been covered in lectures and readings. Consequently, students who do not keep up to date with the lecture material will find themselves at a serious disadvantage in tutorials during the semester.
- Each week students are expected to study the set reading, lecture content, and tutorial worksheet and come to their tutorial class well prepared.

Technology Used

Active participation in the learning activities throughout the unit will require students to have

access to a computer or similar device.

Unit Schedule

Please see the unit schedule posted to the iLearn site.

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 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/>

Academic Success

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

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [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 <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

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.

Artificial Intelligence Tools

Macquarie University recognises that artificial intelligence (AI), especially generative AI, is rapidly reshaping education and the modern workplace. As AI becomes increasingly accessible, the University and your teaching staff are committed to preparing you to use these tools effectively, ethically, and with strong professional judgment. Rather than restricting technology, the emphasis is on helping you understand when and how AI can be used to enhance productivity, support learning, and reflect real-world professional practice. Across your degree, we will support you to develop the critical thinking, adaptability, and values-based decision-making skills required to navigate evolving AI tools responsibly, including acknowledging their use appropriately. You should always appropriately acknowledge when you have used AI tools within assessment tasks, including which AI tools you have used and how you have used them.

To provide clarity, Macquarie University uses a simple, two-tiered approach to AI in assessment:

AI Open assessments allow you to fully incorporate AI, reflecting authentic tasks where AI would normally be used in professional settings.

Observed with AI Optional assessments involve tasks where you either demonstrate essential knowledge without technology or show how you apply AI under supervision.

Across both categories, the goal is to ensure you build foundational knowledge, exercise sound judgment, and engage with AI in ways that uphold ethical, cultural, and university values.

Inclusion and Diversity

Social inclusion at Macquarie University is about giving everyone who has the potential to benefit from higher education the opportunity to study at university, participate in campus life and flourish in their chosen field. The University has made significant moves to promote an equitable, diverse and exciting campus community for the benefit of staff and students. It is your responsibility to contribute towards the development of an inclusive culture and practice in the areas of learning and teaching, research, and service orientation and delivery. As a member of the Macquarie University community, you must not discriminate against or harass others based on their sex, gender, race, marital status, carers' responsibilities, disability, sexual orientation, age, political conviction or religious belief. All staff and students are expected to display appropriate behaviour that is conducive to a healthy learning environment for everyone.

Professionalism

In the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences, professionalism is a key capability embedded in all our courses.

As part of developing professionalism, students are expected to attend all small group interactive sessions including clinical, practical, laboratory, work-integrated learning (e.g., PACE placements), and team-based learning activities. Some learning activities are recorded (e.g., face-to-face lectures), however you are encouraged to avoid relying upon such material as they do not recreate the whole learning experience and technical issues can and do occur. As an adult learner, we respect your decision to choose how you engage with your learning, but we

would remind you that the learning opportunities we create for you have been done so to enable your success, and that by not engaging you may impact your ability to successfully complete this unit. We equally expect that you show respect for the academic staff who have worked hard to develop meaningful activities and prioritise your learning by communicating with them in advance if you are unable to attend a small group interactive session.

Another dimension of professionalism is having respect for your peers. It is the right of every student to learn in an environment that is free of disruption and distraction. Please arrive to all learning activities on time, and if you are unavoidably detained, please join activity as quietly as possible to minimise disruption. Phones and other electronic devices that produce noise and other distractions must be turned off prior to entering class. Where your own device (e.g., laptop) is being used for class-related activities, you are asked to close down all other applications to avoid distraction to you and others. Please treat your fellow students with the utmost respect. If you are uncomfortable participating in any specific activity, please let the relevant academic know.

Unit information based on version 2026.02 of the [Handbook](#)