



Module Specification

Language, Environment and the Law

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Language, Environment and the Law

Module code: UPNNKA-30-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2022-23

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

Faculty: Faculty of Arts Creative Industries & Education

Department: ACE Dept of Creative & Cultural Industries

Partner institutions: None

Delivery locations: Frenchay Campus

Field: Linguistics

Module type: Standard

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: This module provides a progression option for students interested in Ecolinguistics and Forensic Linguistics from the L1 module UPNN4L-30-1 Phonetics and Forensic Linguistics, as well as the L2 module UPNNER-15-2 Researching Language as Social Impact. This is an especially valuable and exciting area for student study, which aligns with UWE Strategy 2030 and will sit well for students engaging with the independent research projects in Level 3.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: See Learning Outcomes.

In addition to the Learning Outcomes, the educational experience may explore, develop, and practise but not formally discretely assess the following:

Develop an appreciation for the direct influence language has on sustainable decision-making.

Explore and engage with local sustainable projects through the lens of the ecolinguist

Examine and criticise how our current social constructions shape our attitudes towards the very survival of the world

Understand the ethical considerations of collecting and analysing sensitive data

Consider how the criminal justice system works in UK jurisdictions and the forensic linguist's place within it

Gain insight into how the skills and knowledge learnt in this module can lead to, and apply in, future employment

Outline syllabus: The following gives an outline of a typical offering in this module:

Term 1

Introductory sessions: Explanation and exploration

Developing and understanding of the key terminology and concepts in ecolinguists: Ecology, ecosophy, 'Story', sustainability, the social construction of 'green', consumer(-ism), convenience, commodification, metaphor, political sphere, economy

Context 1: Language, society and our inherited attitude towards nature and the world

Understanding the intrinsic value our culture puts on the description of nature (vs. other cultures – e.g. Studio Ghibli movies in their original Japanese vs their English translation), analysing how this might impact our English-speaking view of the world and the animacy with which we view things in nature.

Analysing how we might better approach these discourses to more accurately represent our relationship with nature, create a more positive story and develop better ecosophies.

Context 2: Language of campaigns, climate activism and denialism

The participants in environmental discourse (e.g. farmers, business, politicians, environmental scientists, NGOs, etc)

Advertisers and marketing – consumerism and societal response to this economic order

Pragmatic, lexical, and ethnographic perspectives on the discourse and narrative of climate activists and deniers/sceptics.

Fake vs. factual news, appropriation of scientific texts and concepts

Context 3: Language of environmental policy and government

Analysing the impact of illocution and perlocution in government campaigns

Persuasion mechanisms used in government advertisements

Analysis and criticism of political documents to understand how words are used to generate weight and flexibility for actual government action

Understanding the legal ramifications for governments not abiding by environmental policy.

Term 2

Context 1 – Language and the police

999/911 Calls

Investigative Interviews: Suspects and PACE

Investigative Interviews: Witnesses

Investigative Interviews: A closer look

Arrest and Detention: Writing

Arrest and Detention: Speech

Context 2 – Language and the courtroom

Key Issues in language and Court

Judges and Juries in Court

Context 3 – Linguistic experts in the legal system

Key Issues around Expert Witnesses

Forensic expertise and levels of language

Forensic Phonetics

Forensic Authorship Analysis

Context 4 – Special situations in police and court settings

Key issues in multilingualism, culture and law

Case study: The Australian legal system

Context 5 – After conviction

Restorative Justice

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Scheduled learning: Workshops, lectures, and seminars are at the core of this module's teaching and learning methods. This allows a flexible approach to be taken to combining lecturer input with practical application of methods of analysis. This flexible approach also enables students to develop the skills necessary to engage with different modes of learning. The module may require students to work both independently, and in small groups on a variety of different tasks.

Guidance on work briefs and set reading or tasks will be available in the module handbook, via the module information on UWE online or through any other vehicle deemed appropriate by the module/programme leaders.

Independent learning and study may include a variety of tasks such as written exercises, assignment preparation, data analysis, and recommended further reading. It will be guided by a clear syllabus outline in the module handbook and preparation questions and/or tasks communicated via Blackboard.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Criticise, classify, and develop a range of techniques of discourse analysis (broadly defined) utilising a wide range of texts on environmental issues

MO2 Critically evaluate academic and public literature on language, sustainability and ecolinguistics, and investigate a range of ethical issues related to language use and sustainable outcomes

MO3 Demonstrate an advanced understanding of the scope and application of Ecolinguistics and Forensic Linguistics as sub-disciplines of applied linguistics in real-world contexts

MO4 Recognise, synthesise and respond, with an appropriate level of sensitivity, to the different types of data and analysis as required by Ecolinguistics and Forensic Linguistics

MO5 Demonstrate an awareness of and respect for the complex ethical responsibilities for the forensic linguist who interacts with the legal system

MO6 Identify, evaluate, and engage with the discourse practices of legal professionals (particularly police and courtroom personnel) in communicating with lay participants, and of interactional aspects of UK judicial systems, and of key legal cases and appeals in which linguistic evidence has been of significance, and finally of some texts and linguistic practices involved in legal processes

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Total = 300

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/41EA4F61-718D-37E7-DBD4-A1DDA3F3DA97.html?lang=en-GB&login=1) via the following link <https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/41EA4F61-718D-37E7-DBD4-A1DDA3F3DA97.html?lang=en-GB&login=1>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Assessments:

Portfolio 1 - 50%

Portfolio 2 - 50%

Students are required to submit two portfolios of work that include the outcomes of tasks set during the module. These tasks are designed to enable students to demonstrate, for the purposes of assessment, the acquisition of skills, knowledge, understanding and/or experience that meets the learning outcomes of the module. The word count will be determined by the nature of the tasks set, and a clear indication of the word count limits will be included in the module handbook. The tasks within the portfolio will assess students' understanding of Ecolinguistics and Forensic Linguistics from both theoretical and practical perspectives. At least one task per teaching block will ask students to execute an analysis of linguistic data from a range of potential sources (examples in Forensic Linguistics may include police interviews, courtroom interaction, extortion letters). Students will have the opportunity to discuss the progress of their assessment with the course tutor at appropriate times to ensure the best possible outcomes.

Assessment components:**Portfolio - Component A (First Sit)**

Description: Portfolio 1

A portfolio of work that includes the outcomes of tasks set during the module. These tasks are designed to enable students to demonstrate, for the purposes of assessment, the acquisition of skills, knowledge, understanding and/or experience that meets the learning outcomes of the module.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Portfolio - Component B (First Sit)

Description: Portfolio 2

A portfolio of work that includes the outcomes of tasks set during the module. These tasks are designed to enable students to demonstrate, for the purposes of

assessment, the acquisition of skills, knowledge, understanding and/or experience that meets the learning outcomes of the module.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

Portfolio - Component A (Resit)

Description: Portfolio 1

A portfolio of work that includes the outcomes of tasks set during the module. These tasks are designed to enable students to demonstrate, for the purposes of assessment, the acquisition of skills, knowledge, understanding and/or experience that meets the learning outcomes of the module.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Portfolio - Component B (Resit)

Description: Portfolio 2

A portfolio of work that includes the outcomes of tasks set during the module. These tasks are designed to enable students to demonstrate, for the purposes of assessment, the acquisition of skills, knowledge, understanding and/or experience that meets the learning outcomes of the module.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

English Language and Linguistics [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

English Language and Linguistics {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons)
2019-20

English Language and Linguistics [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2019-20

English Language and Linguistics [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2018-19

English Language and Linguistics {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA
(Hons) 2018-19