

Nottingham Trent University

Module Specification

Basic module information		
1	Module Title:	Forensic Linguistics
2	Module Code:	LING31015
3	Credit Points:	20
4	Duration:	Full year
5	School:	Arts and Humanities
6	Campus:	Clifton
7	Date this version first approved to run:	September 2017

8	<p>Pre, post and co-requisites:</p> <p>These are modules that you must have studied previously in order to take this module, or modules that you must study simultaneously or in a subsequent academic session</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"><u>Pre, Co, Post</u></th> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"><u>Module Code</u></th> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"><u>Module Title</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pre</td> <td>LING207</td> <td>Applying Methods in Linguistics</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Pre, Co, Post</u>	<u>Module Code</u>	<u>Module Title</u>	Pre	LING207	Applying Methods in Linguistics
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Pre	LING207	Applying Methods in Linguistics					

9	<p>Courses containing the module</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"><u>Level</u></th> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"><u>Core/Option</u></th> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"><u>Mode</u></th> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"><u>Code</u></th> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"><u>Course Title</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>FT</td><td>BA(H)</td><td>Comm&Soc & Linguistics</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>FT</td><td>BA(H)</td><td>English & Linguistics</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>FT</td><td>BA(H)</td><td>History & Linguistics</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>FT</td><td>BA(H)</td><td>Linguistics & Philosophy</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>FT</td><td>BA(H)</td><td>Linguistics & Media</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>FT</td><td>BA(H)</td><td>French & Linguistics</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>FT</td><td>BA(H)</td><td>German & Linguistics</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>FT</td><td>BA(H)</td><td>Mandarin Chinese & Linguistics</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>FT</td><td>BA(H)</td><td>Spanish & Linguistics</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>FT</td><td>BA(H)</td><td>Italian & Linguistics</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Core/Option</u>	<u>Mode</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Course Title</u>			FT	BA(H)	Comm&Soc & Linguistics			FT	BA(H)	English & Linguistics			FT	BA(H)	History & Linguistics			FT	BA(H)	Linguistics & Philosophy			FT	BA(H)	Linguistics & Media			FT	BA(H)	French & Linguistics			FT	BA(H)	German & Linguistics			FT	BA(H)	Mandarin Chinese & Linguistics			FT	BA(H)	Spanish & Linguistics			FT	BA(H)	Italian & Linguistics
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10	<p>Overview and aims</p> <p>This module will introduce students to the analysis of language in legal settings, which comprises two main fields of enquiry: (i) language in the legal process (ii) and language as evidence. Students will critically engage with both written and spoken discourse</p>
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produced within the specialised institutional contexts of the law, and will examine the linguistic strategies used by those within the institution (legal drafters, police, lawyers and judges) and by lay participants (suspects and witnesses). The module maps and follows the (inter)textual life of text and talk throughout the legal process, from what is said and recorded during arrests and statements given to police, through investigative interviews and finally concluding in the courtroom trial. The module also explores how linguistic evidence can be central to criminal investigations and cases of national security, and can be offered in court as a means by which to help convict (or acquit) defendants. In class, students will respond to hypothetical briefs from solicitors, the police, the media, the courts and private clients in such a way that represents and simulates the casework of a forensic linguist and real-world linguistic problem-solving.

The aims of this module are:

- To foreground the role of linguistic analysis in solving real world forensic problems.
- To develop in students an awareness of the integral role that language has across the range of legal contexts.
- To engage students in the application of linguistic analytical tools and theoretical frameworks to spoken and written discourse produced in legal settings.
- To explore the asymmetrical power relationships between legal experts and lay persons, and how these relationships are manifest in language use.
- To demonstrate the value of triangulating qualitative, quantitative and multimodal methodologies in the analysis of language and the presentation of results.
- To introduce students to the application of linguistic analysis in forensic cases which include textual or spoken evidence, and the transformation of this analysis into admissible expert testimony.

11 **Module content**

A typical syllabus will include:

(i) Language of the legal process:

- Acts of Parliaments, Terms and Conditions and contracts, and the process of legal drafting.
- The police caution or 'Miranda Rights' read out upon arrest.
- The language of police statements and (false) confessions.
- Police interviews, the questioning strategies used by police and the responses given by interviewees.

- Trial courtroom discourse: prosecution and defence openings (cross-) examination of witnesses, judge's summing up.
- The historical courtroom: analysing the Old Bailey Proceedings.
- The issue of multilingualism in the legal process (e.g. court interpreting)
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(ii) Language as evidence

- An introduction to 'expert' witnesses and their evidence
- Forensic authorship attribution
- Forensic speaker identification
- Trademark disputes
- Disputed meaning in legal cases
- Online abuse and 'trolling': its form, content, and implication for legislation
- Deception detection in writing and speech
- Language Analysis for the Determination of Origin in asylum seeker cases

(iii) Linguistic representation of crime and criminals in the media

(iv) Language in the dramatisation of the legal process

(iv) Linguistic representation of 'forensic linguists' in the media and drama

12 Indicative reading

Conley, J. and O'Barr, W. (1998). *Just Words: Law, Language and Power*. Chicago: Chicago University Press.

Cotterill, J. (ed). (2002). *Language in the Legal Process*. Basingstoke: Palgrave.

Coulthard, M., Johnson, A., and Wright, D. (2017). *An Introduction to Forensic Linguistics: Language in Evidence* (2nd edn). London: Routledge.

Coulthard, M., and Johnson, A. (eds). (2010). *The Routledge Handbook of Forensic Linguistics*. London: Routledge.

Eades, D. (2010). *Sociolinguistics and the Legal Process*. Bristol: Multilingual Matters.

Gibbons, J. (2003). *Forensic Linguistics: An Introduction to Language in the Justice System*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Gibbons, J. and Turell, T.M. (eds.). (2008). *Dimensions of Forensic Linguistics*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Heffer, C. (2005). *The Language of the Jury Trial: A Corpus-aided Analysis of Legal-Law Discourse*. Basingstoke: Palgrave.

Heffer, C., Rock, F., and Conley J. (eds.). (2013). *Legal-Lay Communication: Textual Travels in the Law*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Rock, F. (2007). *Communicating rights: The Language of Arrest and Detention*. Basingstoke: Palgrave.

Tiersma, P. (1999). *Legal Language*. Chicago: Chicago University Press.

Tiersma, P. and L. Solan. (eds). 2012. *The Oxford Handbook of Language and the Law*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

13	<p>Learning outcomes</p> <p>Learning outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of the module</p>
<p>Knowledge and understanding. After studying this module you should be able to:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the role of linguistic analysis in addressing real world (forensic) problems. • Apply different approaches to textual description to legal and evidential contexts. • Integrate knowledge of linguistic theories and their application to new contexts in legal discourse, and their semantic and pragmatic functions in this specialised context. • Understand and apply knowledge of linguistic theories and their relevance to language in the law. • Demonstrate awareness of the use of language and the power of its effects. 	
<p>Skills, qualities and attributes. After studying this module you should be able to:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply the tools of linguistic analysis to solve real world problems. • Critically evaluate and appropriately apply methodological approaches to analysing language in a legal or evidential setting. • Compare and evaluate various types of linguistic data: spoken and written, published and newly collected. • Demonstrate research skills in linguistics, including data collection. • Analyse data qualitatively and quantitatively. • Critically, accurately and systematically analyse written and spoken texts. • Present a sustained and logical argument based on textual analysis. • Demonstrate respect for linguistic evidence in supporting claims and conclusions. • Exhibit ability to assemble relevant information under time pressure. • Demonstrate high levels of written and oral communication skills. • Compare and evaluate linguistic research, original and published. • Undertake independent learning. • Be familiar with web-based research and methods. • Demonstrate flexibility and adaptability. • Collaborate and work in teams to produce analyses and results. • Exercise time management. • Exercise planning and organisation. 	

14	<p>Teaching and learning</p> <p><i>Range of modes of direct contact</i></p> <p>This indicates the range of direct contact teaching and learning methods used on this module, e.g. lectures, seminars</p>
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2 hour lecture/workshop per week	
Total contact hours:	48
<i>Range of other learning methods</i>	
This indicates the range of other teaching and learning methods used on this module, e.g. directed reading, research	
Directed reading, seminar preparation, independent research, online tasks facilitated by NOW, project planning, project writing.	
Total non-contact hours:	152

15 Assessment methods								
This indicates the type and weighting of assessment elements and sub-elements in the module								
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>Element number</u></th> <th><u>Weighting</u></th> <th><u>Type</u></th> <th><u>Description (include any sub-elements)</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>100%</td> <td>Project</td> <td>Comprises 1,000-word proposal (worth 30%) and 3,000 project (worth 70%). See below for details.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Element number</u>	<u>Weighting</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description (include any sub-elements)</u>	1	100%	Project	Comprises 1,000-word proposal (worth 30%) and 3,000 project (worth 70%). See below for details.
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Diagnostic/formative assessment								
This indicates if there are any assessments that do not contribute directly to the final module mark								
<p>Students submit a 1,000-word project proposal on which they are given written feedback before embarking on the full project. This proposal will count for 30% of the module grade, with the full project carrying 70%. In preparing for both the proposal and the project, students' ideas and plans are discussed in designated lecture and workshop sessions. In addition, the more general weekly workshop tasks and activities are designed specifically for students to develop the knowledge and skills to required in the assessment, and they receive formative feedback from both me and their classmates in this regard and in preparation for the formal assessments.</p>								
Further information on assessment								
This section provides further information on the module's assessment where appropriate								

The assessment for the module requires students to design a research question or hypothesis of their choice within the context of forensic linguistics, survey and review related literature, source and collect the relevant data, choose and apply appropriate methods, perform a linguistic analysis and provide evidenced conclusions.

About two-thirds of the way through the module, students submit a 1,000-word proposal of their project idea, outlining their research questions, and proposed data and method (worth 30%). I provide comments and feedback on this, which 'feed-forward' to students undertaking the full 3,000-word project (worth 70%).

Document management

16	Module Title:	Forensic Linguistics
17	Module Code:	LING31015
18	Subject (JACS) Code:	Q100
19	Cost Centre:	138
20	School:	AAH
21	Academic Team:	ECM
22	Campus:	Clifton
23	Other institutions providing teaching:	<i>Please complete in box 23 a-d - if applicable</i>
		Institution %
23a	Other UK Higher Education or Further Education Institution- Please name Percentage not taught by NTU	
23b	Other public organisation in the UK- Percentage not taught by NTU	
23c	Other private organisation in the UK - Percentage not taught by NTU	
23d	Any other Non-UK organisation - Percentage not taught by NTU	
24	Date this version was formally approved by the School Academic Standards and Quality Committee (SASQC) or Development Approval Group (DAG):	