

**KOORI CENTRE
BOARD OF STUDIES IN INDIGENOUS STUDIES**

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Master of Indigenous Languages Education units of study 2006

At the 28 November 2005 and the 28 April 2006 meetings of the Board of Studies in Indigenous Studies the following units of study were discussed:

KCIL5610 Sounds & Writing in Indigenous Languages

6 credit points

Session: 1

Classes: 36 hours over 3 x 1week blocks: 27 hours face-to-face, plus 9 hours off campus.

Prerequisite: nil.

Assessment: Assessment will be based on short pre-block reading exercises and in-class activities, between-block tasks and a major assignment/ class test.

The study of any language requires an understanding of its sounds and the ways in which they relate to each other so that they can be written down. This unit of study introduces students to the production, perception and classification of speech sounds and their organisation into meaningful systems with particular reference to Indigenous Australian languages. It also provides an understanding of the development of writing systems and contemporary approaches to Australian orthography design.

KCIL5611 Words & Meanings in Indigenous Languages

6 credit points

Session: 1

Classes: 36 hours over 3 x 1week blocks: 27 hours face-to-face, plus 9 hours off campus.

Corequisite: KCIL5610 Sounds & Writing in Indigenous Languages Assessment: Assessment: Assessment will be based on short pre-block reading exercises and in-class activities, between-block tasks and a class test.

Words are the principal vehicles for conveying meaning in most languages. This unit of study gives students a foundation in the description of meaning and the structure and function of words with particular reference to Indigenous Australian languages. It also provides students with the skills to classify words and their component parts and describe the ways in which they combine sound and meaning to make verbal communication possible.

KCIL5612 Sentences & Text in Indigenous Languages

6 credit points

Staff: John Giacon

Session: 1

Classes: 36 hours over 3 x 1week blocks: 27 hours face-to-face, plus 9 hours off campus.

Corequisite: KCIL5611 Words & Meanings in Indigenous Languages.

Assessment: Assessment will be based on short pre-block reading exercises and in-class activities, between-block tasks and a major assignment.

Sentences and texts are the major units of human language. This unit of study provides students with the understanding and skills to describe these longer strings of language and make generalisations about them. It also considers the relationships between the many varieties of Australian languages that occur for different purposes, in different places and at different times.

KCIL5613 Theories & Methods in Language Learning

6 credit points

Session: 1

Classes: 36 hours over 3 x 1 week blocks: 27 hours face-to-face, plus 9 hours off campus.

Prerequisite: nil.

Assessment: Assessment will be based on participation, pre-block reading tasks, micro teaching, school-based observations and evaluations, and a major assignment.

Teachers in the language classroom are often confronted with the dilemma of choosing the right method or approach to adequately develop the proficiency of their students. What many do not realise is that there is no one perfect method or approach; what might work in one language teaching situation might not necessarily work in another. Over the last two centuries, a number of methods and approaches have emerged each determined by the social, cultural, economic and political factors of the day. Given this scope, there are teaching situations that have demanded a focus on the development of written proficiency whilst others that of oracy.

The goal of this course is to introduce students to theories of languages education methodology and provide them with the foundations to successfully choose methods and/or approaches that will best cater the teaching of Indigenous languages in Australia. It will include significant methods used in the teaching of the macro (listening and responding, speaking, reading and responding, and writing) skills and the micro (lexico-grammatical) skills; determining teacher and learner roles; and effective language lesson planning.

KCIL5620 Field Methods in Indigenous Languages to be replaced with KCIL5620 Research Methods in Languages Education

6 credit points

Session: 2

Classes: 36 hours over 3 x 1 week blocks: 27 hours face-to-face, plus 9 hours off campus.

Prerequisite: KCIL5612 Sentences & Texts in Indigenous Languages.

Assessment: Assessment will be based on short pre-block reading exercises and in-class activities, between-block tasks and a languages education research project proposal.

Conducting research in the teaching of Australian languages requires an understanding of diverse issues, including: languages education research methods, the history of research on Indigenous people and languages, locating existing records, practical techniques for obtaining and managing data, project planning, Indigenous research ethics and community consultation. It is also important for students to understand the role of research in high-quality teaching and to gain experience in a range of research methodologies and their potential for application to likely teaching situations in this field. This unit of study allows students to explore these issues and develop practical skills that will allow them to become effective researchers in Indigenous languages education. Students will be expected to directly apply their learning in this unit of study to their activities in *KCIL5624 Research Project in Languages Education* or *KCIL5622 Learning an Indigenous Language*.

**KCIL5621 Research Project in Indigenous Languages to be replaced with
KCIL5621 Research Project in Languages Education**

6 credit points

Session: 2

Classes: 36 hours in field research over the semester.

Corequisite: KCIL5620 Field Methods in Indigenous Languages.

Precludes: KCIL5622 Learning an Indigenous Languages

Assessment: To be negotiated between lecturer and students on an individual or group basis equivalent to 5,000 words in total. Assessment may take the form of one major or several short projects in a language, including activities to enhance a student's own fluency in Indigenous languages. Students without substantial prior languages teaching experience will be required to base their research in their own teaching of languages in a school, TAFE, university, language centre or similar setting. Where this involves the implementation of a pilot program to introduce an Indigenous language to a school, up to six hours credit will be allowed for participation in community consultation and negotiation with schools.

Although some Indigenous Australian languages have undergone substantial documentation and are currently being taught, many are in great need of further research and all require more investigation. This unit of study provides students with an opportunity to exercise the skills and knowledge provided in the course to generate new knowledge about particular languages and their teaching.

KCIL5622 Learning an Indigenous Language

6 credit points

Session: 2

Classes: 36 hours as per the external unit of study undertaken.

Prerequisite: nil.

Precludes: KCIL5621 Research Project in Indigenous Languages.

Assessment: As per the external unit of study undertaken, plus a 4,500-5,000 word critical analysis of the languages teaching methods, materials and delivery employed in the external unit and reflective journal analysing the student's own responses to the languages teaching.

In order to teach an Indigenous language it is essential that the teacher has greater fluency than their students. This unit of study provides an opportunity for students to undertake study outside the degree program to develop their ability to speak an Australian language.

Students may access courses offered by the University of Sydney, another tertiary institution, a TAFE college, school, community language centre, or similar. To obtain credit under this unit of study the external studies must be equivalent to 36 hours of face-to-face teaching and satisfy MILE staff regarding its standard and thoroughness. Students who are already fluent or cannot access an external unit in a language of their choosing should undertake *KCIL5621 Research Project in Indigenous Languages* as a means to enhance their skills.

KCIL5623 Language Curriculum Development

6 credit points

Session: 2

Classes: 36 hours over 3 x 1week blocks: 27 hours face-to-face, plus 9 hours off campus.

Prerequisite: KCIL5623 Theories & Methods in Language Learning.

Assessment: Assessment will be based on pre-block reading tasks; group presentations of issues related to curriculum development, two school visits: the first involving a needs analysis, the second trialling an activity designed as a result of that analysis, and a major assignment.

Preceding any successful formal teaching or learning situation is effective programming and planning determined by curriculum parameters. Language curriculum development involves more than just the content to be taught in any given teaching situation. It involves establishing goals and outcomes often defined by external organisations; performing ongoing needs analysis of learning and teaching situations; programming and planning against external and internal factors; designing programs that best address all factors; choosing and designing resources; and determining appropriate assessment and evaluation procedures.

The goal of this unit is to examine these issues against authentic situations and apply knowledge gained towards developing effective language curriculum for quality teaching in Indigenous languages education contexts and across all key learning areas.

KCIL5624 Technology & Language Learning

6 credit points

Session: 2

Classes: 36 hours over 3 x 1week blocks: 27 hours face-to-face, plus 9 hours off campus.

Corequisite: KCIL5624 Language Curriculum Development

Assessment: Assessment will be based on participation, pre block readings, a presentation on technological innovations in Indigenous languages education, between block tasks, and a substantial portfolio on reviewing and designing materials.

Effective language teaching and learning can be enhanced by technology. This unit of study introduces students to the diverse technological aids that can enhance their teaching practices and their own language learning. It provides them with samples and models from which they can develop their own multimedia resources.

The Board of Studies in Indigenous Studies request the Academic Board note these units of study that have been endorsed by the Board.

Janet Mooney

Director

Koori Centre

3 May 2006