



“IA AO SAMOA”

Course Code	HSA 503
Course Title	In-depth Study of the Samoan Language
Programme Title	PostGDSS/MSS
Section	Centre of Samoan Studies
SQF Level	
Credit Value	

Lecturers: Dr Levi Tavita (coordinator); Ta’iao Matiu Dr Matavai Tautunu

1. Course Objective

This course is offered for the PostGDSS/Master of Samoan Studies under the auspices of the Centre of Samoan Studies. It will look at the three broad aspects of the Samoan language (structure, meaning and application), in terms of the Samoan linguistics, and relations to the popular genres and discourses in the Samoan literature. Special mention of distinct features and dimensions in the three core aspects, for example, a close inspection of the Samoan pragmatics as applied through media of communication in specific socio-political contexts and situations. This paper is intended to deliver and achieve these general objectives:

- Present a model framework of teaching and learning the science of the Samoan language
- Describe and explain the key concepts of theory and practice and issues pertaining to
- Develop analytic skills in Samoan phonology, syntax, morphology, semantics and lexis, pragmatics, and discourse, in the context of Samoan literature
- Understand development of the Samoan Language in the context of change & English hegemony
- Understand the principles of First Language Learning (FLL) & Second Language Learning (SLL) theories and relevancy to language strategizing and linguistic practices
- Understand the relationship between Samoan language and political power
- Understand the intricacies of the Samoan pragmatics and be able to apply these in a range of settings and situations, formal or informal.

2. Course Scope

Scope of the course is within the parameters of postgraduate/Masters studies, focusing on qualitative data and objective analysis mainly.

3. Course Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students are able to understand the following and apply the knowledge and skills learnt in their own studies and practices:

• The Samoan sound system (phonology)
• Basic foundation of Samoan Linguistics
• Historical development
• Study of the Samoan Syntax
• Samoan language analysis
• Samoan morphology
• Lexis and grammar
• Samoan Language semantics
• Language change and shifts, English hegemony
• Samoan Sociolinguistics
• Samoan pragmatics
• Samoan language & power
• Translation, Interpretation & Transliteration Issues
• Studying the Samoan language in the 21 st century: the latest issues

4. Course delivery structure

Face to face delivery, 14 sessions in 14 weeks

<i>Class Contact Hours per week</i>		<i>Independent Learning Hours per week</i>
Lecture (in campus)	1 hour x 14 weeks	
Preparation		10 hrs per week x 14 weeks
Seminar	1 hour x 14 weeks	
Tutorial	3 hours x 1 week	
Total hours per week	31 hours per 14 weeks	140 hours per 14 weeks

5. Term Schedule

WEEK	TOPIC	DISCUSSION	RESOURCES
1	Course introduction; Resources	What is Samoan Linguistics? Do we have a philosophy of language? What are the merits of taking this course?	
2	Historical development of the Samoan Language and linguistic development Samoan phonology, Alphabet & issues	How did the Samoan language evolve since the missionaries? What are genuine Samoan sounds? Issues pertaining to the written code? Dr Fanaafi's disputation on sounds	
3	Nature of the Samoan Language; First Language (FLL) and Second a Language Learning (SLL) theories; Revision Wk 2	What are distinct features of the Samoan language? What is First Language Learning? What is Second Language Learning? - & theories	
4	Key concepts of Samoan linguistics; Study of the Samoan syntax; study of Samoan genres and vocabulary	What are the key concepts of Samoan linguistics? What rules govern the Samoan syntax? What are common genres in Samoan? The development of the modern vocabulary	
5	Samoan morphology; lexis and grammar.	What is Morphology? What principles by which Samoan words are formed? The development of the Samoan lexicology. What is the grammar of a language? The distinct features of the Samoan grammar	
6	Language within culture; Samoan literature; Samoan language semantics. Language use & language learning	Why study language within the context of culture? What is Samoan literature? How do we define meaning in a variety of texts? How do we transfer meaning intelligibly or not? How do we use language? How do we learn language?	
7	Language change and shifts and English hegemony	How has the Samoan language changed in the past 50 years? How has English changed the linguistic landscape and dictate the development of the Samoan language? What is English hegemony? How does language represent power?	
8	MID SEMESTER BREAK		

9	Samoan Sociolinguistics	How do the Samoan people use their language appropriately in various social settings and contexts? What language tapu do they use to govern its usage where gender, age, and status for example are involved?	
10	Language and Power	How does language support political power in Samoa? What are theories of power that support this notion? Critical theory, etc	
11	Language development and Power	What is the language of power? How is this encapsulated in the language of bureaucracy? The court system for example?	
12	Translation & Interpretation; vocabulary development – academic literacy; transliteration issues	What is the role of translation in the transfer of knowledge and skills? How significant is a good interpretation to cross-cultural/cross-linguistic sharing of information and promoting effective communication?	
13	Samoan pragmatics Samoan oratory & the polite language; future of Samoan study and Samoan language	Discuss Samoan pragmatics in context of the matai oratory & polite reference; Pressing issues of studying Samoan in the 21 st century using the 1 st language	
14	Major Assessment 2		

6. ASSESSMENTS

ASSESSMENT TASKS		
1. Book/Article Review	:	25%
2. Assessment Task 1 (Language Issue)	:	25%
3. Court Presentation	:	35%
4. Attendance/Participation	:	15%
TOTAL	:	100%

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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