

University of Victoria.
ENCODING LANGUAGE IN WRITING: LING 290 A01.
Fall 2025 (202509). (1.5 Units).

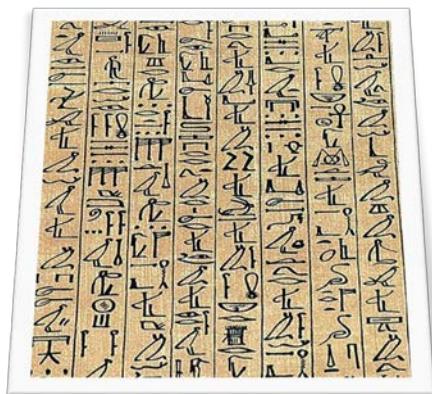


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We acknowledge and respect the Lək'wəŋən (Songhees and Xwsep̓səm/Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Lək'wəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

With gratitude, I recognize my privilege to live, learn, work, and play on this beautiful territory.

Section:	A01.	CRN Number:	11997.
Unit Value:	1.5 units.	Prerequisites:	None.
Contact Days:	Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays.	Contact Hours:	12:30 pm to 1:20 pm.
Delivery Method:	Synchronous Face-to-face.	Classroom:	DSB C108.

Course Content.

This 1.5-unit course does not have any prerequisites, i.e., no prior knowledge required. The introductory course explores the categories and unique characteristics of a sampling of ancient and modern writing systems including writing systems of Indigenous languages of Canada, focusing primarily on visual systems and on the relationship of writing to language. Diverse representational systems, which may include non-visual systems like Braille, textile-based systems and graffiti are examined in order to gain an understanding of the nature of writing. Additional topics may include origins, social context and acquisition of writing.

Required Materials.

- Choice of electronic eTEXT (Free) **or** PAPER text (Priced):
 - eTEXT: Coulmas, F. (2003). Writing Systems: An introduction to their linguistic analysis. Cambridge University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781139164597>; ISBN: 9781139164597
 - PAPER: Florian Coulmas. 2003. Writing Systems: An introduction to their linguistic analysis. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 9780521787376
- Minimum technology requirements for students (see [UVic Requirements](#)). These apply as this course requires some online participation.

Instructor Information.

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Teaching Assistants:	TBA.		



University
of Victoria

School of Languages,
Linguistics and Cultures