

Research methods for Linguistics**2015/2016**Code: 100198
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500245 English Studies	OT	3	0
2500245 English Studies	OT	4	0

Contact

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Use of languages

Principal working language: english (eng)

Prerequisites

- Advanced level of spoken and written English.
- A consolidated content knowledge of the structure of English based on the successful completion of courses on phonetics, syntax, and descriptive grammar.

Objectives and Contextualisation

- To introduce students to the various paradigms for the study of English, to the main research methods in linguistics, and to obtain practical experience in undertaking a short research project.
- To familiarize students with the basic methods of undertaking linguistic research in their area of interest and to make published research more accessible to students.

This course introduces students to the main methods, tools and techniques used in the analysis, interpretation and presentation of linguistic data from research on different aspects of the English language. Topics may include research in the areas of general linguistics, language acquisition, psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics and dialectology. The practical steps involved in carrying out research will be presented and discussed. Participants will be taught how to interpret data published in research journals and will learn to assess the suitability of different research designs to particular research questions.

Skills**English Studies**

- Developing critical thinking and reasoning and communicating them effectively both in your own and other languages.
- Distinguishing and contrasting the various theoretical and methodological models applied to the study of the English language, its literature and its culture.
- Producing innovative and competitive proposals in research and professional activity.
- Rewriting and organising information and arguments coming from several sources in English and presenting them in a coherent and summarised way.
- Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
- Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.

- Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
- Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.
- Synchronously describing the main grammar units, constructions and phenomena of the English language.
- Utilising new technologies in order to capture and organise information in English and other languages, and applying it to the personal continued training and to the problem-solving in the professional or research activity.
- Working in an autonomous and responsible way in a professional or research environment in English or other languages, in order to accomplish the previously set objectives.

Learning outcomes

1. Analysing, interpreting and presenting data and results of the student's own or other researches about synchronic English linguistics in academic written or oral English.
2. Applying the acquired knowledge and competences to professional and academic activities related to linguistics.
3. Applying the acquired knowledge to the generation of innovative and competitive research on a basic level.
4. Applying the acquired methodologies of work planning to work in an environment in the English language..
5. Applying the acquired scientific and work planning methodologies to the research in English.
6. Applying the information in English that is available on the Internet, in databases, etc. to the work and/or research environments.
7. Appropriately summarising the content of scientific sources related to synchronic English linguistics.
8. Communicating in the studied language in oral and written form, properly using vocabulary and grammar.
9. Demonstrating a mastering of the specific methods of individual academic work that prepare the student for a postgraduate specialised education in the same or a different field of study.
10. Demonstrating a sound knowledge about the topics related to the study of linguistics.
11. Distinguishing the various areas and disciplines in which specialised research about the English language can be developed.
12. Effectively communicating and applying the argumentative and textual processes to formal and scientific texts.
13. Issuing appropriate critical assessments based on the comprehension of relevant information about social, scientific or ethical issues related to linguistics.
14. Localising scientific sources in the library or Internet related to synchronic English linguistics.
15. Locating and organising relevant information in English that is available on the Internet, in databases, etc.
16. Mastering the advanced knowledge and scientific methodologies related to linguistics, literature, history and culture that prepare the student for a postgraduate specialised education in the same or a different field of study.
17. Students must be capable of comprehending advanced academic or professional texts in their own language or the another acquired in the degree.
18. Students must be capable of precisely arguing ideas and opinions in their own language or another acquired in the degree.
19. Using various practical models of data collection such as questionnaires, surveys, linguistic corpus, models of fieldwork, case studies, ethnographic methods and experimental designs.

Content

Topics include the following:

-Overview of areas of study in English linguistics.

-Overview of research methods in Linguistics:

- qualitative vs. quantitative data ;

- experimental techniques;

- observational research (case-studies, surveys and interviews);

- questionnaire design and administration;

- linguistic field research (elicitation techniques, data collection, coding and analysis);

- use of language corpora and online resources.

-Steps in carrying out research:

- identification of research questions;

- formulation of research hypotheses;

- identification and review of relevant literature;

- selection of appropriate research designs (sampling procedures, methods of data collection, methods of data analysis, instrumentation and measurement, basic statistical concepts);

- interpretation and presentation of results.

-Formal aspects of research:

- research ethics;

- use of citations and bibliographic references;

- the research report format.

Methodology

We will explore how research is carried out on a selection of language components of English from different theoretical and paradigmatic perspectives.

- Introduction to each topic by the teacher
- Readings and discussions based on detailed readings that will be provided at the beginning of the course
- Practical exercises carried out as homework or in class; student presentation
- Short research project

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Type: Directed			
Lectures, class debates and practical exercises	50	2	1, 18, 17, 9, 11, 13, 12, 8, 14
Type: Supervised			
Work on class assignments and the term paper project	25	1	1, 4, 5, 3, 6, 18, 17, 10, 16, 9, 13, 12, 8, 14, 15, 7, 19

Type: Autonomous

Specialized readings, preparation for exams and homework exercises and assignments.	50	2	17, 16, 9, 11, 14, 15, 7, 19
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Evaluation

- 1 written test approximately two thirds into the course calendar (35%).
- Assignments and homework exercises throughout the course (20%).
- Final paper: small scale research project, oral presentation and written paper (40%).
- Attendance and participation (5%)

Please note:

- 1) The homework and assignments, the written exam and the final paper are OBLIGATORY.
- 2) The minimum mark for an assignment, the final paper or the exam to be considered for the average final mark is **5** (out of 10). Students must pass the final exam and the term paper to pass the subject.
- 3) A student cannot obtain a final mark of *No available* if he/she has completed up to 40% of the subject.
- 4) The student's command of English will be taken into account when marking all exercises and for the final mark.
- 5) VERY IMPORTANT: Partial or total plagiarising will immediately result in a FAIL (0) for the plagiarised exercise (first-year subjects) or the WHOLE SUBJECT (second-, third- and fourth-year subjects). PLAGIARISING consists of copying text from unacknowledged sources -whether this is part of a sentence or a whole text- with the intention of passing it off as the student's own production. It includes cutting and pasting from internet sources, presented unmodified in the student's own text. Plagiarising is a SERIOUS OFFENCE. Students must respect authors' intellectual property, always identifying the sources they may use; they must also be responsible for the originality and authenticity of their own texts.
- 6) In the case of a justifiable absence on an exam day or the day an assignment or other important task is due (for example, because of illness), the student must present the pertinent documentation in order to justify his/her absence, such that a reevaluation opportunity may be given or a possible redistribution of the marks may be considered.

Reassessment.

Only students who have passed at least 60% of the course evaluation can take the reassessment exam or resubmit a paper or an assignment. In practice, students can only resit the final exam or resubmit the term paper or resubmit a limited number of assignments.

Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Class attendance and participation	5%	7	0.28	2, 18, 10, 13, 12, 8
Exam	35%	1.5	0.06	1, 4, 5, 2, 17, 10, 16, 9, 11, 13, 12, 8, 7
Homework and assignments	20%	8	0.32	1, 4, 5, 3, 2, 6, 17, 11, 12, 8, 14, 15, 7, 19
Term paper	40%	8.5	0.34	1, 4, 5, 3, 2, 6, 18, 17, 10, 16, 9, 11, 13, 12, 8, 14, 15, 7, 19

Bibliography

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