

Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods

Code: 42297
ECTS Credits: 9

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
4313157 Advanced English Studies	OT	0	A

The proposed teaching and assessment methodology that appear in the guide may be subject to changes as a result of the restrictions to face-to-face class attendance imposed by the health authorities.

Contact

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Use of Languages

Principal working language: english (eng)

Teachers

María José Solé Sabater

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites

Objectives and Contextualisation

The objectives of this course are

- (a) To provide students with the methodological tools needed to carry out linguistic research at a graduate level.
- (b) To introduce students to research using qualitative methods.
- (c) To introduce students to research using quantitative methods.
- (d) Familiarise students with data analysis instruments and the use of statistical packages.

Competences

- Analyse and synthesise information at an advanced level.
- Analyse the relationship between factors, processes or phenomena in the acquisition of English as a second language, its learning and teaching methods, and its literature, history and culture.
- Apply methodological knowledge of statistical analysis and data generation, treatment and codification of multilingual databases, analysis of literary texts, etc. to research.
- Communicate the knowledge acquired and the contributions of ones research correctly, accurately and clearly both orally and in writing.
- Critically argue, issue judgements and present ideas on the basis of the analysis of information originating from scientific production in these areas.
- Develop autonomous learning skills applicable to the research process.
- Develop the ability to assess sex and gender inequalities in order to design solutions.

- Distinguish and contrast between the different methodological and theoretical models applied to the academic study of the acquisition, teaching and use of English as a second language in multilingual and multicultural contexts, literary studies and cultural studies.
- Show respect towards the opinions, values, behaviours and/or practices of others.
- Use new technologies for capturing and organising information relevant to lifelong learning and problem-solving in professional activities.
- Use the English language for academic and professional purposes related to research into the acquisition, teaching and use of English as a second language in multilingual and multicultural contexts, literary studies and cultural studies.
- Work effectively in teams in multilingual, multicultural and interdisciplinary professional and/or academic environments.

Learning Outcomes

1. Analyse and interpret linguistic data in a coherent and structured manner.
2. Analyse and synthesise information at an advanced level.
3. Apply statistical analysis methods as well as different techniques for the treatment, transcription and coding of oral and written data of a multilingual nature.
4. Communicate the knowledge acquired and the contributions of ones research correctly, accurately and clearly both orally and in writing.
5. Create and use qualitative and quantitative indicators, including those of a statistical nature, to better understand the involvement of language in the production and reproduction of gender inequalities.
6. Critically analyse and evaluate academic texts that discuss research conducted within qualitative and quantitative paradigms.
7. Design research studies from a quantitative and a qualitative perspective while correctly identifying the factors at stake and anticipating the complexities of data generation and its contexts.
8. Develop autonomous learning skills applicable to the research process.
9. Distinguish the ontological and epistemological principles of linguistic research of a quantitative-experimental and of a qualitative nature and explain their differences.
10. Orally present the methodological design, data, analysis and results of quantitative and qualitative pieces of research in an organised, clear and understandable manner.
11. Present the methodological design, data, analysis and results of quantitative and qualitative pieces of research in writing while observing the conventions of academic articles in English.
12. Produce, collect and interpret empirical data related to knowledge and linguistic uses in a gender-sensitive way.
13. Show respect towards the opinions, values, behaviours and/or practices of others.
14. Use new technologies for capturing and organising information relevant to lifelong learning and problem-solving in professional activities.
15. Work effectively in teams in multilingual, multicultural and interdisciplinary professional and/or academic environments.

Content

Qualitative Methods

1. Concepts of language in qualitative research. Ontological and epistemological considerations. What quality research is NOT.
2. Designing ethnographic research to answer qualitative research questions. Position of the researcher and perspective of the participants.
3. Choosing the site for fieldwork and how to access it. Ethical and political considerations. First practical steps
4. Language data types. Interaction, speech, language system, conversation, codes
5. Methods for collecting data 1: Writing fieldnotes. Compilation of texts and documents, photographs, videos, and other types of data

6. Methods for collecting data 2: Interviews, life stories and narratives.
7. The transcription of oral data and how to present qualitative data for the analysis.
8. The validity of knowledge generated in qualitative and ethnographic research. Levels of complexity.

Quantitative Methods

1. Introduction to quantitative research methods. The road to research. Experimental research methods in different areas of linguistics.
2. Basic notions in experimental research and research design. Dependent and independent variables. Hypothesis formulation. Control and experimental conditions. Sample and population. Subject/material/task selection.
3. Types of experimental designs and further issues in experimental research.
4. Descriptive statistics. Measures of centrality and dispersion. Data organization and presentation of results.
5. Basic inferential statistics. Probability theory. Main effects and interactions.
6. T-tests. ANOVAs. Chi-square tests. Correlations. Regressions.

Methodology

Lectures at the beginning of each topic to introduce basic concepts

In-class discussion of assigned readings.

Problem-solving activities.

Correction and discussion of exercises.

Data gathering, transcription and analysis

: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Assigned readings	50	2	6
Discussion of assigned readings	25	1	9
Practical exercises	50	2	1, 3, 7, 9, 15, 14
Type: Supervised			
Preparation work for assignments	25	1	10, 11
Type: Autonomous			
Exercises	50	2	6, 2, 8

Assessment

The course mark will be obtained by averaging out the mark for quantitative methods (50%) and for qualitative methods (50%).

Quantitative methods

Assignments 1, 2 and 3: 75%

Weekly homework and class participation: 25%

Qualitative methods

Assignments 1, 2 and 3: 75%

Weekly homework and class participation: 25%

Procedure for reviewing grades awarded: On carrying out each evaluation activity, lecturers will inform students (on Moodle) of the procedures to be followed for reviewing all grades awarded, and the date on which such a review will take place.

Evaluation activities excluded from reassessment. The following activities are not eligible for reassessment: Weekly homework and class participation

A written exercise will be required to reassess all course content.

Students will receive a "no-avaluable" ('non-assessed') grade if they fail to submit more than 30% of all assessment activities.

Students are required to employ non-sexist language in their written and oral productions. For guidelines on how to do this, they are advised to check the website of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA): <https://www.linguisticsociety.org/resource/lisa-guidelines-nonsexist-usage>. Appropriate use of language will be part of the assessment criteria.

In the event that tests or exams cannot be taken onsite, they will be adapted to an online format made available through the UAB's virtual tools (original weighting will be maintained). Homework, activities and class participation will be carried out through forums, wikis and/or discussion on Teams, etc. Lecturers will ensure that students are able to access these virtual tools, or will offer them feasible alternatives.

VERY IMPORTANT - PLAGIARISM/COPY. In the event of a student committing any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation in the grade awarded to an assessment activity, the student will be given a zero for this activity, regardless of any disciplinary process that may take place. In the event of several irregularities in assessment activities of the same subject, the student will be given a zero as the final grade for this subject.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Assignments 1, 2 and 3 (qualitative methods) and Assignments 1, 2 and 3 (quantitative methods)	75	5	0.2	6, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 13, 8, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 14
Weekly homework and class participation	25	20	0.8	1, 2, 4, 13, 8, 10, 15

Bibliography

Qualitative Methods:

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- Copland, Fiona & Angela Creese (2015) *Linguistic Ethnography*. London: Sage.
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- Litosselity, Lia (ed.) (2010) *Research Methods in Linguistics*. London: Continuum.
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- Woods, Peter (1999) *Successful Writing for Qualitative Researchers*. London: Routledge.
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- Badiella, Ll. et al. (2015). *Manual de Introducció a Deducer: una interfaz gràfica per a usuaris de R*. Servei d'Estadística Aplicada de la UAB.
- Fellows, I. (2012). Deducer: An R Graphical User Interface (GUI) for Everyone. Version 2012-01-05. www.Deducer.org/manual.html
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- Johnson, K. 2008. *Quantitative Methods in Linguistics*. Wiley-Blackwell.
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- Verzani, J. 2005. *Using R for introductory statistics*. Boca Raton, FL: Chapman & Hall/CRC Press.

Software

For the 4.5 credits that correspond to "Quantitative Research Methods" the following software will be employed:

- Deducer, an R Graphical User Interface (GUI).

- Microsoft Excel