



Universidade de Vigo

Métodos e recursos de investigación lingüística e a súa aplicación á lingua inglesa

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GUÍA DOCENTE E MATERIAL DIDÁCTICO
2020/2021

MÁSTER INTERUNIVERSITARIO EN ESTUDOS INGLESES AVANZADOS E AS SÚAS APLICACIÓNS

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Edición electrónica. 2020

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COURSE TITLE

Research methods and resources in English linguistics

ECTS CREDITS

3 ECTS credits

COURSE TYPE

Compulsory for students specialising in English language and linguistics

SEMESTER

1st semester (Autumn)

PREREQUISITES

None

AIMS AND SKILLS

The aim of this course is to train students to do research and study in English linguistics, and to help students develop professional skills that will be useful for their future in any academic or research setting. The topics discussed in this course will facilitate the process of writing research essays and the final MA dissertation.

In this course students will acquire intellectual skills in identifying a research topic and formulating research questions and hypotheses. Students will also gain practical skills in order to acquire basic background knowledge for research and study in linguistic topics, and how to make efficient use of information resources such as libraries and standard reference works. Amongst other key transferable skills, this course will help students improve their skills in academic writing and oral communication, for instance by making use of the appropriate conventions for the presentation of essays and for oral presentations.

COMPETENCES

CB6, CB9, CB10, G01, G02, G03, G04, G05, G06, G07, G08, G09, G10, E01, E02.

CONTENTS

1. Literature research and resources for linguistic research (how to write the literature review of an essay/dissertation; how to search databases, catalogues etc.; introduction to main websites, software, reference grammars and dictionaries; etc.).
2. Research questions and research outline (types of research questions and hypotheses; how to elaborate a research proposal; overview of quantitative and qualitative methods for linguistic research).
3. Data collection methods and research ethics (variety of methods in linguistic research, e.g. corpora, introspection, surveys; ethical approval and informants' consent; etc.).
4. Referencing and writing conventions in linguistics (e.g. Unified Style Sheet for Linguistics; how to cite reference sources; use of italics, glosses, exemplification, etc.; academic malpractice, e.g. plagiarism, collusion, etc.).
5. Research paper (abstract, structure, publication, etc.).
6. Presentations (tips for the preparation of different modes of presentation of research: oral presentations, posters, handouts, etc.).

TEACHING METHODS

- Lectures on essential methods and resources for linguistic research.
- Seminar sessions with interactive discussions on the subjects presented in the lectures. Some tasks may require collaborative group work.
- eLearning platform for summative and formative assessment.
- Independent learning on the part of the student, including self-assessment tasks via the eLearning platform.
- Handouts will be provided to accompany lectures and seminar work.

ASSESSMENT

First opportunity:

- 15% Attendance and active participation at lectures, seminars and hands-on sessions. Please note that attendance to the sessions is compulsory.
- 45% Exercises (e.g. tests, short answers, self-assessment evaluation, programmed readings, presentations, etc.) to be submitted via the teaching platform.
- 40% Written test(s).

Second opportunity:

Students will have to repeat only those parts (exercises and written test(s)) in which they did not reach a pass in the first opportunity.

Students officially exempt from class attendance:

Students will have to hand in all course exercises (45%) and will have to take a final exam (55%).

All exercises and tests will be done in English. Overall correctness in language and in the use of formal conventions is indispensable. Therefore, grammatical and orthographic mistakes will be penalised.

RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Cottrell, Stella. 2008. *The study skills handbook*. 3rd edn. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Gibaldi, Joseph. 2008. *MLA style manual and guide to scholarly publishing*. New York: Modern Language Association of America.
- Krug, Manfred & Julia Schlüter (eds.). 2013. *Research methods in language variation and change*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Litosseliti, Lia (ed). 2010. *Research methods in linguistics*. London: Continuum.
- Podesva, Robert J. & Devyani Sharma. 2013. *Research methods in linguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Sebba, Mark. 2000. *Focusing on language. A student's guide to research planning, data collection, analysis and writing up*. Lancaster: Definite Article Publications.
- Unified Style Sheet for Linguistics:*
<http://linguistlist.org/pubs/tocs/JournalUnifiedStyleSheet2007.pdf>
- Wray, Alison, Kate Trott & Aileen Bloomer. 1998. *Projects in linguistics. A practical guide to researching language*. London: Arnold. [Later editions also available.]
- Yáñez-Bouza, Nuria, in collaboration with Rob Drummond. 2011. *Handbook of study skills*. Manchester: Department of Linguistics and English Language.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Students are expected to complete all assignments and readings suggested by the lecturers, and to come to the sessions prepared to discuss them. Students must visit the eLearning platform for the course regularly. Students are expected to check their university email on a regular basis: announcements and last-minute changes will be notified via the teaching platform.

Academic misconduct (including cheating, plagiarism, collusion or fabrication of results) will not be tolerated and will be penalised.

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