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

(*Research Methods in English Language and Linguistics*)

Susana Doval Suárez (USC), coord..

Elsa González Álvarez (USC)

Ana Montoya Reyes (UDC)

David Tizón Couto (UVigo)

GUÍA DOCENTE E MATERIAL DIDÁCTICO

2026/2027

MÁSTER INTERUNIVERSITARIO EN ESTUDOS INGLESES AVANZADOS E AS SÚAS APLICACIÓNS

AUTORES : Susana Doval Suárez (USC, coord.), Elsa González Álvarez (USC), Ana Montoya Reyes (UDC), David Tizón Couto (UVigo).

Edición electrónica. 2026

ADVERTENCIA LEGAL: Reservados todos os dereitos. Queda prohibida a duplicación total ou parcial desta obra, en calquera forma ou por calquera medio (electrónico, mecánico, gravación, fotocopia ou outros) sen consentimento expreso por escrito dos autores.

COURSE TITLE

Research methods and resources in English linguistics

ECTS CREDITS

3 ECTS credits

COURSE TYPE

Compulsory

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

BASIC
CB6 - To possess and understand knowledge that provides a basis or opportunity to be original in the development and / or explanation of ideas, often in a research context.
CB9 - That students are able to communicate their conclusions and the knowledge and ultimate reasons that support them to specialized and non-specialized audiences in a clear and unambiguous way.
CBl0 - That students possess the learning skills that allow them to continue studying in a way that will be largely self-directed or autonomous.
GENERAL
G0l - Ability to delve into those concepts, principies, theories or models related to the various areas of English Studies, as well as to become familiar with the methodology required to solve those problems typical of this field of study.
G02 - Ability to apply the knowledge gained/obtained within the multidisciplinary and mutifaceted/versatile area of English Studies.
G03 - Ability to use the new information and communication technologies (ICTs) efficiently within the realm of English Studies.
G04 - Ability to present experiences, ideas or reports in public, as well as to express informed opinions based on criteria, externa! rules or personal reflections, for which a sufficient command of the academic and scientific language, both written and oral, will be necessary.
G0S - Abilities to investigate and manage new knowledge and information within the context of English Studies.
G06 - Ability to acquire/achieve criticai thinking that will lead students to consider the relevance of the existing research in the fields of study that make up/shape/define English Studies, as well as the relevance of their own investigations.
G07 - Abilities to consolidate and develop the C2 linguistic competence in the spoken and written use of the English language.
G08 - Progressive autonomy in the learning process, personal/individual search for resources and information, by getting access/accessing (to) bibliographical and documentary references on the various areas that make up/define/shape English Studies.
G09 - Ability to carry out research work of an academic nature in the different realms of English Studies.
Gl0 - Ability to present and defend a research project by making use of the appropriate terminology and resources/tools within the area object of study.
SPECIFIC
E0l - Knowledge of the main methods of linguistic research.
E02 - Knowledge of the main resources, tools and methods for linguistic research

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.

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

- Total number of hours = 75
- Hours of classroom work = 14
- Hours in virtual learning environment = 10
- Students' individual study time = 51
- CLASES Classroom sessions. Attendance 100%
    - Lectures = Hours: 5.
    - Practical seminars, debates and students' presentation. Hours: 7.
    - Tutorial sessions = Hours: 2.
- VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT. Attendance 0%

- Participation in online discussion groups. Hours: 4.
- Supervision of students' progress in reading tasks. Hours: 4.
- Self-assessment tasks. Hours: 2.

- STUDENTS INDEPENDENT WORK. Attendance 0%
  - Independent study, individually or in groups. Hours: 11.
  - Assignments and paper writing. Hours: 20.
  - Recommended readings and bibliographic search. Hours: 20.

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, programme readings, presentations, etc.) to be submitted via the teaching platform.

40% Written test(s) / Research proposal.

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 (50%) and will have to take a final exam (50%).

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. 2019. *The study skills handbook*. 5th edn. London: Red Globe Press.
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). 2018. *Research methods in linguistics*. 2nd edn. London: Continuum.
Podesva, Robert J. & Devyani Sharma. 2013. *Research methods in linguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Sealey, Alison. 2010. *Researching English language. A resource book for students*. London: Routledge.
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. 2012. *Projects in linguistics. A practical guide to researching language*. 3rd edn. London: Routledge.
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.

Attention to Diversity: The subject may be adapted for students that require the adoption of measures aimed at supporting diversity (physical, visual, hearing, cognitive, learning or related to mental health). In such cases, students should contact the services available at the university/faculty within the official periods stipulated to this effect prior to the start of each semester.

E-mail addresses:

susanamaria.doval@usc.es
elsa.gonzalez@usc.es
ana.montoya@udc.es
davidtizon@uvigo.es