LIND29H3 Linguistic Research Methodologies

Fall 2020
University of Toronto Scarborough

Instructor:	Dr. Curt Anderson (he/him/his)
Class time:	online synchronous; Thursday 13:00 – 15:00 Toronto time
Classroom:	online via Zoom
Office hours:	by appointment
Course webpage:	Quercus (http://q.utoronto.ca)
Email:	curt.anderson@utoronto.ca

1 Course Overview and Objectives

As an academic discipline, research forms the core of what linguists do. In this course, you will be introduced to the process of conducting original research in linguistics, including an overview of different methods in linguistics, the structure and organization of scientific papers in linguistics, how to read papers more effectively, and how to develop tractable research questions. In addition, you will gain practical experience with several methods for collecting data: surveys, online experiments, and corpora. This course will give you insight into what the research process is like and prepare you for conducting research in the future, either as part of an independent study, or in your future graduate-level studies. At the end of the course, you will have a research proposal that could be turned into a future independent study project, or used as the foundation for your research statement for graduate school applications. Finally, as research skills are more generally thinking skills, even if you are not anticipating a future in academic linguistics, many of the general skills you gain in this course will be applicable in your future career.

2 Relation to Other Courses

Prerequisites:	LINB04H3 (Phonology I) and LINB06H3 (Syntax I) and LINB10H3 (Morphology)
Exclusions:	none
Breadth Requirement:	Arts, Literature & Language

3 Textbook

There is no textbook assigned for this course. All readings for the course will be made available on Quercus as PDFs.

4 Requirements

The requirements for this course are as follows:

Assessment	Weight
Short assignments (5)	25%
1. Research ethics training	
2. Research meeting with professor	
3. Extended article critique	
4. Research question	
5. Description of methodology	
Experimental methods quiz	5%
Annotated bibliography	15%
Final project (project proposal)	25%
Project presentation	15%
Final project methods mockup	10%
Engagement	5%

Assessments come in several forms.

- Short assignments either have some task for you to complete, often along with some small amount of writing (these will be discussed more later).

- The annotated bibliography will require you to find sources for a research project, and briefly discuss what each of these sources says and how it relates to the project.

- The final project (project proposal) is a proposal for research that you could carry out, consisting of a brief literature review, critique of previous research, your hypothesis and statement of why the research is important, and what methods you will use in connection with the project. Along with this, you'll give a short presentation about your project, and create a mockup of the experimental design or discuss in detail how you will collect data.

- There will also be a short quiz mid-term on basic terminology used in experimental research.

- Finally, engagement is a small portion of your grade. This is earned by thoughtfully participating in class discussions, using the discussion board to talk about your project with others (honing the research questions, finding relevant papers, issues related to building the experiment/survey/using corpora), or asking questions during the final presentations.

Grading scheme: The grading scheme used in this class is the standard UTSC grading scheme.

Due dates: All assignments are due at Friday, 11:59pm Toronto time, in the week that they are due, except for (i) the presentation, which will be done in class, and (ii) the final project proposal along with the project mockup, which are due on the final day of classes at UTSC (December 7th, 11:59pm).

Late assignments: In general, late assignments will not be accepted, except under special circumstances. Please talk to me as soon as possible so that we can figure out the next step and get you back on track in the course.

5   Course Policies

Netiquette: Although we are meeting online, the same general standards of behavior you would find in a physical classroom apply: be considerate of me and your colleagues, be respectful when discussing others' views, be aware of how your colleagues might have different lived experiences than yourself, don't interrupt when others are speaking, and dress appropriately. However, there are additional rules of behavior online to be aware of. A few pointers:

- Try to attend class sessions from a quiet space with a minimum of background distractions (though I realize this may not always be possible). Mute yourself when not speaking.

- Be aware of any private or inappropriate material that might be visible if you share your screen.

- Humor and sarcasm don't always come across as easily online, especially in text form.

- ALL CAPS and excessive exclamation points!!!!! can come across as anger.

- But, feel free to use emoticons in text! They help a lot in communicating online.

- Be charitable to others, and forgive and forget. Normal social cues break down online, and you may have misunderstood someone, or they might not have realized they did something rude.

Preference on names and pronouns: If you want me to refer to you with a particular name or pronouns, please let me know at a time that works best for you. If I make a mistake, please don't hesitate to correct me in a way that's non-confrontational and respectful.

Cameras are optional: It's up to you whether you want to turn your camera on. There are many reasons why you might not want to turn on your camera, some potentially very personal, and so you're under no obligation to turn your camera on during our synchronous class periods, my office hours, or private meetings with me.

Email: Make sure you check your University of Toronto email regularly. Any class announcements will be sent to your university email address. I check my email regularly, but if I don't get back to you within 36 hours (excluding weekends), feel free to send a reminder. In the "subject" line of emails to me, put the course number plus a short descriptor of what the email is about (e..g, LIND29 Question about BNC), and sign off with your full name at the end of the email. I teach many students this semester, and these two things will help me stay organized with this course and get a reply back to you faster.

Recording of lectures: Our class sessions will be recorded and posted on Quercus with minimal editing. Please do not share these recorded lectures with people not participating in the course. At the end of the term, these recordings will be deleted.

Accessibility: Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the AccessAbility Services Office as soon as possible. AccessAbility Services staff (located in Rm AA142, Arts and Administration Building) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations 416-287-7560 or email ability@utsc.utoronto.ca. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Academic misconduct: The University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University of Torontos Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters[1] outlines the behaviours that constitute

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[1]http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm

academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Potential offences in papers and assignments include using someone elses ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement, submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor, making up sources or facts, obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment. On tests and exams cheating includes using or possessing unauthorized aids, looking at someone elses answers during an exam or test, misrepresenting your identity, or falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctors notes.

6   Schedule

This is a tentative overview of the topics we'll address, in roughly the order we'll address them. Depending on how quickly or slowly we go through some topics, this particular sequence might change as the semester progresses.

Week	Topic	Assignments due
Week 1	Introduction Scientific method Survey of methods in linguistics	
Week 2	Research ethics in linguistics	Short assignment 1
Week 3	Developing a topic Finding relevant research and managing a project	
Week 4	Reading linguistics and critiquing research Argumentation in linguistics	Short assignment 2
Week 5	Intuitions in linguistic research Experiments in linguistics (I)	Annotated bibliography
—	Reading week (no class)	
Week 6	Experiments in linguistics (II) Analyzing data and basic descriptive statistics	Experimental methods quiz
Week 7	Workshop: Ibex (Ibex Farm or PC Ibex)	Short assignment 3
Week 8	Corpus linguistics	Short assignment 4
Week 9	Workshop: COCA, NOW, BNC, CHILDES, CLAN	
Week 10	Surveys in linguistic research Workshop: Survey Monkey	Short assignment 5
Week 11	Student presentations	Presentation due
Week 12	Student presentations Pulling it all together	Mockup and research proposal due