

# LIN 701.001 Spring 2024

## Research Seminar in Linguistic Theory & Typology

**when** Monday & Wednesday 3:00 - 4:15

**where** Barker Hall 301

**who** Kevin B. McGowan

**office** 1669 Patterson Office Tower

**e-mail** kbmcgowanuky.edu

**office hours** T 2:00-3:30 pm or by appointment

### 0.1 Prerequisites

Second-year standing in the MA program in Linguistic Theory & Typology; LIN 601 Research Methods

### 0.2 Course description

This course is designed to train students in research and professionalization related to the discipline of linguistics, and so prepare them for active engagement in professional activities in linguistics. To that end, students will create a 20-30 page research report as a culmination of a set of training milestones that include (1) producing an annotated bibliography, (2) writing an abstract, (3) reflecting on good practice in linguistics research, and (4) publicly presenting research. An integral component of the course are the periodic collaborative sessions where students discuss with their peers and faculty their progress in theory, methodology, data collection, and data analysis for their research reports, and where they engage in peer review of their developing portfolio of professional materials.

### **0.3 Student learning outcomes:**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- perform independent theoretical research on an original topic with results that are professionally presentable;
- demonstrate the application of established research methods to a field of inquiry;
- engage in informed scholarly discussion and debate with colleagues on linguistic topics both within and outside their direct fields of specialization;
- demonstrate an awareness of career opportunities for linguistics graduates, and identify strategies for securing a professional position.

### **0.4 Required materials**

Readings specific to the student's field of study will be the primary reference material. Students will also be required to take part in general class readings of classic linguistic papers as well as papers published by faculty. All materials will be made available on Canvas.

### **0.5 Course work**

Students in this course will produce a 15-30 page research piece that should serve as the basis for their thesis literature review. Milestones toward this goal will be a subset of the following deliverables:

- a statement of purpose of the research project, including a detailed abstract summarizing the theoretical and methodological approaches to be undertaken in the project and the material to be analyzed;
- a working bibliography appropriate to the project;
- a summary of previous and current work in the field (literature review);
- oral presentation of the research

### **0.6 Course Evaluation**

Table 1: Contributions to final grade

Deliverable	Value
Research statement and abstract	10%
Literature review draft	10%
Bibliography	10%
Oral presentation	10%
Methods draft	10%
Final draft lit review	50%

## 0.7 Grading Scale

Table 2: Official grading policy

letter grade	percentage
A	90 - 100%
B	80 - 89%
C	70-79%
E	69% and below

## 0.8 Course Web Sites

We will use Canvas for the necessarily private portions of our course website.  
We will use the course's github

# 1 Policies

## 1.1 Standard Academic Policy (University Senate)

This course adopts the University-standard policies, including:

- Excused Absences & Acceptable Excuses
- Religious Observances
- Verification of Absences
- Make-Up Work
- Excused Absences for Military Duties

- Unexcused Absences
- Prep Days and Reading Days
- Accommodations Due to Disability
- Non-Discrimination Statement and Title IX Information
- Regular and Substantive Interaction

<https://universitysenate.uky.edu/standard-academic-policy-statements>

## 2 Tentative Schedule

The following dates are approximate and dates are subject to change. Time is a social construct. On days noted with an asterisk (\*), please bring your laptop or tablet. Laptops and tablets are also social constructs.

Date	Topic	What's due
M 1/8	Course Introduction	
W 1/10	Ferdinand de Saussure; An introduction to Zotero*	Saussure pages 1 - 23
M 1/15	MLK Holiday– no class	
W 1/17	Nature of the Linguistic Sign; R Studio*	Saussure pages 65 - 78
M 1/22	Research Statements and Abstracts	
W 1/24	Choosing a Committee* & Markdown editing for fun but not much profit*	Research statement and Abstract

Date	Topic	What's due
M 1/29	CVs/resumes; Making a CV using R Studio	
W 1/31	Research Resources*; Some more Zotero	
M 2/5	Critiquing the literature*	CV
W 2/7	Chomsky (1965)	Aspects pages 3-27
M 2/12	Organizing a lit review*	Bibliography
W 2/14	Writing camp*; Pomodoro	Pomodoro
M 2/19	Writing camp*	Thesis Committee and Chair
W 2/21	Writing exchanges*	
M 2/26	Writing about methods	
W 2/28	Writing camp*	
M 3/4	Data Presentation	Literature review draft
W 3/6		
M 3/18	Writing camp*	

Date	Topic	What's due
W 3/20	Why and How to get into a PhD program; “Statement of Purpose” letters	
M 3/25	Research statement (revisited) and Teaching statement	
W 3/27	Writing exchanges*	
M 4/1	Github	Methods draft
W 4/3	Joan Bybee and Frequency	Bybee & Hopper 2001
M 4/8	Thesis format & procedures + how to graduate*	
W 4/10	Sociolinguistics	Weinreich, Herzog, and Labov (1967)
M 4/15	Editing vs. Revising*	
W 4/17	Revising*	
M 4/22	Student presentations	
W 4/24	Student presentations	

Final draft of Literature Review due before our Scheduled Final Exam time.