

Corpus Linguistics

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Fall 2017

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Class Hours: TBD

Class Room: TBD

Course Description

This course provides a general overview of Corpus Linguistics, focusing on contemporary approaches, but also with a historical overview and an examination of the main theoretical issues of the discipline. Students will be introduced to different perspectives in the corpus-based analysis of language. In this class, students will be able to understand and evaluate the practical issues surrounding data collection, storage, annotation, and analysis of various language corpora. Throughout the course students will learn to use some of the most common techniques, tools, and software packages in corpus analysis, and they will build a corpus and utilize it for a research project.

Course Objectives

1. Students will recognize and develop strategies and practices for the collection, storage, annotation, and analysis of linguistic corpora.
2. Students will have acquired competence in the tools of corpus linguistics
 - Develop skills in corpus collection, searching, annotation, and analysis
 - Students will build and annotate a small corpus during the class
3. Students will have acquired an understanding of how corpora are compiled and further developed
4. Students will acquire the ability to perform basic statistical analysis common in corpus linguistics and to discuss findings
5. Students will be able to analyze and critique primary sources of research in corpus linguistics

6. Students will be able to apply the terms and concepts of the course to a current research project
7. Students will achieve enhanced critical reading, writing, and speaking skills

Course Readings

Readings will be provided on the course website (or on the teaching page of my website)

Course Policies

- **Attendance and punctuality** — Attendance is a requirement in this course. Although there is no specific penalty for missing a class, you will be held responsible for the content of every lecture and for knowing about assignments. If you should need to miss a class, be certain to check with me (the instructor) to ascertain what you will be missing. If you should miss a class or arrive late, be sure to find out what you missed. It is very important that you come to class **on time**. Failure to do so is disruptive and impacts negatively on the rest of class.
- **Electronic distractions** — Laptops, tablets, and smart phones are almost becoming like extended parts of our bodies; however, please respect the institution of the University, the instructor, and yourself by using electronic devices appropriately. You may use your laptop/tablet to take notes and participate in class activities, but you are required to be responsible with respect to sites visited during class. Further, please silence your cell phones before entering the classroom. Use of any technological devices during the midterm will result in a zero on that exam. Failure to adhere to these policies may result in dismissal from class.
- **Grading of homework assignments** — Grading criteria vary according to the assignment (rubrics for each assignment will be provided on the class website or the teaching tab of my academic website), though you should always aim for originality, relevance (use proper citation methods), style, grammar, and well-crafted presentation of arguments and counter-arguments. It is your responsibility, whether you are present or not, to be aware of due dates and times for assignments ('It's in the syllabus'). Late assignments (when accepted) will be lowered one letter grade (10%) for each day late (including weekend days).
 - No make-up exams will be given.

Grading Policy

- 15% of your grade will be determined by an article presentation.
- 25% of your grade will be determined by 5 article summaries (5% each).
- 15% of your grade will be determined by a mid-term
- 20% of your grade will be determined by a research paper.

- 10% by an oral presentation of your research paper.
- 15% of your grade will be determined by a final exam.

Grading Scale

A	91.5-100.0	excellent, exceptional
B+	87.5-91.49	very good, admirable
B	81.5-87.49	good, commendable
C+	77.5-81.49	adequate, passable
C	71.5-77.49	marginal
D+	67.5-71.49	unsatisfactory
D	61.5-67.49	more unsatisfactory
F	< 61.49	über unsatisfactory

Course Requirements

- **Article presentations:** Groups of two or more students will present a research article summary in class once a semester. The presentation must be 15-20 minutes long. The presentation slides must be submitted to Prof. Reed via email at least by the class period before the presentation is scheduled. Late submission reduces the maximum score by 2.5 points for each day that the submission is late.
- **Article summaries:** You are responsible for 5 article summaries. All articles will be available on the course website and/or on the teaching tab of my academic website. The article summaries should briefly summarize the major theory, methods, and findings of the article. Each article summary should end with at least three critical questions pertaining to either the methods, theory, or conclusions of the article. Article summaries should be between 2-3 pages long (excluding the cover page and references; double-spaced; 12-point font; 1-inch margins throughout). Article summaries must be submitted via email by 2pm on the due dates listed on the schedule.
- **Exams:** The mid-term will cover the material from the first half of the semester, and the final exam will be cumulative for the entire semester.
- **Research Paper:** Students will write a corpus-based research paper (for 20% towards their final grade) and give an 5-10 minute oral presentation of their paper in class (for 10% towards their final grade), utilizing the corpus that is built over the course of the semester. Students are strongly encouraged to schedule a meeting with me to discuss possible topics and methods. A 1-page research proposal outlining the research topic is due by the mid-term. The research papers should be between 10-15 pages long (excluding the cover page, references, and potential appendices), double-spaced, 12-point font, 1-inch margins throughout. The research paper is due by the date indicated in our schedule below.

Academic Dishonesty Policy

You are encouraged to work together, but are expected to do your own work and acknowledge use of anyone else's work or ideas. Academic dishonesty includes: (a) copying another student's

work or letting another student copy your work and (b) copying passages or ideas directly from another source and passing them off as your own; that is, without properly referencing them. If you have been academically dishonest, and violated the Honor Pledge and Code (<https://online.odu.edu/policies-and-student-responsibilities>), I will be required to report you to the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity. Each student must write up her/his assignment independently; copying and pasting is not allowed.

If you decide to collaborate with others, please describe the nature of this collaboration, whether in the capacity of having your assignment proofread, receiving assistance with the analysis, or simply ‘throwing around ideas’. A brief sentence at the top of your assignment will be sufficient. You will not be ‘marked down’ if you received assistance, but it is important to acknowledge those who have directly helped you develop your ideas.

Statement on Accommodation

In keeping with Old Dominion University’s commitment to non-discrimination and providing program accessibility for qualified students with disabilities, I am happy to provide reasonable accommodation in collaboration and guidance with the Office of Educational Accessibility. Students wishing to make such arrangements should contact the Office at 683-4655.

Week 01, 09/02 - 09/06: Course Overview/Introduction to Corpus Linguistics

- **Reading:** McEnery and Hardie Chap. 1

Week 02, 09/09 - 09/13: Using publicly available corpora

- *Corpus of Contemporary American English*
- *MultiMo: The database of Multiple Modals*

Week 03, 09/16 - 09/20: Using concordance software

- *KwicKwic*
- **Reading:** McEnery and Hardie Chap. 2

Week 04, 09/23 - 09/27: Building a corpus 1

- **Topic:** Text compilation

Week 05, 09/30 - 10/04: Building a corpus 2

- **Topic:** Mark-up and annotation

Week 06, 10/07 - 10/11: Building a corpus 3

- **Topic:** Eliciting data
- **Reading:** Baker, Gabrielatos, and McEnery 2013
- **Presentations:** Article Presentation Group 1
- **Homework:** Article Summary 1 due

Week 07, 10/14 - 10/18: Mid-term

Week 08, 10/21 - 10/25: Building a corpus 4

- **Topic:** Transcription
- **Reading:** Myslin and Gries 2010
- **Presentations:** Article Presentation Group 2
- **Homework:** Article Summary 2 due

Week 09, 10/28 - 11/01: Regular expressions

- **Reading:** Hyland and Milton 2004
- **Presentations:** Article Presentation Group 3
- **Homework:** Article Summary 3 due
- **Paper:** Research Proposal due

Week 10, 11/04 - 11/08: Analysis/statistical measures 1

- **Reading:** Stefanowitsch and Gries 2003

Week 11, 11/11 - 11/15: Analysis/statistical measures 2

Week 12, 11/18 - 11/22: Using corpora 1

- **Reading:** Diessel and Tomasello 2005
- **Presentations:** Article Presentation Group 4
- **Homework:** Article Summary 4 due

Week 13, 11/25 - 11/29: Using corpora 2

- **Reading:** O'Keefe and Farr 2003
- **Presentations:** Article Presentation Group 5
- **Homework:** Article Summary 5 due

Week 14, 12/02 - 12/06: Using corpora 3

- **Paper:** Research paper presentations

Final Exam TBD, 12/09 - 12/13: