

LING 5070 Research Method in Linguistics
Fall 2018

Instructor: Xian Zhang (Sean)
Time: Mon. 6:30 pm -9:20 pm
Location: Discovery Park D212
Email: xian.zhang@unt.edu
Office location: Discovery Park G178C
Office Hours: Mon 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm or by appointment

Course Objectives

The course provides an introduction of research methods in linguistics and applied linguistics/ESL with a focus on empirical research and second language acquisition. The course will cover a range of techniques to conduct linguistic research including data elicitation and data analysis. Upon completion of the course, students are expected to write a research proposal designed to address empirical research questions in Linguistics/Applied Linguistics/ESL.

Course Requirements

1. (5%) **Questions.** Each student would need to raise at least one question based on the textbook chapters given in the schedule below (e.g. RML 13) and send it to the instructor (with 5070 in the subject) no later than the Saturday previous to the class. Students will also need to raise at least one question on the empirical study given in the course schedule and send them to the instructor and the leading discussant of the week (see a description of the leading discussant below) no later than Saturday previous to the class.
2. (15%) **Leading discussant.** Each student will act as a leading discussant once. The leading discussant will present a 40 minute critical review of an empirical study listed in the course schedule (sign up [Here](#) to choose a topic no later than Sep. 4th). In the critical review, the leading discussant should first present the empirical study (literature review, research questions/ hypothesis, method, and results, with a focus on the method). Then the leading discussant should offer an evaluation on the study (e.g. adequacy of methodology, logic of discussion, limitation, and future research, etc.). Finally, select some of the questions raised by other students and stimulate a discussion on the topic (10-20 minutes).
3. (10%) **Research method presentation** (20-30 minutes; sign up [Here](#)). Present a research method that you are familiar with. You are strongly encouraged NOT to present a same research method that will be covered by the instructor. If you don't know which method to present, you may consider choosing a method that is described in the required text books. For the presentation, you shall include the following elements.
 - a) A brief introduction.
 - b) The types of tools it used.

- c) Some examples of research questions.
 - d) A few relevant studies and their findings.
4. (25%) **Literature review (Due Oct. 22rd)** of a topic that is approved by the instructor.
 5. (25%) **Research proposal (Dec 4th)**. Each student must develop a research proposal (4 pages, double space, 12 pts Times) that includes:
 - a) Articulation of a research question (or questions)
 - b) Identification of variables in the study
 - c) Articulation of testable hypotheses
 - d) Method and techniques for testing the hypotheses
 - e) Assessment of possible outcomes
 6. (10%) **Abstract**. Submit an abstract of your research proposal for peer review by the instructor and your classmates no later than **Nov. 19th**.
 7. (10%) **Final presentation**. Students are expected to give a 20 minute presentation of your research proposal at the end of the semester. This presentation shall outline a review of literature, research questions, methods (target participants, research instrument, data analysis technique, etc.) and prediction of outcomes. The presenters may seek suggestions from the audience on how to improve the proposal.

Textbook

Podesva, R., and Sharma, D. (2013). Research methods in linguistics. NY: CUP. (**RML**)

Makcey, A., and Gass, S. M. (2012). Research methods in second language acquisition.

Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell. (**RMSLA**)

Course Grade based on 100 points

100-95	A
94-90	A-
89-85	B+
84-80	B
79-76	B-
75-70	C
69-66	C-
65-60	D
59-0	F

Tentative Schedule

Weeks	Dates	Topics	Readings	Dues
Week 1	Aug. 27.	Introduction		
Week 2	Sep. 3.	Labor Day, no class	How to write lit review Hortwitz (2001)	Sign up
Week 3	Sep. 10.	Research design	RML Ch. 7	short presentation
Week 4	Sep. 17.	Survey research	RMSLA Ch.5 Zhang (2013)	
Week 5	Sep. 24.	Judgment data	RML Ch.3 Ionin & Zyzik (2014) Ellis (2005)	
Week 6	Oct. 1.	Corpus methods I	RML Ch.13 Biber et al. (2004)	
Week 7	Oct. 8.	Corpus methods II	RMSLA Ch.2 Coxhead(2000), Hyland & Tse(2007)	
Week 8	Oct. 15.	Quantitative data analysis I	RMSLA Ch.13 (p.259- p.265) DeKeyser(2000)	
Week 9	Oct. 22.	Quantitative data analysis II	RMSLA Ch.13 (p.245- p.259) Leow & Morgan-Short(2004)	Lit Rev.
Week 10	Oct. 29.	Quantitative data analysis III	RML Ch.16 (p.337-p.349) Lafrance & Gottardo(2005)	
Week 11	Nov. 5.	Final project development		
Week 12	Nov. 12.	Instructed SLA	RMSLA Ch.4 Loewen & Sato (2018) Mackey & Silver (2005)	
Week 13	Nov. 19.	A symposium		Abstract
Week 14	Nov. 26.	Individual differences	Dornyei & Skehan (2005) Zhang & Lu (2015)	

Week 15	Dec. 3.	Project presentation	Class evaluation	Proposal
---------	---------	----------------------	------------------	----------

Academic Dishonesty and Integrity

Students are expected to be familiar with UNT student standards of academic integrity that can be found at https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf.

Disability Accommodation Statement

“The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.”