The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages
First Term, 2023-24

Course Title: LING5701 Linguistics Research

Description:
This course is designed to prepare students for conducting linguistic research and is a prerequisite for LING5702 Research Project. It introduces general research methodology, with a specific emphasis on methods commonly used in linguistic research and analysis. As part of the course requirements, students are expected to submit a formal project proposal, which serves as a precursor to LING5702.

The primary aim of the course is to provide a comprehensive introduction to research methods and the research process, offering students detailed guidance on developing their own research projects. The curriculum includes presentations by guest speakers who will share insights from research projects in various areas of linguistics. These presentations will provide concrete examples of different methods and approaches to linguistic research, and are intended to inspire and give direction to students as they navigate the process of designing their own projects.

The course also introduces basic statistics and academic writing skills. Additionally, there is a strong emphasis on the use of electronic resources for research and writing throughout the course. Towards the end of the course, students will present their research proposals to their peers.

Content, highlighting fundamental concepts

Topic	Contents/fundamental concepts
The research process	- Defining the research problem - Conducting a literature review - Formulating a research question - Research design and methodology
Research ethics	- Informed consent - Confidentiality of data - Responsible handling of data - Ethics in publication (plagiarism, data fabrication, etc.)
Developing a research proposal	- Identifying a research topic - Writing a clear problem statement - Formulating research objectives and questions - Proposing a research methodology
Data collection and analysis	- Sampling methods - Data collection tools (surveys, interviews, etc.) - Qualitative and quantitative data analysis - Interpretation and presentation of research findings

Basic statistics	- Descriptive statistics (mean, median, mode, etc.) - Inferential statistics (hypothesis testing, t-tests, etc.) - Correlation and regression - Use of statistical software (e.g., R)
Academic writing skills	- Structuring an academic paper - Citing sources and avoiding plagiarism - Academic language and tone - Revising and editing academic writing
Using electronic resources	- Online databases for linguistic research - Using library resources - Referencing tools (e.g., Zotero, Endnote)
Presentation and peer feedback	- Developing presentation skills - Constructing a research presentation - Giving and receiving peer feedback - Reflecting on feedback and incorporating changes

Learning outcomes

Students will:

1. Understand the fundamentals of the research process, including developing a research question, conducting a literature review, and designing a study.

2. Learn about and understand the ethical considerations and guidelines that must be adhered to when conducting linguistic research.

3. Learn how to write effective research proposals, including how to articulate a clear research question, propose a methodology, and anticipate potential results.

4. Learn different methods of data collection and analysis commonly used in linguistic research.

5. Gain an understanding of a wide range of research topics and approaches in linguistics through presentations given by guest speakers.

6. Understand foundational statistical concepts and be able to apply them in the context of linguistic research.

7. Improve their academic writing skills, particularly as they relate to producing research proposals and reports.

8. Become proficient in the use of electronic resources for research and writing, including the statistical software, R.

9. Develop their presentation skills and learn to provide constructive feedback on their peers' research proposals.

10. Develop a full research proposal for a linguistic research project, which can be carried forward into their thesis work.

Learning activities

Lecture (hr) in /out class		Tutorial (hr) in /out class		Workshops (hr) in /out class		Consultation (hr) in /out class		Presentation (hr) in /**out** class		Projects (hr) in /**out** class	
10	-	5	-	6	-	3	-	9	11	-	33
M	-	M	-	M	-	M	-	M	M	-	M

M: Mandatory activity in the course
O: Optional activity

Assessment scheme

Task	Description	Weight
In-class Exercises	Participate in discussions and complete worksheets during class sessions. All submissions are to be made online.	20%
Seminar Participation	Attend at least two linguistics seminars. These are held every Tuesday from 4:30 to 6:15 PM at Lee Shau Kee Building LT4. You can earn extra credit (2% of final grade) once for asking a well-formulated question at the end of a presentation.	5%
Quiz	Take a short quiz focusing on statistics.	5%
Presentation	Present a ten-minute talk on your research proposal.	15%
Peer Feedback	Provide constructive feedback to a classmate about their project.	15%
Research Proposal	Submit a complete research proposal for your thesis project by the end of the course.	40%
Attendance	Regular attendance is expected. A deduction of 2% from your final score will be made for each unexcused absence.	-

Learning resources for students

Desagulier, G., Desagulier, G., & Amboy. (2017). *Corpus Linguistics and Statistics with R*. Springer International Publishing.

Drager, K. (2018). *Experimental Research Methods in Sociolinguistics*. Bloomsbury Publishing.

Litosseliti, L. (Ed.). (2018). *Research Methods in Linguistics*. Bloomsbury Publishing.

McKinley, J., & Rose, H. (Eds.). (2019). *The Routledge Handbook of Research Methods in Applied Linguistics*. Routledge.

Podesva, R. J., & Sharma, D. (Eds.). (2014). *Research Methods in Linguistics*. Cambridge University Press.

Rose, H., McKinley, J., & Baffoe-Djan, J. B. (2019). *Data Collection Research Methods in Applied Linguistics*. Bloomsbury Academic.

Urdan, T. C. (2016). *Statistics in Plain English*. Routledge.

Winter, B. (2019). *Statistics for Linguists: An Introduction Using R*. Routledge.

Wray, A., & Bloomer, A. (2013). *Projects in Linguistics and Language Studies*. Routledge.

Feedback for evaluation

Students are encouraged to give feedback or comments on course contents and teaching materials throughout the course, in addition to the midterm and final course evaluation. Students can contact either the lecturer or tutor directly. See contact details below.

Grade Descriptors

A **A−**	Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes. A thorough grasp of the subject as demonstrated by consistently high marks of the assignments. Ample evidence of familiarity with the literature of the relevant research topics. Students can generate good and worthwhile research ideas by themselves and produce a substantial research project.
B+ **B** **B−**	High performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall good performance. A generally good grasp of the subject as demonstrated by good marks of the assignments. Some evidence of familiarity with the literature of the relevant research topics. Students can generate doable research ideas by themselves.

C+ **C** **C–**	Satisfactory performance on some learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses. A general grasp of the subject as demonstrated by average marks of the assignments. Students need help in generating doable research ideas.
D	Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes. Insufficient grasp of the subject as demonstrated by poor marks of the assignments. Students need substantial help in generating research ideas.
F	Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, or failure to meet specified assessment requirements.

Course Schedule

Class	Date	Topic
CL-1	04-Sept-23	Introduction to Research; Research Ethics
CL-2	11-Sept-23	Writing Research Proposals and Reports
CL-3	18-Sept-23	Methods in Linguistics Research; Data Collection and Analysis
CL-4	25-Sept-23	*Topics in Syntax and Semantics (Guest Lecturer)*
	02-Oct-23	Holiday
CL-5	09-Oct-23	Introduction to Applied Statistics
CL-6	16-Oct-23	**Project Consultation Session**
	23-Oct-23	Holiday
CL-7	30-Oct-23	Practical class in R
CL-8	06-Nov-23	Presentation Workshop
CL-9	13-Nov-23	Student Presentations: Session I
CL-10	20-Nov-23	Student Presentations: Session II
CL-11	27-Nov-23	Student Presentations: Session III

Teachers' or TA's contact details

Professor/Lecturer/Instructor:	
Name:	Prof. Philip Thierfelder
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Email:	dpthierfelder [at] cuhk [.] edu [.] hk
Teaching Venue:	YIA LT8

Teaching Assistant/Tutor:	
Name:	Ms. Xinyue Liu
Email:	xinyueliu [at] cuhk [.] edu [.] hk

Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/. With each assignment, students will be required to submit a statement that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures.

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