

LING 4371 and 5370 Studies in Linguistics - Spring 2016
Department of Languages and Linguistics, UTEP

Professor: Natalia Mazzaro Office: 217
Class: Friday 1:30 – 4 pm at the lab (LART 220)
Office hours: Monday and Wednesday 3pm – 4pm; o by appointment.
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Course Description:

This course presents an overview of research methodology and design employed in linguistic investigations. We will review different experimental methodologies, as well as natural recorded speech derived from already conducted experiments and interviews. We will work on research design, data collection, transcription, and (acoustic) analysis. Students will also present a proposal of a study they want to conduct, including details of the experiments to collect their data. The actual data collection will not be performed in this class, only the theoretical background, research questions and design of the experiments for future data collection. This course should therefore serve as a foundation for future research in several areas of linguistics.

The course includes a hands-on component. The students will collaborate in one of the lab's projects, which will be decided based on the students' interest and available research projects at the lab. Thus, all our classes will be conducted at the Language Acquisition and Linguistics Research (LALR) Lab.

Required text:

Although there is no single book that exhaustively covers all the areas of linguistic research, the following textbook includes chapters of all the majors research methods, and it also guides the readers through the steps involved in collecting and processing data.

Podesva, R. J. & Sharma D. 2013. *Research Methods in Linguistics*. U.K.: Cambridge University Press.

NOTE: Additional material will be available through BlackBoard or at the UTEP library.

Course Policies:

- Since we meet only once a week, you are allowed up to two absences (excused or unexcused). Additional absences will represent a five-point reduction of your final grade. Four or more excuses may result in failure of the course.
- An incomplete will not be accepted for this course.
- You will be responsible for turning work in on time. Your work will be returned to you with comments.
- Late work will result in deduction of points from the given grade. After two days, no work will be accepted.
- E-mail communication with the instructor will be for administrative purposes only. If you missed a class, you should check the syllabus for information or contact a classmate to ask for an update.

Evaluation:

1. Class participation 15%

You are expected to contribute to our in class discussions, drawing on your own interests, background and experience. Active discussion is a key to the success of the course. The outcome of the seminar will be excellent if everyone is involved and engaged in the classroom activities; of course, this also entails completing and reflecting on the required readings before each class session.

2. Presentation 2 (5% each) 10%

You will be assigned two chapters of the textbook to present in class. You can use Power Point for the presentation or you can use a handout. In any case, email this material to the instructor one day before the presentation for posting on BlackBoard.

3. LAR lab project 35%

As stated before, you will be given different tasks to perform throughout the semester. Your evaluation will be based on how well the task was performed and whether it was completed on time. Not completing tasks on time or handing incomplete work will result in a lower grade.

This work will be sent weekly (every Monday) to the lab coordinator Derek Emmett (ddemmett@miners.utep.edu) with a cc to me. In the body of the email, write a brief description of the work performed.

4. Final Project TOTAL: 40%

Based on your needs and your interests, you will design a project addressing a particular issue or question you wish to investigate. Possible topics include:

Bilingualism in El Paso, the Spanish of Chihuahua, aspects of first or second language acquisition, language contact, language variation or change, etc. There are other possibilities! Above all, you are required to discuss your choice of project by the first week of March at the latest.

The work will be done in three parts:

(a) Selection of the topic and bibliographic search: 10%. From the very beginning, students will be encouraged to use library resources to find high quality and reliable information for their projects. On the date shown in the syllabus, students will submit a written proposal that will include: the goal of the work, a summary of the background literature related to the topic in question, the research question or hypothesis to be tested. The bibliography should include at least 7 references: 3 books, 2 journal articles and 2 online articles (found on the internet). The proposal should not exceed 3 pages of length.

(b) Oral presentation: 10%. Presentation will last 20 min, with 5 minutes for questions. This will be done using Power Point. Students will explain the topic chosen, the goal of the research and the hypothesis. Students will discuss their experience in using the resources from the library and the search strategy used to obtain valuable information.

(c) **Written proposal: 20%.** This will include the goal of the work, a review of the previous literature on the topic investigated, the research question or hypothesis to be tested, and the experiments that will be used to collect the data. Extension of the work: 10-15 pages. More detailed guidelines will be given later.

Preliminary Calendar (subject to change)

Date	Topic
Jan. 22	Syllabus, projects, dropbox and IRB training
Jan. 29	Projects & Luis on Palatal Weakening in Juarez Spanish
Feb. 5	Natalia - Ethical Issues & Ethnography (chpt. 2) - LIBRARY workshop
Feb. 12	Natalia - Transcription (Chpt. 12) – Assign tasks using Praat
Feb. 19	Natalia - Recordings, sound and articulation (Chpt. 9 & 17)
Feb. 26	Yumira - Judgment data (chpt. 3) - LAB work (acoustic analysis: vowels/diphthongs and /r/)
Mar. 4	Carina - Fieldwork for language description (chpt. 4) Natalia - LAB work (acoustic analysis: stops and fricatives) Praat Align: automatic segmentation of speech Assign Homework: transcription (see planner)
Mar. 11	Spring Break
Mar. 18	Luisa - Participant sampling (chpt. 5) Cat - Surveys and Interviews (chpt. 6) LIBRARY workshop
Mar. 25	Spring study day
Apr. 1	Carla & Natalia- Experiments (chpt. 7 & 8) – Yumira presents Red Cap Hand in Selection of Topic and Bibliographic search
Apr. 8	Mark – Constructing a linguistic analysis (Chapter 18) - LAB work (acoustic analysis). Review textgrids.
Apr. 15	Luis - Ethnography and recording interaction (Chpt 10)
Apr. 22	Laura - Using historical texts (Chpt 11)
Apr. 29	Oral presentation

The **written proposal** should be printed and brought to the Languages and Linguistics main office (LART 137) on May 6 before 5pm. Tell the secretary to leave it in my mailbox.