

Subject Code	ENGL328
Subject Title	Research Methods for Language Studies
Credit Value	3
Level	3
Pre-requisite / Co-requisite/ Exclusion	None
Objectives	This subject aims to develop students' awareness of the nature of applied language research and provide them with an understanding of applied language research by familiarising them with different approaches to research design and execution as well as methods of data collection, analysis, presentation, interpretation, and reporting. The subject serves as a preparatory course for undertaking the Final Year Project (ENGL424), but can also be studied as a stand-alone course.
Intended Learning Outcomes	<p>Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to:</p> <p>Category A: Professional/academic knowledge and skills</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. demonstrate a sound awareness of the nature of applied language research b. distinguish between quantitative, qualitative and multi-method approaches of enquiry and between secondary and primary data c. understand fundamental concepts and new developments in applied language research d. produce a research proposal in an appropriate format e. design and conduct quantitative, qualitative and multi-method research f. analyse research data manually and with the help of computer programmes (e.g. SPSS) <p>Category B: Attributes for all-roundedness</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> g. work critically and creatively h. demonstrate analytical and evaluative skills i. apply effective strategies for conducting academic research in both independent and team modes
Subject Synopsis	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fundamental concepts of applied language research 2. Qualitative, quantitative and multi-method approaches to research 3. Stages of literature review 4. Establishing research problems and questions 5. Research design techniques 6. Data collection, analysis, interpretation and triangulation

	<p>7. Statistical concepts and applications (e.g. t-test, correlations, analysis of variance)</p> <p>8. Research proposal writing</p>																																																																																																
Teaching/ Learning Methodology	<p>Learning is primarily through interactive lectures and seminars. All assignments are designed to provide students with tasks that require the evaluation, synthesis and application of key concepts, approaches and techniques to designing and analysing studies in applied language research.</p>																																																																																																
Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes	<table border="1" data-bbox="483 573 1385 1317"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Specific assessment methods/tasks</th> <th rowspan="2">% weighting</th> <th colspan="9">Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>a</th> <th>b</th> <th>c</th> <th>d</th> <th>e</th> <th>f</th> <th>g</th> <th>h</th> <th>i</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Literature Review</td> <td>10%</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Data Analysis</td> <td>15%</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Presentation</td> <td>15%</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. Research Proposal</td> <td>50%</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5. Participation</td> <td>10%</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>100 %</td> <td colspan="9"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The subject is assessed entirely through coursework. Students are assessed in terms of both subject knowledge and generic skills through a combination of an individually assessed group presentation, one or more in-class/take-home mini-projects (e.g. a data analysis report, a literature review, etc.), and a full research proposal intended for <i>Final Year Project</i> (ENGL424).</p>											Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)									a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	1. Literature Review	10%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2. Data Analysis	15%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	3. Presentation	15%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	4. Research Proposal	50%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5. Participation	10%	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	Total	100 %									
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	Total student study effort	126 Hrs.
Reading List and References	<p>Brown, J. D. (2001). <i>Using surveys in language programs</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>Burns, R. B. (2000). <i>Introduction to research methods</i> (4th Ed.). London: SAGE.</p> <p>Creswell, J. W. (2007). <i>Qualitative inquiry and research design: Choosing among five approaches</i> (2nd Ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.</p> <p>Creswell, J. W. (2008). <i>Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches</i> (3rd Ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.</p> <p>Dörnyei, Z. (2007). <i>Research methods in applied linguistics</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Dörnyei, Z. (2010). <i>Questionnaires in second language research: Construction, administration and processing</i> (2nd Ed.). New York, NY: Routledge.</p> <p>Duff, P. A. (2008). <i>Case study research in applied linguistics</i>. New York, NY: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.</p> <p>Mackey, A., & Gass, S. (2005). <i>Second language research: Methodology and design</i>. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.</p> <p>Marshall, C., & Rossman, G. B. (2006). <i>Designing qualitative research</i> (4th Ed). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.</p> <p>McEnery, T., Xiao, R., & Tono, Y. (2006). <i>Corpus-based language studies: An advanced resource book</i>. New York, NY: Routledge.</p> <p>Paltridge, B., & Phakti, A. (Eds.) (2010). <i>Continuum companion to research methods in applied linguistics</i>. London: Continuum International.</p>	

Prepared by David Qian; Revised by David Qian, June 2014