



**ENG 595 02W 22732**  
**Research Literature and Techniques**  
**"How to Write Like a Linguist"**  
**Spring 2018**

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*Note: I reserve the right to revise the contents of this syllabus as I deem necessary.*

**Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings**

- Macaulay, Monica. 2011. *Surviving Linguistics: A Guide for Graduate Students*. 2nd Ed. Cascadilla Press. *required*
- free online resources

**ENG 595 Catalogue Description**

Designed for students who choose the 36-hr degree, this course requires an extensive investigation into a topic agreed upon by the students and the adviser. Graded on a satisfactory (S) or unsatisfactory (U) basis.

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Course Description**

ENG 595 is designed to provide graduate students with an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the techniques, procedures, methods, and approaches to undertaking scholarly research and participating in the modes of idea exchange and critical rigor. In this particular iteration of ENG 595, the emphasis is on becoming a professional linguistic writer. Students enrolled in this course will take a methodological approach to understanding how research is produced, evaluated, and conducted in the many fields of linguistics. Furthermore, since research methods vary a great deal, students will be expected to be an expert in their specific area. You will also be expected to have a working knowledge of the methods of other areas of linguistics. Thus, the

course aims to help prepare graduate students for the sorts of research methods that professors in later courses will expect of them.

In practical terms, the students will meet (in person but more commonly using other technology: skype, phone, face-time, etc.) weekly with the instructor and will work on a research paper from deciding the topic to turning in the paper for its evaluation.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

- identify appropriate methods of research in linguistics
- appraise the quality of published research
- match relevant research questions with linguistic methods
- practice different genres of writing in the discipline of linguistics
- select an appropriate outlet for publication

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Instructional / Methods / Activities / Assessments**

This course consists of a series of activities and assessments to assist you in achieving the outcomes and objectives of this course and instructional units/modules. By the end of this course you will have gone through all steps to write a linguistic research paper.

During the semester you will complete several major assignments, later individualized for your specific research project, designed to build on each other intellectually and conceptually.

### **Class Participation 20%**

Active class participation is vital in graduate classes, but it is at times difficult to measure. You should be prepared to discuss several aspects of the readings during each online discussion. Each discussion ought to be viewed as a collaboration of an investigative team that is charged with examining a problem. Everyone's sustained attention and participation is key to this approach. Expect to be called on to discuss some facet of the day's readings and to elaborate on these points via discussion.

### **Research Project 80%**

You will conduct, document, and prepare for submission, a real-life linguistic research project appropriate for your personal area of interest and maturity as a researcher. For some the final product can be a project culminating in a conference poster, for others in a conference presentation, and for advanced students a research paper actually submitted to a journal. We will determine what approach will provide you with an optimal trajectory of growth on an individual basis. Part of the project will be several individual one-on-one conferences involving at least audio (phone, Skype).

### **Scale used to compute final letter grades (percentages):**

A: 100-90 B: 89-80 C: 79-70 D: 69-60 F: 59-0

### **Technology**

This course is conducted online. All of your assignments will be submitted online, so it is essential to your success that you be able to access the online module in a relatively convenient manner. Because the university provides students access to computers and other technologies, please make use of these items if you do not have a computer of your own. Do not allow a technological problem or question keep you from a successful outcome in this course. Technology is designed to facilitate your learning experience in this class, not to hinder it.

*There will be no extra credit assignments. As a rule, I do not accept late work.*

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures:**

#### *Academic Honesty Policy*

Texas A&M University-Commerce and the Department of Literature and Languages do not tolerate **plagiarism** and other forms of **academic dishonesty**. Conduct that violates generally accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty. “Academic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another person and passing them off as one’s own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension and expulsion (Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1, 2, 3]). Cheating, including plagiarizing papers in whole or part, will result in a grade of zero (0) on the assignment for the first offense and failure of the course for any subsequent offenses.

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance in this graduate class equates to participation in the discussions and is important to the success of this class and to your development as a writer/scholar.

Therefore, it is of utmost importance that you notify me of potential conflicts with course expectations. The expectation is that you will do more than simply show up to class. Your active participation, in the form of discussion responses and questions, is vital for success in this course. Deadline extensions and other allowances can often be accommodated before they are required, but this requires advance notice. Related to this, SEE ASSIGNMENT POLICY

**Assignment Policy:** Student work must be completed and submitted on time. All assignments should be turned in during the class period when they are due. Students who know they will miss class when an assignment is due must contact the instructor as soon as possible in advance of class to arrange for submission of the assignment.

All papers should conform to the MLA style guidelines, with the exception of your weekly responses.

**Late Work:** I will not accept any assignment after its due date. Assignments submitted after the due date may receive a score of zero (0).

**Drop a Course:** A student may drop a course by logging into his/her myLEO account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled “Drop a class” from among the choices found under the myLeo section of the Web page.

**Incompletes:** Incompletes (grade of “X”) are granted only under rare and extraordinary circumstances.

**Administrative Withdrawal:** I reserve the right to drop a student from the course administratively for excessive absences or violations of student conduct codes.

**Grievances:** Students who have concerns regarding their courses should first address those concerns with the assigned instructor in order to reach a resolution. Students who are unsatisfied with the outcome of that conversation or have not been able to meet individually with their instructor, whether in- person, by email, by telephone, or by another communication medium, should then schedule an appointment with the Department Head or Assistant Department Head by completing a Student Grievance Form (available in the main office, HL 141). In the event that the instructor is the Department Head, the student should schedule a meeting with the Dean of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Humanities after following the steps outlined above; if the instructor is the Assistant Department Head, students should schedule a meeting with the Department Head. Where applicable, students should also consult University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.05 (“Student Appeal of Instructor Evaluation”).

**Campus Concealed Carry statement:** Campus Concealed Carry - Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to

((<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

**Nondiscrimination notice:** A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

**Students with Disabilities information:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Student Disability Resources & Services  
Texas A&M University-Commerce  
Gee Library, Room 162  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148  
[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)