

LT8808: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY FOR LANGUAGE STUDIES

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Research Methodology for Language Studies

Subject Code

LT - Linguistics and Translation

Course Number

8808

Academic Unit

Linguistics and Translation (LT)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

R8 - Research Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to equip students with the knowledge of research methodology for language-related studies. The qualitative and quantitative research approaches will be covered. Research ethics will be discussed. At the end of the course, students will be able to critically review the research methods adopted in language-related studies, and to write a research proposal on the chosen research topic.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Discuss the problems and practices related to research ethics in language-related studies.		x	x	
2	Analyse qualitative research methods used in language-related studies.		x	x	
3	Analyse quantitative research methods used in language-related studies.		x	x	
4	Critically evaluate research methods in published language-related studies.		x	x	x
5	Apply appropriate research methods to formulate a research proposal on a chosen language-related topic.		x	x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Readings	Students will engage with book chapters and journal articles relating to research methodology for language-related studies.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	
2	Lectures	Students will explore research ethics, research principles, research design, qualitative research methods, quantitative research methods, and statistical methods.	1, 2, 3, 4	
3	In-class group discussion	Students will participate in group discussions to complete short class assignments.	1, 2, 3, 4	

4	Written critical review	Students will critique the research design and methods of a language-related study.	1, 2, 3, 4	
5	Research proposal: written proposal and oral presentation	Students will apply research methods learned in class to design a language-related study on a chosen topic.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	In-class group discussion and assignments	1, 2, 3, 4	30	Students can use GenAI tools to brainstorm, gather information, solve problems, format references, and edit language. Students should not present texts generated or translated by GenAI tools as their own original work.	Yes
2	A written critical review	1, 2, 3, 4	30	Students can use GenAI tools to brainstorm, gather information, solve problems, format references, and edit language. Students should not present texts generated or translated by GenAI tools as their own original work.	Yes

3	A research proposal A research proposal that requires students to apply the research methods to design a language-related study	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	30	Students can use GenAI tools to brainstorm, gather information, solve problems, format references, and edit language. Students should not present texts generated or translated by GenAI tools as their own original work.	Yes
4	A short reflection essay on research integrity	1, 4	10	Students can use GenAI tools to brainstorm, gather information, solve problems, format references, and edit language. Students should not present texts generated or translated by GenAI tools as their own original work.	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Minimum Continuous Assessment Passing Requirement (%)

0

Minimum Examination Passing Requirement (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

In-class group discussion and assignments (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Participation in discussion Accuracy of answers given to questions; depth and breadth of discussion

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence of active participation Strong evidence to support accuracy, depth and breadth of the given answers

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good evidence of active participation Good evidence to support accuracy, depth and breadth of the given answers

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Moderate evidence of active participation Moderate evidence to support accuracy, depth and breadth of the given answers

Marginal

(D) Little evidence of active participation Little evidence to support accuracy, depth and breadth of the given answers

Failure

(F) Not even reaching marginal levels in all categories.

Assessment Task

Written critical review (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Abilities of critical thinking Application of knowledge Writing skills

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstration of excellent abilities of critical thinking; Excellent application of concepts and research methods learnt in class to critically review a language-related study published in an academic journal Excellent writing skills

Good

(B+, B, B-) Demonstration of good abilities of critical thinking Good application of the concepts and research methods learnt in class to review a language-related study published in an academic journal Good writing skills

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Average abilities of critical thinking Adequate application of the concepts and research methods learnt in class to critically review a language-related study published in an academic journal Average writing skills

Marginal

(D) Below-average abilities of critical thinking Little application of the concepts and research methods learnt in class to critically review a language-related study published in an academic journal. Below-average writing skills

Failure

(F) Low abilities of critical thinking No application of the concepts and research methods learnt in class to critically review a language-related study published in an academic journal. Poor writing skills

Assessment Task

Research proposal (written proposal and oral presentation) (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Background of the study Design of the study Proposed research methods Clarity of written presentation Clarity of oral presentation

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Very detailed study background Excellent design of the study Excellent research methods Excellent presentation Excellent presentation

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good study background Good design of the study Good research methods Good presentation Good presentation

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Adequate study background Adequate design of the study Adequate research methods Adequate presentation Adequate presentation

Marginal

(D) Marginally acceptable study background Marginally acceptable design of the study Marginally acceptable research methods Marginally acceptable presentation Marginally acceptable presentation

Failure

(F) Poor study background Poor design of the study Poor research methods Poor presentation Poor presentation

Assessment Task

A short reflection essay on research integrity (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Reflections on research ethics Clarity of written presentation

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent reflections on research ethics Excellent presentation

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good reflections on research ethics Good presentation

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Adequate reflections on research ethics Adequate presentation

Marginal

(D) Marginally acceptable reflections on research ethics Marginally acceptable presentation

Failure

(F) Unable to reflect on research ethics Poor presentation

Assessment Task

In-class group discussion and assignments (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Participation in discussion Accuracy of answers given to questions; depth and breadth of discussion

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence of active participation Strong evidence to support accuracy, depth and breadth of the given answers

Good

(B+, B) Good evidence of active participation Good evidence to support accuracy, depth and breadth of the given answers

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Marginal evidence of active participation Marginal evidence to support accuracy, depth and breadth of the given answers

Failure

(F) Not even reaching marginal levels in all categories.

Assessment Task

Written critical review (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Abilities of critical thinking Application of knowledge Writing skills

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstration of excellent abilities of critical thinking; Excellent application of concepts and research methods learnt in class to critically review a language-related study published in an academic journal Excellent writing skills

Good

(B+, B) Demonstration of good abilities of critical thinking Good application of the concepts and research methods learnt in class to review a language-related study published in an academic journal Good writing skills

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Marginal abilities of critical thinking Marginal application of the concepts and research methods learnt in class to critically review a language-related study published in an academic journal. Marginal writing skills

Failure

(F) Low abilities of critical thinking No application of the concepts and research methods learnt in class to critically review a language-related study published in an academic journal. Poor writing skills

Assessment Task

Research proposal (written proposal and oral presentation) (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Background of the study Design of the study Proposed research methods Clarity of written presentation Clarity of oral presentation

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Very detailed study background Excellent design of the study Excellent research methods Excellent presentation Excellent presentation

Good

(B+, B) Good study background Good design of the study Good research methods Good presentation Good presentation

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Marginally acceptable study background Marginally acceptable design of the study Marginally acceptable research methods Marginally acceptable presentation Marginally acceptable presentation

Failure

(F) Poor study background Poor design of the study Poor research methods Poor presentation Poor presentation

Assessment Task

A short reflection essay on research integrity (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Reflections on research ethics Clarity of written presentation

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent reflections on research ethics Excellent presentation

Good

(B+, B) Good reflections on research ethics Good presentation

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Marginally acceptable reflections on research ethics Marginally acceptable presentation

Failure

(F) Unable to reflect on research ethics Poor presentation

Part III Other Information**Keyword Syllabus**

Research ethics, qualitative research, quantitative research, hypothesis testing, statistical methods, data collection methods, data analyses, text analyses, fieldwork etc.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	The reading list will vary with the topics to be covered. Weekly reading assignments will be given by lecturers.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Alison, W. Trott, K. & Bloomer, A. (1998) Projects in Linguistics: A Practical Guide to Researching Language. London & New York: Arnold.
2	Dörnyei, Z. (2007) Research Methods in Applied Linguistics: Quantitative, Qualitative, and Mixed Methodologies. Oxford : Oxford University Press.
3	Gabriela, S & Sharon, O. (2013) Research Methodologies in Translation Studies. Manchester: St. Jerome Publishing.
4	Johnstone, B. (2000) Qualitative Methods in Sociolinguistics. New York : Oxford University Press.
5	Macaulay, R. K. S. (2009) Quantitative Methods in Sociolinguistics. Houndmills. Basingstoke : Palgrave Macmillan.
6	Patridge, B. and Phakiti, A (2015) Research Methods in Applied Linguistics. London: Bloombury Academic.
7	Rasinger, S. M. (2008) Quantitative Research in Linguistics: An Introduction. London, New York : Continuum.
8	桂詩春、寧春岩 (1997) <語言學方法論> 北京：外語教學語研究出版社。