

## **Course description**

## **Descriptif du cours**

**Department: English**

**Instructor (s): Prof. Nadia Bouchioui**

**Academic year: 2021-2022**

**Level: M2 in linguistics**

**Course title: Research methodology**

### **Course outline:**

1. What is research? Types of research
2. The Research Problem
  - Sources of research questions
  - Scope of research
  - Feasibility of research
  - Stating the research questions and hypotheses
  - Collecting research evidence
  - Internal and external validity
3. The Literature Review
  - Definition/ what to review?
  - Function
  - Practical advice for carrying out a literature review
  - Paraphrasing, quoting, and summarizing
4. Quantitative and qualitative research
5. Collecting Research Evidence (Data Collection, sampling)
  - Validity measures
  - Reliability measures
6. Methodology:
  - Instruments (survey instruments/tests/ experiments/corpus design)
  - Survey methods:

- Observation
- Questionnaires
- Interviews
- Experimental design: pretests/posttests/types of treatment
- Subjects/participants' description
- Procedure of data collection

#### 7. Data analysis

- Measurement scales of scientific methods
- Types of data: nominal data/ordinal data
- Measures of central tendency: Mean, mode, median, normal distribution
- Measures of variation: Standard deviation

#### 8. Referencing: Using the APA guide

#### 9. Writing the research proposal and report

##### **Course objectives:**

This course aims to provide MA in Linguistics students with the necessary skills and techniques, which would allow them to carry out research in the field of linguistic studies.

They need to understand the nature of research, its types, and its characteristics. Students, by the end of this course, are supposed to become able to choose a research topic, state clearly their objectives, read the relevant literature and choose the appropriate method for their research projects. They are also supposed to master the relevant techniques of paraphrasing, quoting, and referencing necessary for the writing up of the research proposal and the final report.

##### **Method of evaluation:**

From the first weeks of the course, students are guided to gradually learn how develop their research projects, specify their research questions and methods, write up the research proposal and submit it to the teacher for evaluation by the end of the term. Seventy percent of the final mark goes for this research project. The other 30% are for different assignments such as tasks on paraphrasing, quoting and referencing.

##### **References:**

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Larsen-Freeman, D and Long, M. (1991). *An Introduction to Second Language Acquisition Research*. London: Longman.

Moore, N. (1983). *How to do research*. Library Association: London.

Nunan, D. (1992). *Research methods in language learning*. Cambridge: CUP.

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Tarone, E., Gass, S. and Cohen, A. (1994). *Research methodology in second language acquisition*. New Jersey: Laurence Earlbaum Associate.

Woods, A., Fletcher, P. and Hughes, A. (1986). *Statistics in language studies*. Cambridge: CUP.