



Department of English Studies

General information		
Name of the course	Research Methodology	
Course instructor	Professor Marija Brala-Vukanović, PhD	
Study programme	Graduate Study Programme in English Language and Literature (MA in Teaching English as a Foreign Language - TEFL)	
Status of the course	elective	
Academic year	2022-2023 (summer semester)	
Language	English	
ECTS credits and manner of instruction	ECTS credits	3
	Number of class hours (Lectures + Exercises + Seminars)	15+0+15

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION
1.1. Course objectives
<p>The aim of this course is to acquaint students with conceptual and methodological issues involved in research in the context of linguistics / literary research (possibly with an interdisciplinary perspective, possibly built on the students' other course of studies). Furthermore, the goal is to develop students' capabilities to comprehend the problems inherent in empirical research and learn to begin to critically evaluate research issues, methods, and results.</p> <p>The above objectives are situated within the larger goal which corresponds with the intention to create an active and stimulating intellectual environment for various stages of research, from planning to evaluation.</p>
1.2. Course enrolment requirements and entry competences required for the course
Basic knowledge in the main linguistic subfields (following the successful completion of a basic introductory linguistic course); good English spoken and written skills.
1.3. Expected course learning outcomes
<p>Upon the successful completion of this course, students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Understand and describe the key notions and methods that are part of contemporary research methodologies in (psycho)linguistics;- Understand and describe the nature and purpose of the psycholinguistic and the cognitive linguistic approaches to the study of language;- comprehend and apply the main research methods in linguistics;- devise simple psycholinguistic studies;- comprehend and describe the main relations along the mind-body-meaning continuum and construct basic semantic networks;- Understanding basic research terminology, concepts, approaches and methods;- Understand, describe and follow the key ethical principles of research, ethical challenges and approval processes;- Comprehend the problems inherent in empirical research and critically evaluate the research process and pieces of research work with respect to three main categories: a) establishing a

research issue (posing the problem, how it fits into the larger scholarly context, possible / potential implications and applications); b) structuring a methodologically sound and viable approach to the research issues (inclusive of preliminary literary search, literature evaluation, scientific method choice and evaluation, variable treatment), and c) drawing conclusions and establishing directions for future research;

- Construct and propose a coherent and scholarly viable research issue;
- Autonomously author a coherent research proposal, based on a systematic preliminary literature survey. The proposal needs to be of sufficient scope and depth to serve as the proposal for an M.A. level research paper.
- Present his/her research work in front of an academic audience and interactively discuss the main points of the presentation (address Q & discussion).

1.4. Course content

This is a hands-on course, which requires that the student has first established a coherent conceptual research framework (possibly relative to his/her M.A. thesis topic), in order to be able to integrate theoretical concepts and approaches with practical research applications. Lecture session will focus on discussion of issues, rather than transmission of content, and each lecture session is followed by a practical, hands-on treatment of the issue with relation to the research issue chosen by every single student.

The main modules covered by the course are: a) introducing research methods (the three 'w'-s – what, how and why - of research; b) what makes a good research question; c) literature reviewing; d) methodology design; e) variables; f) ethical issues in research; g) data collection / experiment design and treatment; h) academic discourse: from quotations to bibliography; i) critical evaluation of research; j) chains in the ring of knowledge: drawing directions for further research.

1.5. Manner of instruction

- ✓ Lectures
- ✓ Seminars and workshops
- ✓ Individual assignments
- ✓ Distance learning
- ✓ Other: research