# Syllabus

**Department**: Department of English Studies  
**Course**: Introduction to English Language Research Methods I – Collecting Linguistic Data  
**Year**: 2023/2024  
**ECTS**: 4

## Study programme
- **Syllabus**: English Language and Literature  
- **Level of study programme**  
  - ☒ Undergraduate  
  - ☐ Graduate  
  - ☐ Integrated  
  - ☐ Postgraduate  
- **Type of study programme**  
  - ☐ Single major  
  - ☒ Double major  
  - ☐ University  
  - ☐ Professional  
  - ☐ Specialized

## Year of study
- ☒ 1  
- ☒ 2  
- ☒ 3  
- ☐ 4  
- ☐ 5

## Semester
- ☒ Winter  
- ☐ Summer  
- ☐ I  
- ☒ II  
- ☒ III  
- ☐ IV  
- ☐ V  
- ☐ VI  
- ☐ VII  
- ☐ VIII  
- ☐ IX  
- ☐ X

## Status of the course
- ☐ Compulsory  
- ☒ Elective

## Workload
- L 15  
- S 30  
- E  
- Internet sources for e-learning  
  - ☒ YES  
  - ☐ NO

## Location and time of instruction
- Monday 14:00 – 17:00  
- IT room, Obala kralja Petra Kešimira IV. 2, Zadar  
- Language(s) in which the course is taught  
  - English

## Course start date
- 2/10/2023  
- Course end date  
  - 26/1/2024

## Enrolment requirements
- Students have to be enrolled in the 3rd or 5th semester of the undergraduate programme of English language and literature.

## Course coordinator
- Frane Malenica, PhD, Assistant Professor  
- E-mail: malenica@unizd.hr  
- Consultation hours: TUE 11:00 – 13:00

## Course instructor
- Frane Malenica, PhD, Assistant Professor  
- E-mail: malenica@unizd.hr  
- Consultation hours: TUE 11:00 – 13:00

## Assistant/Associate
- E-mail  
- Consultation hours

## Mode of teaching
- ☒ Lectures  
- ☐ Seminars and workshops  
- ☐ Exercises  
- ☒ E-learning  
- ☐ Field work  
- ☒ Individual assignments  
- ☐ Multimedia and network  
- ☐ Laboratory  
- ☐ Mentoring  
- ☐ Other

## Learning outcomes
- Upon completing this course, the students will be able to:  
  - recognize the importance of scientific methods in linguistic research and their key traits;
Learning outcomes at the Programme level

Upon completing this course, the students will be able to:

- use scientific methods in their research;
- apply ethical principles in individual and team problem-solving activities and research;
- take a critical and self-critical approach in discussion; and
- evaluate the importance of working in the international context.

Assessment criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment criteria</th>
<th>☐ Class attendance</th>
<th>☒ Preparation for class</th>
<th>☐ Homework</th>
<th>☐ Continuous evaluation</th>
<th>☐ Research</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☒ Practical work</td>
<td>☐ Experimental work</td>
<td>☐ Presentation</td>
<td>☐ Project</td>
<td>☐ Seminar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Test(s)</td>
<td>☐ Written exam</td>
<td>☐ Oral exam</td>
<td>☐ Other</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Conditions for permission to take the exam

Minimum attendance of 70% in lectures and seminars

Exam periods

- ☒ Winter
- ☐ Summer
- ☒ Autumn

Exam dates

- 5/2/2024
- 19/2/2024
- 9/9/2024
- 23/9/2024

Course description

Collecting linguistic data and conducting linguistic research are some of the key traits of linguistics as an empirical science. Quantitative linguistic data are used to research the features of the English language (and other languages as well) at all linguistics levels and in all of its branches – phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, phraseology, lexicology, psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, etc. The goal of this course is to present some of the most fundamental and the most commonly used quantitative methods for collecting English language data. Within the scope of this course, the students will learn to identify the main traits of empirical methods in linguistic research, recognize and differentiate between different types of variables used when designing their research, learn how to formulate hypotheses and research
questions, how to create the design and select the sample they will use in their research, how to collect data by using linguistic corpora, and will be introduced to ethical issues and other problems they might face when conducting linguistic research. Within the scope of seminars for this course, the students will use real–life research examples from published scientific articles to recognize the mentioned parts of scientific research and identify the advantages and the disadvantages of individual methods for collecting data. To finish this course, students will have to design and conduct their own research in which they will apply the methods used in this course, elaborate their choice of topic, design and methods used through discussions, and provide a brief overview of the results of their research.

Course content

1. Introduction
2. Science and scientific methods, quantitative and qualitative methods, types of data
3. Types of variables (dependent/independent, numerical/categorical), variable levels, and types of measurement and scales, hypotheses
4. Stages of the research process, research questions, research designs, samples
5. Validity and reliability, ethical principles, plagiarising
6. Presenting data I – Structuring a research proposal and a research report, writing tips
7. Discussion I – choosing the topic and methods
8. Corpus research I
9. Corpus research II
10. Corpus research III
11. Discussion II – choosing the topic and methods
12. Descriptive statistics I – Frequency, cumulative frequency, percentages
13. Descriptive statistics II – Measures of central tendency, measures of dispersion
14. Mid-term I
15. Discussion III – results

Required reading


Additional reading


Internet sources

Assessment criteria of Final exam only
☐ Final written exam
☐ Final oral exam
☐ Final written and oral exam
☐ Practical work and final exam
### Course Evaluation Procedures

- ☑ Student evaluations conducted by the University
- □ Student evaluations conducted by the Department
- □ Internal evaluation of teaching
- ☑ Department meetings discussing quality of teaching and results of student evaluations
- □ Other

### Note /Other

In accordance with Art. 6 of the *Code of Ethics* of the Committee for Ethics in Science and Higher Education, “the student is expected to fulfil his/her obligations honestly and ethically, to pursue academic excellence, to be civilized, respectful and free from prejudice.”

According to Art. 14 of the University of Zadar’s *Code of Ethics*, students are expected to “fulfil their responsibilities responsibly and conscientiously. [...] Students are obligated to safeguard the reputation and dignity of all members of the university community and the University of Zadar as a whole, to promote moral and academic values and principles. [...]”

Any act constituting a violation of academic honesty is ethically prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to:
- various forms of fraud such as the use or possession of books, notes, data, electronic gadgets or other aids during examinations, except when permitted;
- various forms of forgery such as the use or possession of unauthorised materials during the exam; impersonation and attendance at exams on behalf of other students; fraudulent study documents; forgery of signatures and grades; falsifying exam results.”
All forms of unethical behaviour will result in a negative grade in the course without the possibility of compensation or repair. In case of serious violations the *Rulebook on Disciplinary Responsibility of Students at the University of Zadar* will be applied.

In electronic communications only messages coming from known addresses with a first and a last name, and which are written in the Croatian standard and appropriate academic style, will be responded to.

This course uses the Merlin system for e-learning, so students are required to have an AAI account.