Course Syllabus

Welcome

Welcome to Introduction to L2 Research Design! You may be taking this course because you are interested learning how to read and understand applied L2 research. You might also be contemplating conducting doing applied L2 research on your own and want to begin to learn about this the process. The course can be used as an elective for the Linguistics major or minor. It also fulfills the Quantitative Reasoning (QB) requirement. Whatever your reason is for taking the course, I am pleased to be working with you.

Course name

- Introduction to L2 (Second Language) Research Design

Reasons for taking the course (course objectives)

- As an elective for the Linguistics major or minor
- To satisfy the Quantitative Reasoning (QB) requirement.
- To learn how to read L2 (second language) applied linguistics research studies and understand how they contribute to the field.
- To familiarize yourself with several classic research studies in applied linguistics. This will acquaint you with some important research findings, the thought processes and procedures that led to these findings, and the real-world implications of these findings.
- To experience the logic behind some basic statistical computations (quantitative reasoning. This will help demystify statistics and help you relate to statistics in a personal way. It will make statistics user-friendly and help reduce anxiety in using statistics.
- To learn about the process of conducting applied linguistics research. This will get you started on the process of becoming an applied linguistics researcher if you wish to do so.
- To awaken your appreciation for the practical value of the reasoning that underlies research and the use of this reasoning in your daily lives.

Instructor contact Information

- Professor Palmer
- LNCO 2303
- 801-581-3440
- Email
  - adrian.palmer@utah.edu
- Office Hours
  - Monday and Tuesday 8:00-10:00
  - Other hours by walk-in or appointment
  - It's always best to call first to be sure I'm in. Occasionally situations arise that cause me to be out of the office, and I don't want to miss you.
Materials

- Course text
- Material posted in the modules on Canvas
- Technology
  - Personal laptop computer (Mac, PC)
    - You will need to bring this to class every day.
    - This laptop needs to be capable of running Microsoft Word or Pages and accessing Canvas on the Internet
    - Cellphones and tablets are not capable of working with the software that will be used during this class.

Main topics covered in the course

- The goals and characteristics of research
- Nine basic types of research
- Variables and constructs
- Scales
- Basic descriptive and inferential statistics
- Controlling extraneous variables
- Patterns in human behavior & standard scores
- Statistical logic
- Research designs for causal studies and their real-world applications
- Research designs for correlational studies and their real-world applications
- Research designs for comparing frequencies and their real-world applications
- Statistics for testing

Learning opportunities

- Readings from course text and creating multiple-choice questions based upon readings. These will help you read carefully and check your understanding of the content of the readings.
- Lectures, discussions, and interactive problem solving. These will provide you with a systematic understanding of the main points of the text and additional instructor-supplied content.
- Application exercises at end of chapters in course text. These will help you apply what you have learned from course text to problem solving and will acquaint you with the kind of careful reading and thinking involved in learning about research design.
- Statistics problems. These will help you understand the logic behind the arithmetic involved in calculating basic statistics.
- Software app. Using this software app will give you an engaging, interactive way to learn how to design a research project.
Evaluation

- Your course grade will be based on the number of points you earn by completing assignments.
- You will be given a number of assignments of various types. You can select from among these the specific assignments you wish to complete. You will get one point for each assignment you complete.

Grade for the course

- Your course grade is determined by adding up the number points earned, dividing this sum by the number of possible point, and associating this percentage with a letter grade following the University of Utah grading standards. Canvas does this automatically, and you can view your progress by clicking on the "Grades" tab on the left side of this screen.
- The number of points needed to get the various grades is less than the number of assignments you have the option of completing. Therefore, you do not have to complete all of the assignments in order to get an "A" or various other grades.

Canvas Information

Canvas is the where course content and grading information will reside for this course.

- Modules will open progressively during the semester. The first Module(s) will open on the Monday of the first week of classes.
- For Canvas, Passwords, or any other computer-related technical support 24/7, contact the IT Service Desk. Also, see "Canvas" under extra resources.
  - (801) 581-6112
  - (877) 878-8325 (24/7)
  - myinstitution.instructure.com
  - http://it.myinstitution.edu
  - itsupport@myinstitution.edu