



Linguistics Program, University of Western Ontario

LINGUISTICS 9500Q/95001Q GRADUATE RESEARCH SEMINAR, FALL 2023

Instructor: David Heap e-mail: djheap@uwo.ca Office: UC3122
Office hours: Tuesday 1:30-2:30 or by appointment; may be by Zoom, or try UC 3120 (seminar).
Seminar time: Friday 10:30-12:00 Classroom: UC 2120

Course description

As part of your training in linguistics, you will develop valuable transferrable skills that can be effectively applied in a wide range of work settings. This course aims to help students identify and strengthen their transferable skills and learn to present themselves effectively to prospective employers both within and outside of academia. These skills include time management, oral communication, grant writing, teaching, leadership, research, project management, editing, interpersonal skills, and an appreciation of ethical and civic responsibility. The course emphasizes peer and participatory learning and includes a series of collaborative and individual exercises that will not only serve to enrich students' skills, but also provide them with concrete experiences to add to their CVs.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the course you should be able to:

- describe a range of strategies to improve your work efficiency and productivity;
- utilize a range of online tools to search for and manage research articles;
- write and present for a range of audiences more effectively than you did previously
- provide constructive, specific, actionable feedback to peers;
- effectively and quickly incorporate constructive feedback into your writing and presentations;
- identify steps you can take to improve your chances on the job market and begin implementing them;
- present yourself more effectively to a range of prospective employers both within and outside of academia.

Assessment

- Grant application (October 13)
- Conference abstract (November 2)
- Research presentation (Year 2 students, auditor) + feedback (everyone)
- (Job application package: two job ads, CVs, cover letters (December: discuss?))
- Group project : editing for [Western Papers in Linguistics](#) or for Wikipedia (TBD)

The University of Western Ontario and our daily lives are situated on the traditional lands of Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton (Neutral) peoples, at the forks of Deshkan Ziibi (Antler River), an area subject to the Dish with One Spoon Wampum and other treaties.

As teachers, researchers and students involved in languages and linguistics, we should pay particular attention to the Calls for Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that concern Indigenous languages (see <https://nctr.ca/records/reports/#highlighted-reports> "TRC Calls for Action", under Language and Culture, #13-17).

Tentative schedule (subject to change: please watch for updates)

DATE	TOPIC	DUE
September 8	(virtual meeting only)	
September 15	Meet and greet: introductions.	Decide on group project.
September 22	Introduce SSHRC proposals & proposal writing https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/instructions/doctoral/applicant-candidat-eng.aspx#prop	CALL for WPL submissions
September 29	National Day of Truth & Reconciliation: non instructional day, for some possibilities, please see https://indigenous.uwo.ca/truth_reconciliation/NDTR.html	Please share a DRAFT proposal for the following week's workshop.
October 6	Workshop – research proposals	Please review your classmates' drafts.
October 13	Research Presentations (I will invite other colleagues)	(SSHRC proposal)
October 20	Conference abstracts: why and how?	(bring a draft on topic of your choice: be ready to give feedback)
October 27	Scholarly editing vs. editing for non-linguists (Examine a Wikipedia article on or near your topic.)	
November 3	Workshop: Wikipedia writing	Abstract
November 10	TCPS 2 CORE tutorial or WREMS application	
November 17	Library session? Or: Jobs (academic & beyond): to be determined.	Drafts for group project
November 24	Group project: WPL editing.	
December 1	Reflection on group project, wrap-up.	Finalize group project

Questions and Concerns

I'm here to help, both with this seminar and with your MA more generally. Please ask if expectations are ever unclear in this course or in our MA program, if you are struggling with course material, or you have questions or concerns related to the course or your studies at Western. I'll do my very best to help clear things up.

Statement on Scholastic Offences

Western takes scholastic offences seriously: it is each student's responsibility to read, understand and follow the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Collaboration is normal in linguistics as in other sciences; plagiarism is a serious academic offense at UWO and elsewhere, sanctionable by consequences up to and including expulsion. Please see the detailed information in the academic calendar as well as the Ombuds Office: https://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/academic/graduate/academic_integrity.html for more information on this subject.

Health and Wellness at Western

As part of a successful graduate student experience at Western, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your graduate degree. For example, all students receive free membership at [Western's Campus Recreation Centre](#). Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year; see for example the web pages of the [Faculty of Music](#), and [McIntosh Gallery](#). Information regarding health- and wellness-related services available to students may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>

Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns may wish to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their program director (graduate chair), or other relevant administrators in their unit. Campus mental health resources may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/resources.html

To help you learn more about mental health, Western has developed an [interactive mental health learning module](#). This module is 30 minutes in length and provides participants with a basic understanding of mental health issues and of available campus and community resources. After successful completion of the module, participants receive a certificate confirming their participation.

Accessibility at Western

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. For Western's commitment to Accessibility, visit: <http://accessibility.uwo.ca/>

Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, affected course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). Any remaining assessments may also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.