



APPL701

Designing and Conducting Language-related Research

S1 Day 2016

Dept of Linguistics

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit convener and lecturer

Peter Roger

peter.roger@mq.edu.au

Contact via email

C5A 509

Flexible - e-mail to arrange a time

Margaret Wood

margaret.wood@mq.edu.au

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Acquiring advanced research knowledge and developing research skills is integral to and a core element in master of research program. In this unit students will be exposed to main research methodologies including quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods; they will also be involved with research activities through learning and assessment tasks. By completing this unit, it is anticipated that students master critical concepts in research and be able to apply different research methods by preparing research proposals on topics of their interest.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Identify areas of interest and express appropriate research questions
2. Demonstrate a coherent knowledge of the principles and concepts of research
3. Explain various processes and procedures that are integral to language-related research

4. Conduct advanced searching of different databases and critically evaluate the relevance of the sources
5. Synthesise relevant literature in selected area and communicate the outcomes
6. Apply ethical issues in research
7. Demonstrate the ability to collect and analyse data
8. Apply advanced skills in research proposal writing

General Assessment Information

Assessment at a Glance

Assignments	Weight	Due Date/time
Area of interest (Essay) - 2000 words	25%	Friday March 25, 2016 at 23:55 Sydney Time
Annotated bibliography - 2200 words	30%	Sunday April 24, 2016 at 23:55 Sydney Time
Research Proposal - 2200 words	40%	Friday June 10, 2016 at 23:55 Sydney Time
Active participation (classroom and online discussion and presentations)	5%	Feb - June 2016

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<u>Assignment 1</u>	25%	25/03/2016
<u>Assignment 2</u>	30%	24/04/2016
<u>Assignment 3</u>	40%	10/06/2016
<u>Active participation</u>	5%	Semester wide

Assignment 1

Due: **25/03/2016**

Weighting: **25%**

This assignment is an expository essay in which you describe and explain your area of interest, its significance and why you have chosen the area. You may discuss the significance of the chosen area theoretically and practically by citing related literature, and support your selection of the topic by showing how it is important to you personally, professionally and contextually (where

you work or what you'll be doing). Detailed instructions will be provided in Week 1.

All assignments for APPL902 should follow American Psychological Association (APA) writing style manual (use LibGuide from MU library page for information on APA style).

<http://libguides.mq.edu.au/content.php?pid=78683&sid=1438141>

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 1. Identify areas of interest and express appropriate research questions

Assignment 2

Due: **24/04/2016**

Weighting: **30%**

An annotated bibliography (AB) is a list of sources and annotations (summary and evaluation) on a selected topic arranged in alphabetical order. Each annotation will have three parts. The first part is the bibliographic information of the source, which should strictly follow APA style. The second part of each annotation includes a concise summary of the content and methodology of the study. The third part of the annotation is a critical evaluation of the study and its relevance to the theme of the AB (your chosen topic or area of interest). Further detailed instructions will be provided early in the semester.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 1. Identify areas of interest and express appropriate research questions
- 4. Conduct advanced searching of different databases and critically evaluate the relevance of the sources

Assignment 3

Due: **10/06/2016**

Weighting: **40%**

Assignment 3 is a **proposal for a research project** and is based on Assignments 1 and 2 with some additional sections. Use assignments 1 and 2 and the comments and feedback you received to prepare your proposal. Further detailed instructions will be provided early in the semester.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 2. Demonstrate a coherent knowledge of the principles and concepts of research
- 3. Explain various processes and procedures that are integral to language-related research
- 4. Conduct advanced searching of different databases and critically evaluate the relevance of the sources

- 5. Synthesise relevant literature in selected area and communicate the outcomes
- 6. Apply ethical issues in research
- 7. Demonstrate the ability to collect and analyse data
- 8. Apply advanced skills in research proposal writing

Active participation

Due: **Semester wide**

Weighting: **5%**

Both internal (on-campus) and external (distance) students should take part in learning and teaching activities throughout the semester.

For internal students, this will include attending lectures, presentations, and participation in class discussion. If you are an internal student, participation in online discussions is optional (although you are most welcome do so).

For external students, active participation will include the 'topic' presentation in Week 3, and at least three other initial postings in response to the discussion topics posted throughout the semester. This excludes your responses to other students' postings and the initial introduction of yourself and your topics.

For all students (internal and external), I'd encourage you to use the "Glossary" tool to provide brief definitions and/or descriptions of key research concepts and terms. This will help you to consolidate your understanding of key terms and will give others a chance to read and understand those concepts. There is also a Wiki where you can post more lengthy definitions as well as useful sources that you come across. Glossary and Wiki contributions are not included in the active participation grade, but will enhance your learning.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 3. Explain various processes and procedures that are integral to language-related research

Delivery and Resources

Teaching and Learning Strategies

The learning and teaching strategies used in this Unit are individual study, in-class face to face lectures and in-class and online discussions through the discussion forum. Online discussion provides students (especially distance/external students) the opportunity to interact and exchange ideas with other classmates to consolidate their understanding of theoretical concepts. Both internal and external students are encouraged to take part in online discussion of different

topics.

Should you have any personal issues (e.g. requests for extensions, etc.), these should be addressed directly to the unit convenor (peter.roger@mq.edu.au)

Resources

We use the following texts in this unit. The first one is “required” (you must have a copy), and the other ones are “optional” (you may or may not have a copy) for further reading.

Dornyei, Z. (2007) *Research methods in applied linguistics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (Required)

Kumar, R. (2014)(4th ed.). *Research methodology: A step-by-step guide for beginners*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. (Optional)

Paltridge, B., & Phakiti, A. (eds.)(2010). *Continuum companion to research methods in applied linguistics*. London: Continuum International Publishing Group. (Optional)

Many of the other resources that you need for this unit will be available electronically through the Macquarie University Library, and our session in Week 2 will cover this in detail.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

New Assessment Policy in effect from Session 2 2016 http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy_2016.html. For more information visit http://students.mq.edu.au/events/2016/07/19/new_assessment_policy_in_place_from_session_2/

Assessment Policy prior to Session 2 2016 <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy prior to Session 2 2016 <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit [ask.mq.edu.au](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 3. Explain various processes and procedures that are integral to language-related research
- 4. Conduct advanced searching of different databases and critically evaluate the relevance of the sources
- 5. Synthesise relevant literature in selected area and communicate the outcomes
- 6. Apply ethical issues in research
- 8. Apply advanced skills in research proposal writing

Assessment tasks

- Assignment 1
- Assignment 3
- Active participation

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 1. Identify areas of interest and express appropriate research questions
- 2. Demonstrate a coherent knowledge of the principles and concepts of research
- 3. Explain various processes and procedures that are integral to language-related research
- 4. Conduct advanced searching of different databases and critically evaluate the relevance of the sources
- 5. Synthesise relevant literature in selected area and communicate the outcomes
- 6. Apply ethical issues in research
- 8. Apply advanced skills in research proposal writing

Assessment tasks

- Assignment 1
- Assignment 2
- Assignment 3

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience,

of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 2. Demonstrate a coherent knowledge of the principles and concepts of research
- 3. Explain various processes and procedures that are integral to language-related research
- 4. Conduct advanced searching of different databases and critically evaluate the relevance of the sources
- 5. Synthesise relevant literature in selected area and communicate the outcomes
- 6. Apply ethical issues in research
- 7. Demonstrate the ability to collect and analyse data
- 8. Apply advanced skills in research proposal writing

Assessment tasks

- Assignment 1
- Assignment 2
- Assignment 3

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 5. Synthesise relevant literature in selected area and communicate the outcomes
- 6. Apply ethical issues in research
- 7. Demonstrate the ability to collect and analyse data
- 8. Apply advanced skills in research proposal writing

Assessment task

- Assignment 3

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 1. Identify areas of interest and express appropriate research questions
- 4. Conduct advanced searching of different databases and critically evaluate the relevance of the sources
- 5. Synthesise relevant literature in selected area and communicate the outcomes
- 6. Apply ethical issues in research
- 8. Apply advanced skills in research proposal writing

Assessment tasks

- Assignment 1
- Assignment 2
- Assignment 3
- Active participation

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 6. Apply ethical issues in research
- 8. Apply advanced skills in research proposal writing

Assessment task

- Assignment 3