

# ENG 549: Experimental Methods in Linguistics

Fall Semester 2018

Location: *XΩΔ 01* Room 101  
M/TH (9:00am-10:30am)

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**Instructor:** Natalia Pavlou  
**Email:** [nataliapavlou@gmail.com](mailto:nataliapavlou@gmail.com)

**Office hours:** M/TH 10:30am-12pm,  
W 12pm-3pm and by appointment  
**Location:** *XΩΔ 02* Room B101

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## Course Description

### Overview:

This course aims to familiarize students with fundamental experimental paradigms used in psycholinguistics, as well as to explore advanced psycholinguistic methods by reading articles on current experimental research. The course has a strong lab component, with a hands-on approach to issues related to psycholinguistic experimentation, such as experimental design and protocols, software and data analysis. Students will learn about the merits and shortcomings of different methods and experimental paradigms in the first half of the course and will also learn to assess which methods are best suited for investigating which research questions in particular language areas in the second half of the course. Students will also design and implement a pilot experiment throughout the course of the semester, preparing them for independent laboratory work.

### Course Objectives

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- understand how experimental techniques can be used to answer a question of scientific interest.
- read scientific papers and critically evaluate their goals, methods, findings and interpretations.
- formulate a novel research question which can be investigated using available experimental methods.
- present the goals, methods, findings, and interpretations of a scientific paper to a group of peers.
- clearly and concisely explain in writing the goals, methods, findings, and interpretations of a project.

## Course Details

### Grade Distribution

Research Awareness Requirement.....	10%
Paper Presentation .....	20%
<b>Pilot study</b> .....	
Project Topic Proposal.....	10%
Final Project Presentation.....	20%
Final Paper.....	40%

### **Research Awareness Requirement**

The goal of a research awareness requirement is for you to get a glimpse of how the ideas we have discussed in class are employed in a professional research environment. To satisfy the requirement, you have to attend one lab meeting and write a one-page summary of the presentation and discussion. **(one-page, 1.5 line space, due November 30)**

### **Paper Presentation**

To satisfy this requirement, you will need to present a study assigned to you by the instructor. The paper may be related to your final project or to any of the topics discussed in class.

### **Final Project**

As a final project, students are expected to implement a small-scale experiment of their choice using an experimental method we discussed in class. Students may work in groups with the instructor's approval.

#### **A. Project Topic Proposal**

Each student or group will need to submit in written form a proposal of their project, explaining the research question(s), hypotheses, methodology and importance of the project **(due September 28)**.

#### **B. Final Project Presentation**

Each student or group will be asked to collect and analyze participants data and present the outcomes to the class during the **last week** of classes **(slides or handout)**.

#### **C. Final Project Paper**

Each student or group will be asked to submit a final paper for their project, which includes literature review, a description of the experiment (participants, methodology, results) and related discussion about the importance of their experiment **(due December 21)**.

### **Attendance/Participation**

Attendance in lectures is obligatory.

### **Classroom Etiquette**

Students have an obligation to their classmates and instructor to behave in such a manner as to enhance the learning environment. Please do not engage in behavior which disrupts class or otherwise detracts from the ability of your fellow students to learn. Such behaviors include arriving at class late, leaving before class is dismissed, speaking while others are speaking, reading magazines in class, cell-phones ringing etc.

### **Textbook**

Quantitative Research in Linguistics: An Introduction/ Sebastian M. Rasinger

### **Additional Readings**

Additional readings will be posted on the class' website.

### **Tentative Schedule**

The schedule on the syllabus is subject to change. Changes, if any, will be announced in class.

## Tentative Schedule

Wk.	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>
1 3/9-7/9	Introduction	The debate on Quantitative Research Gibson & Fedorenko (2010)
2 10/9-14/9	Basics of Quantitative Research S.R.: Chapter 2	Research Design S.R.: Chapter 3
3 17/9-21/9	Human Subject Research Eckert (2013) <a href="http://www.bioethics.gov.cy">http://www.bioethics.gov.cy</a>	Questionnaire Design S.R.: Chapter 4 Buchstaller and Khattab (2013)
4 24/9-28/9	Offline Tasks Schütze & Sprouse (2013)	Magnitude Estimation Sorace (2010)
5 1/10-5/10	NO CLASS	Web-based studies Sprouse (2011)
6 8/10-12/10	Data Analysis S.R.: Chapter 5	Data Analysis S.R.: Chapter 6
7 15/10-19/10	Reaction Times Marinis et al. (2010)	Eye-movements Dussias (2010)
8 22/10-26/10	Experiments in Phonetics	Experiments in Phonology
9 29/10-2/11	Experiments in Morphology	Experiments in Morphology/Syntax
10 5/11-9/11	Experiments in Syntax	Experiments in Syntax
11 12/11-16/11	Experiments in Semantics	Experiments in Pragmatics
12 19/11-23/11	Software: ELAN, Praat	Writing Research Papers/Abstracts
13	Presentations	Presentations