University of Puerto Rico
Rio Piedras Campus
College of Humanities
Department of English
Graduate Program

Course Title: MA Research Essay in English Linguistics I

Course Number: INGL 6893

Credits: 3 credits

Course Description: Study and development of the research methods and sources necessary for the successful writing of a Research Essay or Project in English-language, linguistics, and culture. Special emphasis is placed on archival and bibliographical research in the study of language and linguistics. The focus on print, electronic, fieldwork, and experimental research varies in relation to the nature of the chosen theme of study. Students enrolled in "Research Essay in English Linguistics I" receive full-time student status. (This course replaces the writing of the MA thesis.)

Weekly contact hours: The course involves supervised independent study. The student's adviser will establish a weekly meeting schedule for consultation.

Course Objectives:

1. to place the student in direct contact with the research, critical, creative, and/or historical methods necessary for writing a substantial essay or creative project in the field of English language and linguistics.

2. to identify resource centers, archives, and bibliographic and/or primary data sources for research.

3. to create awareness of journals, periodical, memorabilia, and other serial sources of information for research and for future publication.

4. to develop critical skills necessary for effective online research.

5. to create an interactive environment in which the student produces a substantial written text to be read and graded by her/his adviser and two additional readers.

Required Work:

Annotated Bibliography with a minimum of 20 entries (the exact number of entries will be determined by the nature of the student's project in consultation with the course advisor/committee)

An original, publishable-quality **Researched Essay** of 20-30 pages in length (the exact length of the essay will be determined by the nature of the student's project in consultation with the course advisor/committee)

Final Presentation of the research project in conversation with the committee.

Course Outline:

Weeks 1-3: The student identifies the subject of study and begins to establish an extensive bibliography using both print and online sources.

Weeks 4-6: Once the area is defined, linguistic research methods are discussed. Identification of research questions and an overall outline of the project should be developed at this time.

Weeks 7-9: The bibliography should now be well developed. The research should show significant progress.

Weeks 10-12: The research/bibliography (with annotations) now enters its final phase of development. A completed draft of the research essay should be submitted at this point.

Weeks 13-15: Final preparation and presentation of the research essay with the completed bibliography. The adviser and two additional faculty readers evaluate the materials submitted.

Methods of Evaluation: The course functions as an independent study project and requires direct and active participation in all phases of research, writing, and presentation.

Essay   (50%)
Bibliography/Research Process   (30%)
Final Presentation for approval   (20%)

Grading System: Aprobado (PS, PN, PB), No aprobado (NP)

Principal Texts:

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication Manual of the American
        Psychological Association, 6th Edition.* Washington, D.C.: American
Psychological Association. www.apastyle.org

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

Fink, A. (1995). *The survey handbook.* Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.

Yin, R. K. (2013). *Case study research: Design and methods*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.