**LING 6381: SEMINAR IN RESEARCH DESIGN AND STATISTICS**

**Fall 2009 ★ Course Number 81304**  
**Tuesdays, 5:30 – 8:30 PM ★ Trimble Hall 218**  
[http://ling.uta.edu/~david/6381/home.htm](http://ling.uta.edu/~david/6381/home.htm)

**Instructor:** David J. Silva, Ph.D., Professor of Linguistics  
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Mailbox Location: Hammond Hall 408  
E-Mail Address: [click here to send e-mail](mailto:)  
Website: [Click here to visit Dr. Silva's website](http://ling.uta.edu/~david/6381/home.htm)

**Phone Number:** (817) 272-3133  
Fax Number: (817) 272-3400  
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 4:15 – 5:15 PM; also by appointment

**Description:** LING 6381 provides an opportunity to acquire the fundamental knowledge and skills necessary to undertake quantitatively-oriented research in linguistics and language-related fields. Topics include: understanding the nature of research; situating quantitative work in language research; understanding the nature of research variables; developing viable research hypotheses; understanding statistical modeling and sampling; collecting and managing data; calculating and presenting descriptive statistics; selecting and conducting statistical procedures appropriate to one's research project.

From the UT Arlington Course Catalog:  
*Practical training in methodologies and analytical techniques common in linguistic research. Topics include qualitative vs. quantitative data analysis, questionnaire design and administration, laboratory protocol, field protocol, population sampling, statistical analysis, and research ethics.*

**Objectives:** Students enrolled in LING 6381 will be represented with an opportunity to develop a fuller understanding of research paradigms employed by linguists, with an emphasis on quantitative methodologies. By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

- Explain to colleagues (and others) how quantitative analysis can be used in meaningful ways to enhance linguistic research.
- Define and operationalize variables appropriate to the constructs being investigated as part of a language-focused research project.
- Select statistical procedures appropriate to a particular set of research questions and data types.
- Gather, organize, analyze and interpret quantitative linguistic data.
- Evaluate quantitative work in linguistics, with an emphasis on critically assessing arguments and conclusions.
- Recognize and appropriately replicate the rhetoric typically found in quantitatively-oriented linguistic research papers.
- Conduct basic statistical procedures using appropriate computer software (e.g., SPSS), including descriptive statistical analysis, t-tests, ANOVAs, and correlations.
- Develop the methodology for a future research project.

**Required Texts:**  

**Optional Texts:**  


**Software:** SPSS, version 16 or 17 for Windows. Prentice Hall.

Both version 16 (Student edition) and 17 (Grad Pack) are available for purchase at the UT Arlington Computer Store; for pricing information, visit [http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/computerstore/pricelist.php](http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/computerstore/pricelist.php). Version 17 is also available for use (without purchase) at various Computer Labs on campus; for a list of labs with SPSS, visit [http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/computerlabs/software/index.php](http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/computerlabs/software/index.php).

**Special Note:** LING 6381 is not a course focused on teaching students how to use SPSS. Students are free to use any method for conducting statistical analyses.

**Evaluation:**

- **Homework Assignments:** 54%
  
  Throughout the semester you will be asked to complete assignments that assess your understanding of the course materials. Grades will be assigned on a 100% point scale: 97-100=A+, 93-96=A, 90-92=A-, 87-89=B+, 83-86=B, etc.
  
  The current schedule indicates that there will be 6 assignments; this number, however, is subject to change depending on how we progress during the semester.
  
  All assignments for this course will be due by 5:00 PM on Monday. The preferred method of submission is electronically in one of the following formats: .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf. Hard copy will be accepted in my mailbox (Hammond Hall 408).
  
  Late assignments will be accepted at my discretion and will be assessed a penalty of up to 10 points. To avoid a penalty, you must contact me before the due date to explain your reasons for requiring an extension and to arrange for the same. Students will be allowed one "reason-free" extension of 24 hours.

- **Group Project:** 14%
  
  The course will include a project that will be designed and executed by the entire class. Each student in the course will be expected to contribute to this project by collecting, organizing, analyzing and interpreting some part of the corpus. The nature and scope of the project will be discussed in class, and the group will need to come to consensus on the details. **Due on Monday, November 16, 5:30 PM.**

- **Research Proposal:** 32%
  
  You will write a proposal that demonstrates your ability to design a linguistic research project. Your proposal, which must be 15 to 20 pages of text (double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, not including references), must include as part of the main text:
  
  ★ a statement of the relevant research question(s),
  
  ★ a brief review of the relevant literature, and
  
  ★ a discussion of how you plan to collect and analyze your data.
  
  In addition, your paper must include, as an appendix (and thus not part of the 15-20 page requirement) a draft of either:
  
  ★ an Informed Consent Document (ICD) or
  
  ★ an application for a waiver of consent (IRB Form #3).
  
  You may find it useful to use the project in this course as preparation for a thesis, a dissertation, or a conference paper. **Due on Thursday, December 10, 9:00 PM.**
Projected Course Schedule

The following table lists the topic for each course meeting, as well as due dates for all work, as projected for the semester as of the first day of class. Students should understand, however, that sound pedagogical practice sometimes requires that the course schedule be adjusted. In such cases, every attempt will be made to announce changes in as timely a fashion as possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>To be Read Prior to Class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Aug 25</td>
<td>Defining Research</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Sep 01</td>
<td>Research Paradigms</td>
<td>Creswell, ch. 1, 2, 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Sep 08</td>
<td>Ethics</td>
<td>Creswell, ch. 4; Belmont Report; LSA Statement on Ethics</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Sep 15</td>
<td>Designing a Project</td>
<td>Creswell, ch. 5, 6, 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Sep 22</td>
<td>An Overview of Analytical Methods</td>
<td>Creswell, ch. 8, 9, 10</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Sep 29</td>
<td>Quantitative Analysis: The Basics</td>
<td>Johnson, ch. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Oct 06</td>
<td>Hypothesis Testing</td>
<td>Johnson, ch. 2, sections 2.1 - 2.3</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Oct 13</td>
<td>Correlation</td>
<td>Johnson, ch. 2, section 2.4</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Oct 20</td>
<td>Regression</td>
<td>Johnson, ch. 3, section 3.2</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Oct 27</td>
<td>Comparing Means by t-Test</td>
<td>Johnson, ch. 3, section 3.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Nov 03</td>
<td>Comparing Means by ANOVA</td>
<td>Johnson, ch. 4, sections 4.1 &amp; 4.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Nov 10</td>
<td>More on ANOVA</td>
<td>Johnson, ch. 4, sections 4.3 &amp; 4.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Nov 17</td>
<td>Pattern Discovery</td>
<td>Johnson, ch. 3, section 3.3; ch. 6</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Nov 24</td>
<td>Advanced Analyses</td>
<td>Johnson, ch. 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Dec 01</td>
<td>Wrap-up and Evaluation</td>
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<td>*</td>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>Dec 10</td>
<td>Final Project Due, 9:00 PM</td>
<td>Friday, October 30: Last Day to Drop Classes</td>
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Two Important Course Dates
Wednesday, September 9: Census Date

Friday, October 30: Last Day to Drop Classes

The Linguistic Society Statement on Ethics can be accessed at http://ling.uta.edu/~david/6381/home.htm.

Important Course Policies

Student Records / Drop Policy. As a student in this course, you are solely responsible for initiating and completing withdrawal from this class (as is appropriate or desirable to do so). Neither the instructor nor the departmental administrative staff will independently undertake any enrollment actions (add, drop, etc.). Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Drops can continue until Friday, October 30, 2009. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. If you cease participation in this course with the intent of not being assigned a letter grade at the end of the semester (i.e. a final grade of A, B, etc.), then you must officially drop the course; failure to do so will result in your being assigned whatever letter grade you have earned. (Students enrolled in graduate courses may not "replace" a grade; all grades are permanent.) Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.

Should you decide to drop this course, you should do so prior to Friday, October 30, 2009, to allow time for the necessary procedures to be completed. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. Contact the Financial Aid Office for more information.

A student dropping his/her last (only) course cannot withdraw as above. Rather, s/he must go in person to the Registrar's Office (Davis Hall, First Floor) and complete a request to resign from the university.

Final Review Week. During the fall and spring semesters, a period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week.

Americans With Disabilities Act. The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As an instructor at UT Arlington, I am required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability.

Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide me with official documentation in the form of a
letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

As a student, your responsibility rests with working with the Office for Students with Disabilities to ensure that all relevant policies and procedures have been followed.

According to Department of Linguistics and TESOL policy, "unofficial" or "informal" requests for accommodations (i.e., those not recorded by the Office of Students with Disabilities) cannot be honored.

**Academic Dishonesty.** At The University of Texas at Arlington, academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. Students involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from UT Arlington.

According to the UT System Regents' *Rules and Regulations*, "Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts" (Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22).

While the Department of Linguistics and TESOL hopes to foster a sense of community in which students can enhance their educational experience by conferring with each other about the lectures, readings, and assignments, all work submitted must be the product of each student's own effort. Students are expected to know and honor the standards of academic integrity followed by American universities; ignorance of these standards is not an excuse for committing an act of academic dishonesty (including plagiarism). If you have questions, please speak with your instructor, your academic advisor, or the department chair.

Be advised that departmental policy requires instructors to formally file charges with the Office of Student Conduct, following procedures laid out for faculty at [http://www.uta.edu/studentaffairs/conduct/faculty.html](http://www.uta.edu/studentaffairs/conduct/faculty.html), as well as notify the department chair of the filing of the charges.

**Electronic Mail and WWW Access.** Given that a certain amount of course correspondence will take place electronically, every student in this course must maintain a working e-mail address. Furthermore, every student must secure access to the World Wide Web (WWW), be it from on the UT Arlington Campus via a University-issued NET-ID or from home. Students are responsible for informing the instructor of any changes in e-mail address. Students should also access the course's home page for information regarding schedule changes, assignments, or other announcements.

Students should be aware that The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University "MavMail" address as the sole official means of communication with students. MavMail is used to remind students of important deadlines, advertise events and activities, and permit the University to conduct official transactions exclusively by electronic means. For example, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation are now sent to students through the MavMail system. All students are assigned a MavMail account. Students are responsible for checking their MavMail regularly. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at [http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/](http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/). There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active even after they graduate.

**Student Conduct.** Students in this course are expected to observe appropriate behavior at all times. Class-related behaviors considered inappropriate include (but are not limited to): arriving late; leaving before the end of the period; using electronic communication devices; ignoring class activities (e.g., web surfing, newspaper reading, doing work for other classes); interacting with the instructor and the other students in an imperious or disrespectful manner; and behaving in any other way that disrupts the learning experience of others.

**Student Support Services.** The University of Texas at Arlington has established a variety of programs to help students meet the challenges of college life. Support to students includes advising, counseling, mentoring, tutoring, supplemental instruction, and writing assistance. For a complete list of academic support services, visit the Academic Assistance resource page of the Office of Student Success Programs, [www.uta.edu/uac/studentsuccess/academic-assistance](http://www.uta.edu/uac/studentsuccess/academic-assistance).

To help students address personal, academic and career concerns, individual counseling is also available. For more information, students are encouraged to contact Counseling Services [www.counseling.uta.edu](http://www.counseling.uta.edu) at (817) 272-3671 or visit a counselor in 216 Davis Hall.

**Auditors.** The Department of Linguistics and TESOL has a "no audit" policy. Students attending LING classes must be enrolled in those courses. Exception: Students who have already fulfilled a degree requirement and would like to sit in on a comparable course to prepare for the comprehensive/diagnostic examination may do so (with the permission of the professor).

**Library Support.** The librarian assigned to support academic coursework in linguistics and TESOL is Ms. Jody Bailey.

**Make-Up Work Policy.** In this course, there is no "extra credit" or after-the-fact "make up" work. Students are expected to honor their academic commitments as assigned. Should there be any difficulty in doing so, please contact me to discuss the matter and, solely at my discretion, make appropriate arrangements.

**Grievance Policy.** Information about policies and procedures regarding grievances can be found in the online graduate catalog: [http://www.uta.edu/gradcatalog/2010/general_info#grievances](http://www.uta.edu/gradcatalog/2010/general_info#grievances).

**No Gift Policy.** I maintain a firm "no gift" policy. Students should not offer me a gift of any kind, as doing so may create a conflict of interest and a possible violation of state law.