

Course Specification

(Postgraduate Programs)

Course Title: Graduation Project

Course Code: 6534 ENG-5

Program: Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics

Department: English Department

College: College of Languages and Translation

Institution: King Khalid University

Version: 2

Last Revision Date: September 28, 2024



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A. General information about the course:

1. Course Identification:

1. Credit hours: (5)

2. Course type

A. University College Department Track

B. Required Elective

3. Level/year at which this course is offered: (Level 4 /Year 2)

4. Course General Description:

The Graduation Project course is specifically designed to equip students with the essential skills required for conducting advanced research in the field of Applied Linguistics. The course emphasizes the development, design, and execution of individual research projects that address key issues within Applied Linguistics, including language acquisition, teaching methodologies, sociolinguistics, and language assessment. Students will be provided with critical tools and methodologies tailored to the unique challenges of research in Applied Linguistics, enabling them to design robust research proposals, conduct in-depth data analysis, and produce high-quality academic work that contributes meaningfully to the field.

5. Pre-requirements for this course (if any):

6526 ENG-4 Research Methods and Training

7. Course Main Objective(s):

This course aims to equip students with a comprehensive understanding of the practical aspects of research in Applied Linguistics. The primary objectives of the course are as follows:

- Introduce and explore key themes and challenges commonly encountered by researchers in the field of Applied Linguistics.
- Guide students in formulating research hypotheses and developing comprehensive research proposals.
- Enable students to select and apply appropriate research methodologies and designs, as well as analyze, interpret, and report data effectively.
- Support students in independently designing and executing a substantial research project that contributes to the field of Applied Linguistics.

2. Teaching Mode: (mark all that apply)

No	Mode of Instruction	Contact Hours	Percentage
1	Traditional classroom	45	100%
2	E-learning		
3	Hybrid		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional classroom • E-learning 	45 30	60% 40%
4	Distance learning		



3. Contact Hours: (based on the academic semester)

No	Activity	Contact Hours
1.	Lectures	45
2.	Laboratory/Studio	
3.	Field	
4.	Tutorial	30
5.	Others (specify).....	
Total		75

B. Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs), Teaching Strategies and Assessment Methods:

Code	Course Learning Outcomes	Code of PLOs aligned with the program	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Methods
1.0	Knowledge and understanding: After successfully completing the course, learners will be able to:			
1.1	Demonstrate an in-depth and critical understanding of fundamental theories and contemporary challenges in applied linguistics research, demonstrating the ability to analyze and synthesize key issues within the field. .	K1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lectures Collaborative learning Inquiry-based learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assignment (1) research proposal First draft submission
1.2	Critically evaluate recent advancements in the fields and approaches of applied linguistics research, demonstrating the ability to assess their relevance and impact on the discipline.	K3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lectures Presentations Research article reviews Discussion-based learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assignment (2) research paper: introduction, related literature, and methodology part
1.3	Exhibit a comprehensive understanding of research methodologies and the	K3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structured lectures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First draft submission



Code	Course Learning Outcomes	Code of PLOs aligned with the program	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Methods
	procedural elements required for conducting applied linguistics research projects, including design, data collection, analysis, and reporting.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class discussion Problem-solving sessions Tutorial 	
2.0	Skills: After successfully completing the course, learners will be able to:			
2.1	Employ advanced applied linguistic theories to critically analyze both local and global issues within the field of applied linguistics.	S1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lectures Class discussions Online research tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assignment (2) research paper: introduction, related literature, and methodology part
2.2	Develop concise, researchable questions and corresponding hypotheses that address key issues in applied linguistics, while employing appropriate data collection techniques, incorporating technological tools to gather and analyze data with academic rigor..	S2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lectures Guided practice Feedback sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assignment (3) research paper: data collection, analysis, and discussion
2.3	Employ appropriate data collection techniques that incorporate technological tools to gather and analyze data in a clear and scholarly manner.	S4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lectures Hands-on workshops (on using data collection tools and software) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assignment (3) research paper: data collection, analysis, and discussion
2.4	Critically evaluate challenges in applied linguistics research, propose informed solutions	S3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lectures Problem-based learning Socratic method 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assignment (4) rewriting method part with results, discussion, conclusion, and implications
2.5	Conduct an in-depth research study that	S4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lectures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final draft submission





Code	Course Learning Outcomes	Code of PLOs aligned with the program	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Methods
	contributes meaningful insights to the field of applied linguistics.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of technology 	
3.0	Values, autonomy, and responsibility: After successfully completing the course, learners will be able to:			
3.1	Demonstrate professionalism, independence, and confidence in the in the planning, execution, and completion of a research project .	V1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lectures and class participation Mentorship and guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final draft submission Final oral examination
3.2	Demonstrate a strong commitment to ethical research practices, inclusivity, and respect for diverse perspectives, while fostering continuous learning through reflective practice and feedback	V2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lectures Research ethics guidelines Ethics checklists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final draft submission Final oral examination
3.3	Work collaboratively in pairs and teams to enhance research initiatives , leveraging collective expertise to achieve shared research goals and outcomes.	V3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lectures Peer feedback sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final oral examination

C. Course Content:

No	List of Topics	Contact Hours
1.	Major themes in Applied linguistics	10
2.	Research Topics: Finding a topic; features of a good research topic	5
3.	Developing research proposal: statement of the problem, research questions, objectives, hypotheses, limitation and significance of the study, review of earlier literature.	10
4.	Guidelines for thesis writing: note-taking and drafting; writing introduction and conclusion; section on methodology; reporting results; documentation and referencing	20
5.	Writing a research paper: Step-by-step guidance	10
6.	Submission of project	10





7.	Oral examination	10
Total		75

D. Students Assessment Activities:

No	Assessment Activities *	Assessment timing (in week no)	Percentage of Total Assessment Score
1.	Assignment (1) research proposal	4	5 %
2.	Assignment (2) research paper: introduction, related literature, and methodology part	7	5 %
3.	Assignment (3) research paper: data collection, analysis, and discussion	9	5 %
4.	Assignment (4) rewriting method part with results, discussion, conclusion, and implications	10	5 %
5.	First draft submission	11	15 %
6.	Revising first draft and meeting the supervisor to get ready for the oral exam	-	-
7.	Final draft submission	12	50 %
8.	Final oral examination	13	15%

*Assessment Activities (i.e., Written test, oral test, oral presentation, group project, essay, etc.)

E. Learning Resources and Facilities:

1. References and Learning Resources:

Essential References	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> O'Leary, Z. (2017). <i>The Essential Guide to Doing Your Research Project</i>, 3rd ED. London: SAGE. McKinley, J., & Rose, H. (2016). <i>Doing Research in Applied Linguistics</i>. Routledge. Phakiti, A., De Costa, P., Plonsky, L., & Starfield, S. (Eds.). (2018). <i>The Palgrave handbook of applied linguistics research methodology</i> (pp. 423-457). London, UK: Palgrave Macmillan.
Supportive References	<p>Gibaldi, J. (2009). <i>MLA handbook for writers of research papers</i>, 7th Ed. Modern Language Association of America, 10 Astor Place, New York, NY 10003-6981.</p> <p>Wagenen, R. K. (1991). <i>Writing a Thesis: Substance and Style</i>. New Jersey: Prentice Hall.</p> <p>Bitchener, J. (2010). <i>Writing an Applied Linguistics Thesis or Dissertation</i>. Palgrave: Macmillan.</p>





	American Psychological Association. (2010). <i>Publication manual of the American psychological association</i> . American Psychological Association.
Electronic Materials	Saudi Digital Library: https://sdl.edu.sa/sdlportal/en/publishers.aspx
Other Learning Materials	Tarone E, Gass, S. & Cohen, A. (1994). <i>Research Methodology in Second Language Acquisition</i> . New Jersey.

2. Educational and Research Facilities and Equipment Required:

Items	Resources
facilities (Classrooms, laboratories, exhibition rooms, simulation rooms, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classrooms equipped with audio-visual aids to facilitate lectures and presentations. Library facilities Computer laboratories Language laboratories E-learning and virtual classrooms
Technology equipment (Projector, smart board, software)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projector for displaying presentations, video analyses, and case studies. Smart Board for engaging students in collaborative analysis. Authorship Attribution Tools for identifying and analyzing authorship in disputed texts (e.g., JStylo).
Other equipment (Depending on the nature of the specialty)	Conference rooms

F. Assessment of Course Quality:

Assessment Areas/Issues	Assessor	Assessment Methods
Effectiveness of teaching	Assessed by students, faculty, program leaders, and peer reviewers using direct feedback and evaluations.	Assessed through student evaluations, peer reviews, classroom observations, and teaching feedback surveys.
Effectiveness of students' assessment	Evaluated by students, faculty, and program leaders through exam performance, project outcomes, and feedback.	Evaluated through analysis of exam results, project outcomes, grading consistency, and student feedback.
Quality of learning resources	Reviewed by faculty and program leaders based on student feedback and peer reviews.	Reviewed via surveys, resource usage analytics, student and faculty feedback, and comparison with academic standards.





Assessment Areas/Issues	Assessor	Assessment Methods
The extent to which CLOs have been achieved	Measured by faculty, program leaders, and peer reviewers using assessments, exams, and student portfolios.	Measured through direct assessments like exams, projects, portfolios, and indirect methods like student self-assessment and surveys.
Other	Assessed by a combination of students, faculty, program leaders, peer reviewers, and external evaluators using surveys, feedback forms, and reflective essays.	Assessed using qualitative feedback, focus groups, external reviews, and additional surveys tailored to specific concerns.

Assessor (Students, Faculty, Program Leaders, Peer Reviewer, Others (specify))

Assessment Methods (Direct, Indirect)

G. Specification Approval Data:

COUNCIL /COMMITTEE	English Department Council
REFERENCE NO.	1/5/46
DATE	October 14, 2024

