



Course Specification

(Postgraduate Programs)

Course Title: Introduction to Forensic Linguistics
Course Code: 6533 ENG-3
Program: Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics
Department: Department of English Language
College: College of Languages and Translation
Institution: King Khalid University
Version: 1
Last Revision Date: New



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A. General information about the course:

1. Course Identification:

1. Credit hours: (3)

2. Course type

- A. University College Department Track
- B. Required Elective

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

4. Course General Description:

This course provides an introduction to the field of forensic linguistics, exploring the intersection of language and the law. It covers applying linguistic theory and methodology to legal issues, including the analysis of legal texts, speaker identification, authorship attribution, and the role of language in criminal cases. Students will gain a foundational understanding of how linguistic expertise is used in various legal contexts and the ethical considerations involved.

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

6521 ENG-3 (Concepts in Applied Linguistics)

6. Pre-requirements for this course (if any): N/A

7. Course Main Objective(s):

The main objectives of this course are as follows:

- Introduce students to the foundational principles and key concepts of forensic linguistics.
- Develop students' skills in analyzing and interpreting legal texts through the application of linguistic tools.
- Provide an understanding of how linguistic evidence is utilized in legal cases.
- Equip students with the skills to analyze linguistic features critical for speaker identification and authorship attribution
- Offer opportunities for students to examine the structure and discourse patterns used in trials, with a particular focus on witness testimony and evidence presentation

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 	-	-



No	Mode of Instruction	Contact Hours	Percentage
	• E-learning		
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	
5.	Others (specify).....	
	Total	45

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			
1.1	Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the fundamental principles and broad scope of forensic linguistics, including its key applications in legal contexts and its role in analyzing language evidence.	K1	- Lectures - Interactive discussions - Practical assignments class	- Midterm Exam - Final Exam
1.2	Critically explore the key characteristics of legal language and evaluate its function within the legal process, with an emphasis on how language shapes legal interpretation, communication, and outcomes	K1	- Case studies - Critical reading and discussion	- Case Study Analysis - Midterm Exam - Final Exam
1.3	Identify and critically examine various legal	K2	- Lectures - Practical exercises	- Research Project - Midterm Exam



Code	Course Learning Outcomes	Code of PLOs aligned with the program	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Methods
	genres, examining their distinct functions and purposes within different legal contexts, such as legislation, court proceedings, and legal documentation.		- Group projects and collaborative work	- Final Exam
2.0	Skills			
2.1	Apply advanced discourse and text analysis techniques to real-world forensic texts, demonstrating the ability to uncover linguistic patterns and insights that contribute to forensic investigations and legal contexts	S1	- Workshops - Hands-on activities - Case study analysis	- Practical assignments -Case Study Analysis
2.2	Utilize advanced linguistic methods to conduct precise speaker identification and authorship attribution, demonstrating the ability to analyze linguistic features for determining speaker or author identity in forensic investigations.	S2	- Practical exercises - Peer feedback sessions - Workshops on linguistic tools and techniques	-Practical assignments
2.3	Critically analyze the use of language in evidence collection, police interviews, and trials, evaluating how linguistic strategies influence communication, information gathering, and the legal decision-making process.	S1	- Group work - Role-playing legal scenarios - Mock trials and simulated police interviews	- Group Project Report -Oral Presentations
3.0	Values, autonomy, and responsibility			
3.1	Demonstrate ethical awareness and responsibility in forensic linguistic practices , ensuring integrity, confidentiality, and adherence to professional standards in the analysis	V1	- Ethical case studies - Reflective discussions	- Ethical reflection essays -Class Participation



Code	Course Learning Outcomes	Code of PLOs aligned with the program	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Methods
	and presentation of linguistic evidence-			
3.2	Collaborate effectively in team-based forensic linguistic projects, demonstrating strong communication, problem-solving skills, and the ability to integrate diverse perspectives to achieve shared objectives in forensic analysis	V2	- Group projects - Peer assessments	- Group Project Report - Peer Feedback
3.3	Demonstrate initiative and critical thinking in independently researching and analyzing forensic linguistic cases, applying advanced methodologies to produce insightful and original contributions to the field	V3	- Independent research tasks - Supervised study	- Independent Research Paper -Supervisor Feedback

C. Course Content:

No	List of Topics	Contact Hours
1.	Approaching a Forensic Text	3
2.	The Language of the Law	3
3.	Legal Genres	6
4.	Collecting Evidence: Calls to Emergency Services and First Encounters	6
5.	Order in Court	6
6.	The Work of the Forensic Linguist	3
7.	The Work of the Forensic Phonetician and Document Examiner	6
8.	Idiolect and Uniqueness of Encoding	6
9.	On Textual Borrowing	3
10.	The Linguist as Expert Witness	3
Total		45



D. Students Assessment Activities:

No	Assessment Activities *	Assessment timing (in week no)	Percentage of Total Assessment Score
1.	Midterm Exam	8	20
2.	Presentation	Continuous Assessment	10
3.	Case studies/Research projects	Continuous Assessment	10
4.	Assignments	Continuous assessment	20
5.	Final Exam	15	40

*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	Coulthard, M., & Johnson, A. (2021). An Introduction to Forensic Linguistics: Language in Evidence (2nd ed.). Routledge.
Supportive References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Olsson, J. (2008). Forensic Linguistics: An Introduction to Language, Crime, and the Law. Continuum. Continuum Publishing. - Shuy, R. W. (2006). Linguistics in the Courtroom: A Practical Guide. Oxford University Press. - Gibbons, J. (2003). Forensic Linguistics: An Introduction to Language in the Justice System. Blackwell Publishing.
Electronic Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Routledge Handbook of Forensic Linguistics. https://www.routledgehandbooks.com/ - Academic journals and articles on forensic linguistics. https://www.jstor.org/ - Publications and articles on linguistics, including forensic linguistics. https://www.linguisticsociety.org/ - Forensic Linguistics: The International Journal of Speech, Language and the Law. https://iafl.org/journal/
Other Learning Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Olsson's Forensic Linguistics (2008) includes case studies. https://www.casebook.org/ - Forensic Linguistics Data and Resources. https://forensicling.com/

2. Educational and Research Facilities and Equipment Required:

Items	Resources
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classrooms equipped with audio-visual aids to facilitate lectures and presentations. • Language labs with software for phonetic analysis, speech recognition, and forensic audio analysis. • Spaces for displaying forensic linguistic case studies, tools, and research findings. <p>Rooms equipped to simulate courtroom environments for mock trials and legal discourse analysis.</p>
Technology equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projector for displaying presentations, video analyses, and case studies.



Items	Resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smart Board for engaging students in collaborative analysis and case simulations. • Authorship Attribution Tools for identifying and analyzing authorship in disputed texts (e.g., JStyle). • Corpus Analysis Software such as AntConc for linguistic analysis. <p>Speech Analysis Tools like Praat for phonetic and speech pattern analysis.</p>
Other equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forensic linguistic software • Audio recording devices <p>Legal document databases</p>

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.
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

