Course Specification

— (Postgraduate Programs)

Course Title: Research Methods in Applied Linguistics	
Course Code: 7502 ENG-3	
Program: Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Linguistics	
Department: English Department	
College: College of Languages and Translation	
Institution: King Khalid University	
Version: 2	
Last Revision Date: 10 March 2025	

Table of Contents

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: (1/1)

4. Course General Description:

This course introduces the methodological concepts, designs, instruments and types of analysis that are used within the field of applied linguistics. It guides PhD students for robust research design and methodology in this domain, covering qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods research. The course starts with emphasizing the foundational principles of scientific inquiry, the key concepts and constructs in research methodology and the broad scope of research in the domain of applied linguistics, to highlighting some specific research designs relevant to this domain. The course then delves into the quantitative, qualitative, and mixed method research paradigms equipping students with unique chances to acquire thorough knowledge on the conceptualizations, logic, assumptions, key features and approaches of inquiry of each. Students will be able to critically compare and contrast these different research paradigms and to identify the merits and demerits of each paradigm based on such critical analysis. The course offers further detailed insights on how to carry out actual research based on the principles of each paradigm separately. This includes granting students with ample knowledge and adequate training on the data collection approaches, data gathering tools, procedures, and data analysis techniques followed in each research paradigm.

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

NA

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

NA

7. Course Main Objective(s):

The Research Methods in Applied Linguistics course aims to:

1. Equip students with strong background on the concepts of scientific inquiry and research methodology.
2. Provide students with solid knowledge on the nature of different research paradigms and research designs.

3. Offer students ample knowledge and adequate training on the data collection and analysis methods and tools used under each paradigm.
4. Reinforce students ability to critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of each research paradigm and design.
5. Enhance students' ability to assess the feasibility to carry out different types of investigations based on the critical evaluation provided for research paradigms and designs.

2. Teaching Mode: (mark all that apply)

No	Mode of Instruction	Contact Hours	Percentage
1	Traditional classroom		
2	E-learning		
3	Hybrid ● Traditional classroom ● E-learning	36 9	80% 20%
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	Critically discuss scientific inquiry and research methodologies in applied linguistics, defining key approaches and evaluating their applications.	K1, K3	● Lectures and seminars ● Guided readings and critical analysis ● Hands-on workshops	● Written exams. ● Assignments ● Research proposal development

Code	Course Learning Outcomes	Code of PLOs aligned with the program	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Methods
			• Problem-solving exercises • Peer discussions • Case-based learning	
1.2	Critically explin research paradigms and designs, demonstrating a deep understanding of data collection and analysis methods within each paradigm.	K1, K3	• Lectures and seminars • Guided readings and critical analysis • Hands-on workshops • Problem-solving exercises • Peer discussions • Case-based learning	• Research projects • Presentations
2.0	Skills			
2.1	Critically evaluate and apply appropriate research paradigms and designs in applied linguistics, demonstrating the ability to compare, contrast, and justify methodological choices based on their conceptual foundations, assumptions, and key features.	S1, S2	• Comparative analysis of research paradigms • Case studies and problem-based learning • Workshops on research methodology • Peer review and collaborative critique • Guided research projects	• Research portfolio • Statistical presentations

Code	Course Learning Outcomes	Code of PLOs aligned with the program	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Methods
			• Expert-led seminars • Hands-on research design exercises	
2.2	Design and implement rigorous qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods research, selecting suitable data collection instruments, procedures, and analysis techniques aligned with the principles of each research paradigm.	S2, S3	• Comparative analysis of research paradigms • Case studies and problem-based learning • Workshops on research methodology • Peer review and collaborative critique • Guided research projects • Expert-led seminars • Hands-on research design exercises	• Research project
2.3	Demonstrate advanced research competence by critically analyzing methodological frameworks, constructing well-founded research inquiries, and executing data-driven investigations that contribute to the field of applied linguistics.	S3	• Comparative analysis of research paradigms • Case studies and problem-based learning • Workshops on research	Research project

Code	Course Learning Outcomes	Code of PLOs aligned with the program	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Methods
			methodology ● Peer review and collaborative critique ● Guided research projects ● Expert-led seminars ● Hands-on research design exercises	
3.0	**Values, autonomy, and responsibility**			
3.1	Maintain honesty and ethical responsibility while doing the relevant tasks of research methods.	V1	● Ethics and IRB workshops ● Case studies of ethical dilemmas in research ● Interactive discussions on responsible research practices	● Research ethics reflection paper ● Class discussion evaluations
3.2	Advocate for equitable and social equity by dealing with research and evaluating its impact on the relevant audience.	V2	● Collaborative research projects ● Interdisciplinary seminars	Collaborative research assignments Group discussions Peer evaluation of research transparency
3.3	Foster an adequate collaboration by integrating research, theory, and practice to drive innovations in applied linguistics.	V3	● Conference-style presentations ● Writing and publishing workshops	Mock conference presentations Research dissemination report

Code	Course Learning Outcomes	Code of PLOs aligned with the program	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Methods
			● Peer review and feedback sessions	Journal-style research submissions

C. Course Content:

No	List of Topics	Contact Hours
1.	**Introduction to Applied Linguistics Research (nature, significance and scope)** ● Scientific inquiry and research process. ● key concepts and constructs in research methodology ● Scope and significance of applied linguistics research ● Ethics in applied linguistics research	**6**
2.	**Designs and approaches to research in applied linguistics** ● Longitudinal vs. cross-sectional research ● Experimental and quasi-experimental designs ● Survey Research Design ● Case Study Design ● Action Research Design ● Systematic reviews and meta-analysis in applied linguistics research	**6**
3.	**Scientific Research Paradigms** ● What is a research paradigm? ● Quantitative research (definition, logic, assumptions, main characteristics, approaches of inquiry, setting, merits and demerits, examples) ● Qualitative research (definition, logic, assumptions, main characteristics, approaches of inquiry, setting, merits and demerits, examples) ● Mixed-methods research (definition, logic, assumptions, main characteristics, approaches of inquiry, setting, merits and demerits, examples) ● Comparing and contrasting the three research paradigms.	**6**
4.	**Quantitative Research Designs and Data Collection** ● Designing quantitative research: types and techniques ● Quantitative data collection: sampling techniques and methods in quantitative research, tools, procedures. ● Questionnaire surveys: purpose, construction and implementation ● Classroom observations: : purpose, types, construction and implementation. ● Filed notes: purpose, types, construction and implementation.	**9**
5.	**Qualitative Research Designs and Data Collection** ● Designing qualitative research: types and techniques	**6**

	- Qualitative data collection: sampling techniques and methods in qualitative research, tools, procedures. - Interviews and narrative inquiry: purpose, types, construction and implementation. - Case studies: purpose, types, construction and implementation - Focus groups: purpose, types, construction and implementation. - Diaries and Journals: purpose, types, construction and implementation.	
6.	**Mixed methods Research Designs and Data Collection** - Mixed methods research: integrating qualitative and quantitative approaches - Main types of mixed methods research designs - Mixed methods data collection: sampling techniques and methods, tools, procedures.	**6**
7.	**Data analysis methods** - Key statistical concepts - Steps of data analysis - Statistical software - Quantitative data analysis (descriptive statistics, correlation, t-tests, ANOVA, ANCOVA,) - Qualitative data analysis (content analysis) - Data analysis in mixed-methods research.	**6**
Total		**45**

D. Students Assessment Activities:

No	Assessment Activities *	Assessment timing (in week no)	Percentage of Total Assessment Score
1.	Assignments, presentations, projects, term papers included)	Continuous assessment	40%
2.	Mid-Term Test	10	20 %
3.	Final Exam (Research project, final presentation)	16	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	Dörnyei, Z. (2007). Research Methods in Applied Linguistics: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methodologies. Oxford University Press. https://thuvienso.hoasen.edu.vn/handle/123456789/14893

	- Nassaji, H. (2025). *Applied Linguistics Research: A Comprehensive Guide to Methodology, Design, Analysis, and Evaluation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. - McKinley, J., & Rose, H. (2010). The Routledge Handbook of Research Methods in Applied Linguistics. Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9780367824471 - Paltridge, B., & Phakiti, A. (Eds.). (2015). *Research methods in applied linguistics: A practical resource*. Bloomsbury Publishing.
Supportive References	- Griffee, D. T. (2018). An Introduction to Second Language Research Methods: Design and Data. TESL-EJ Publications, USA. - Roever, C., & Phakiti, A. (2018). *Quantitative methods for second language research: A problem-solving approach* (1st ed.). Routledge. https://www.routledge.com/Quantitative-Methods-for-Second-Language-Research-A-Problem-Solving-Approach/Roever-Phakiti/p/book/9780415814027 - Plonsky, L. (Ed.). (2015). *Advancing quantitative methods in second language research* (Vol. 4324, p. 9781315870908). Routledge. https://www.routledge.com/Advancing-Quantitative-Methods-in-Second-Language-Research/Plonsky/p/book/9780415718349
Electronic Materials	https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/research-methods-in-applied-linguistics
Other Learning Materials	

2. Educational and Research Facilities and Equipment Required:

Items	Resources
facilities (Classrooms, laboratories, exhibition rooms, simulation rooms, etc.)	• Classrooms equipped with audio-visual aids to facilitate lectures and presentations. • Library facilities • Computer laboratories • Language laboratories • E-learning and virtual classrooms

Items	Resources
Technology equipment (Projector, smart board, software)	• Projector for displaying presentations, video analyses, and case studies. • Smart Board for engaging students in collaborative analysis.
Other equipment (Depending on the nature of the specialty)	Desks, chairs, tables, Language recording devices, Audio transcription tools

F. Assessment of Course Quality:

Assessment Areas/Issues	Assessor	Assessment Methods
Effectiveness of teaching	Students, Faculty, Peer Reviewer	Student surveys (Indirect), Classroom observations (Direct), Peer teaching evaluations (Direct)
Effectiveness of students' assessment	Faculty, Program Leaders	Exam performance analysis (Direct), Assignment rubrics (Direct), Student feedback (Indirect)
Quality of learning resources	Students, Faculty, Program Leaders	Course material reviews (Direct), Student resource usage surveys (Indirect)
The extent to which CLOs have been achieved	Faculty, Program Leaders	Course outcome mapping (Direct), Student self-assessments (Indirect), Capstone projects (Direct)
Other	Faculty, IT Support, Peer Reviewer	Evaluation of digital learning tools (Direct), Feedback on e-learning platforms (Indirect)

Assessor (Students, Faculty, Program Leaders, Peer Reviewer, Others (specify)
Assessment Methods (Direct, Indirect)

G. Specification Approval Data:

COUNCIL /COMMITTEE	ENGLISH DEPARTMENT COUNCIL
REFERENCE NO.	**8-17-46**
DATE	**16 MARCH 2025**