

## Guidelines for Linguistics 4Y06: Honours Thesis

*Students and advisors should meet early in the academic year to plan the student's progress through the thesis project, modifying these guidelines as appropriate to the project.*

Proposal *mid-October* 10%

A one- to two-page description of the research question, the method by which the student proposes to investigate the research question, and the student's hypothesis.

Research Ethics Protocol *early October* 10%

Completion and submission of the Undergraduate Student Application to Involve Human Participants in Research:

[http://www.mcmaster.ca/ors/ethics/students\\_intro.htm](http://www.mcmaster.ca/ors/ethics/students_intro.htm)

If the project does not involve research with human participants, this portion of the grade may be assigned to Research Techniques.

Literature Review *end of Term I* 20%

The advisor provides guidance in developing the reading list for this review. A comprehensive summary of the current literature relevant to the question, and an account of how the student's research question extends current knowledge.

Research Techniques *end of Term II* 20%

The advisor ensures that the student is trained in the appropriate research tasks and evaluates the student's performance of these tasks. Such tasks might include designing stimuli, gathering experimental data, conducting and transcribing interviews, eliciting data from native speakers, maintaining a logbook, using and maintaining equipment, backing up data, or others appropriate to the project.

Research Presentation *late March* 10%

A 15-minute presentation reporting on the research findings, to be delivered at the Undergraduate Student Research Conference.

Thesis *end of Term II* 30%

The full thesis includes the Literature Review as well as a complete description of the student's data, (if relevant) the method by which the data were gathered, and a thorough discussion and interpretation of the data, relating the findings to the existing literature. The final document will probably be between 20 and 40 pages and should adhere to the style guidelines of a journal in the relevant field. It is strongly recommended that the student submit a draft of the thesis to the advisor by early March.