Suggested Course Outline for Linguistics 4Y06: Honours Thesis

Students and supervisors may modify these suggested responsibilities, deadlines and weights as appropriate to the project. For each deadline, the supervisor should also indicate when the student can expect to receive feedback on the work.

At least 10% of the total grade must be assigned prior to the final date by which a student may cancel the course without academic penalty (usually early November for Fall and Fall/Winter courses and mid-March for Winter courses).

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 relevant protocol. Consult reo.mcmaster.ca to determine whether the student should submit to HSREC, MREB, or HIRED. If the project does not involve research with human participants, this portion of the grade may be assigned to Research Techniques.

Draft Literature Review  end of Term I  10%
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 / Data Gathering  early in Term II  15%
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.

Data Analysis  before Term II Study Break  15%
The advisor ensures that the student is trained in appropriate methods for analyzing, coding, or interpreting the data and evaluates the student’s data analysis.

Draft Thesis  end of March  10%
A draft of the full document that includes a review of the literature (updated from the earlier draft), a description of the research method and results, and a discussion of the findings with reference to the questions raised in the literature.

Research Presentation  early April  10%
A poster or short talk (depending on conference format) presented at the department’s Student Research Day.

Final Thesis  end of first week of Exam Period  20%
A final version of the thesis, incorporating the advisor’s feedback on the draft and on the presentation.