

CMM 378
Research Methods in Linguistics

MODULE HANDBOOK

Module title:	Research Methods in Linguistics
Module Code:	CMM378

Module Co-ordinator:	Dr Juliana Gerard (j.gerard@ulster.ac.uk)
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Hours per week:	2hr lecture 1hr seminar (<i>starting week 2</i>)
	Independent study, assignment preparation and directed reading (including assessment)
When:	Lecture on Wednesday at 12:15 Seminar on Wednesday <i>either</i> 10:15 <i>or</i> 11:15
Where:	Lecture in 17E23 Seminar in 17E24

Why am I studying this module?

This module will cover the steps involved in carrying out experiments based on theoretical issues in linguistics. The first half of the module will focus on the fundamentals of experimental design and statistical analyses, while the second half will introduce various methods for conducting research in linguistics.

What am I going to learn on this module?

Tentative schedule

Week 1:
Introduction, variables and causality

Week 2:
Types of designs, sampling, ethics

Week 3:
Survey methods for grammaticality judgments

Week 4:
Describing quantitative data

Week 5:
Hypothesis testing and statistical tests

Week 6:
Introduction to statistics in R

Week 7:
St. Patrick's day (no class)

Week 8:
Corpus methods

Week 9:
Field methods

Week 10:
Referencing

Week 11:
Review 1

Week 12:
Review 2

What should I be able to do by the end of this module?
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By the end you should be able to:

- Identify and evaluate the predictions of competing hypotheses
- Summarize the trends in a dataset and conduct basic statistical analyses in Excel and/or R
- Design an experiment using the methodologies covered in the module.
- Effectively justify a choice of method for a given research problem.
- Summarise relevant literature and write a concise structured review of pertinent issues.
- Prepare an application for ethical approval.
- Start making progress on the final year dissertation.

How am I going to learn in this module?

You have a **two hour class** during which the material will be presented by the lecturer, followed by a **weekly one hour seminar** (starting week 2) for discussing questions about assignments and reviewing course material. Attendance and participation in both the lectures and seminars is important, and will count towards the final grade. Questions may also be posted in the online discussion board before class, and will still count towards participation.

The lecture will cover various concepts related to experimental design and methodology in linguistics. The seminar will focus more on the practice exercises, but will also provide more of an opportunity to cover any questions about new material.

How am I going to be assessed on this module?

- Practice exercises: 50%
- Reference list (due week 12): 10%
- Project proposal (due during final exams): 30%
- Attendance: 10%

What should I read for this module?

Required reading:

Rasinger, S. M. (2013). *Quantitative research in linguistics: An introduction (2nd edition)*. Bloomsbury.

Crain, S., & Thornton, R. (2000). *Investigations in universal grammar: A guide to experiments on the acquisition of syntax and semantics*. MIT Press.

Gries, S. T. (2009). *Statistics for Linguistics with R: A Practical Introduction*. Walter de Gruyter.

Wray, A., & Bloomer, A. (2012). *Projects in Linguistics and Language Studies*. Routledge.

Others TBA

Recommended reading:

Baayen, R. H. (2008). *Analyzing Linguistic Data: A Practical Introduction to Statistics using R*. Cambridge University Press.

Johnson, K. (2008). *Quantitative methods in linguistics*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Pub.