

**Research Writing in Linguistics  
Linguistics 750  
Winter 2007**

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Office hours: TBA (*soon*)

**Course description**

This seminar is designed for second-year graduate students who are working on their Qualifying Research Papers. The course is intended to provide structure to the process of designing, executing, and writing the QRP, and to provide opportunities to present and receive feedback on work-in-progress. Additionally, the course introduces students to other aspects of professional writing in linguistics, including conference abstracts and papers/posters, journal publications, research grants, and responding to referees' and editors' reports. We will also discuss the components of a strong CV, focusing on the academic market but with some consideration to positions in industry.

**Course expectations and requirements**

Each student will give two oral presentations of your QRP research. The first presentation is expected to be an introductory account, for linguists not specializing in your subfield, that situates your main research question within the context of the existing literature, and describes the methods/approach you are using to explore that question. The scope of the second oral presentation will depend on the stage of your QRP. If any student is nearing the final stage (note: you're *not expected* to be nearing that stage!), the second presentation should be a conference-like presentation of your research; for those at an intermediate stage, the presentation should include an account of any research findings to date. Each student will also submit, according to the timetable on the syllabus, draft section(s) of your QRP that incorporate your primary QRP advisor's comments.

This is a seminar not only in QRP writing, but more generally in scholarly writing and professional development. Because the nature of scholarly writing and what constitutes a competitive professional record differs substantially across linguistic subfields, each of you will be expected to meet regularly throughout the term with your advisor to discuss the various topics we'll be covering.

We'll use the seminar's CTools site for posting readings, handouts, drafts, and so on.

**Winter 2007  
Ling 750 Syllabus**

Jan. 9           **Organizational meeting**

Jan. 16          **What's expected for a QRP?**

*QRP timetable due (approved by your advisor; email approval OK)*

Prior to this class meeting, please look over two fairly recent QRPs written by students in our department, with at least one of these QRPs being on a topic in your general area of research. (You'll likely want to consult your A advisor for suggestions.)

Jan. 23          **Writing conference abstracts**

*By Sunday, Jan. 21, 4 pm: email the class an abstract of your QRP.*

Read "Model Abstracts" and "Abstract Guidelines and Specifications" on the LSA website: <http://www.lsadc.org/info/abstract-models.cfm>

<http://www.lsadc.org/info/meet-ann07-abguide.cfm>

Also, read the abstract guidelines for a major conference in your area of specialization (e.g., NWAV, ACL, NELS, ASA); if that conference posts criteria for evaluating submissions, please print them out and bring to class.

Jan. 30          **Writing an introduction/literature review**

Select two or three published papers that you are consulting for your QRP research, read their literature reviews/introductions, and then assess how those reviews are organized, how clearly the authors define their research goals, and how successfully they situate these goals and motivate their hypotheses within the context of the current literature.

Feb. 6           **Methods, data, and analysis**

For two published papers that examine phenomena similar to those you are considering for your QRP, examine the scope/quantity of the data, how they were collected, and how they are presented and analyzed. (Please copy the papers and bring to class. Our goal here is for you to dissect the presentational style in your subdiscipline, assess what makes a presentation clear or unclear, and, depending on how closely these papers parallel your own, possibly arrive at a good idea of the steps that are ahead of you.)

Feb. 13          **Student presentations**

Plan on a presentation of approximately 15-20 minutes.

Feb. 20          **Student presentations**

*If you haven't already done so, this week you should submit to your primary QRP advisor the draft section(s) of your QRP that you will turn in Mar. 13.*

Midterm break

- Mar. 6      **Selecting conferences and writing conference papers**  
Different subdisciplines within linguistics have different expectations regarding graduate student productivity. Prior to this class meeting, meet with your advisor to discuss presentation and publication norms/expectations in your subdiscipline, and to discuss appropriate conference and publication (see next week) venues for your QRP work.  
*If you haven't already done so, this week you should meet with your QRP advisor to go over the draft section(s) of your QRP and then revise according to that feedback.*
- Mar. 13     **Publishing, journal selection, and responding to reviewers' and editors' reports**  
We'll discuss various aspects of publishing your QRP and other research.  
*First QRP submission: Turn in draft section(s) of your QRP that incorporate your advisor's comments.*
- Mar. 20     **Developing a strong CV; grant writing**  
In preparation for this class, research sources of grants that might be appropriate for you and your work. Most of you will likely want to focus your efforts on funding for dissertation research. With this in mind, please look over the (successful) application for an NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Award on the CTools site.
- Mar. 27     TBA
- Apr. 3      TBA
- Apr. 10     **Final presentations**
- Apr. 17     **Final presentations**  
*Second QRP submission: Turn in what you have written to date on your QRP, incorporating advisor's comments and, as appropriate, comments that I made on the earlier version.*