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Research Methodology
Syllabus - Spring 2026

Week 1; March 4

-Introductions to the course, the materials, and many other important things.

This first week we spend some time going over the plans that people have formed over the winter break for their impending research. People will take turns explaining what it is they want to do, how they will do it and why they would like to do that. Students need to make sure they come to the class prepared so they can participate effectively.

Homework: Read Creswell (2013) and Nunan & Bailey (2008) Chapters 1.

Come to class with a well-written statement of the research design one intended to use in their on-going research project.

Week 2; March 11

Creswell (2013) Chapter 1 – The Selection of a Research Approach

Nunan & Bailey (2008) Chapter 1 – Introducing Second Language Classroom Research

This week we go over some of the basic start up ideas in relation to conducting research. We review some of the possibilities that exist for research projects both in general as well as in our field.

Homework: Read Creswell (2013) and Nunan & Bailey (2008) Chapters 2.

Come to class with a minimum of 3 studies that are directly related to the study one wants to develop.

Week 3; March 18

Creswell (2013) Chapter 2 – Review of the Literature

Nunan & Bailey (2008) Chapter 2 – Getting Started on Classroom Research

This week we look at how we get started in the process of conducting research. This typically involves taking a look at the literature and previous studies in a particular area of interest.

Homework: Homework: Read Creswell (2013) Chapter 3.

Come to class with a statement expressing the underlying theories that you are going to make use of in your research project.

Week 4; March 25

Creswell (2013) Chapter 3 – The Use of Theory

This week we focus our attention on the role of theory in planning and conducting a research project. This takes us further than just a review of other studies and forces us to consider how we are striving to not only use but also possibly enhance theories on the basis of the research we are conducting.

Homework: Read Creswell (2013) and Nunan & Bailey (2008) Chapters 3 and 4.

Come to class with a statement of how one intends to deal with at least 2 major issues in the research one is conducting.

Week 5; April 1

Creswell (2013) Chapter 4 – Writing Strategies and Ethical Considerations

Nunan & Bailey (2008) Chapter 3 – Key Concepts in Planning Classroom Research

This week we look at a range of outstanding issues one needs to taking into consideration when conducting research.

Homework: Read Nunan & Bailey (2008) Chapter 4.

Come to class with a plan for an experimental research. This plan does not have to relate directly to your current research project.

Week 6; April 8

Nunan & Bailey (2008) Chapter 4 – The Experimental Method

This week we take our first look at a specific research method, that of experiments. We go over the design and implementation of an experimental approach to research.

Homework: Read Nunan & Bailey (2008) Chapter 5.

Come to class with a survey designed to elicit some aspect of information related to the area of research you are exploring.

Week 7; April 15

Nunan & Bailey (2008) Chapter 5 – Surveys

This week we explore the very interesting and important area of surveys in research. We review the important issues related to the use of surveys regarding design, implementation, and evaluation.

Homework: Read Nunan & Bailey (2008) Chapters 6 and 7.

Come to class with a brief case study of someone in your circle related to an issue in Applied Linguistics.

Week 8; April 22

Nunan & Bailey (2008) Chapter 6 – Case Study Research

Nunan & Bailey (2008) Chapter 7 – Ethnography

This week we shift gears a bit and we start looking at some of the different types of research we can do. We focus our attention first on more dialogic/story-based approaches to doing research.

Homework: Read Nunan & Bailey (2008) Chapters 8 and 9.

Come to class with at least three different observation rubrics that you think you could use in your class for research purposes.

****Compile the assignments you have completed to date into an integrated paper following APA format. In effect, this paper is your midterm.**

Week 9; April 29

****Midterm Paper due.**

Nunan & Bailey (2008) Chapter 8 – Action Research

Nunan & Bailey (2008) Chapter 9 – Classroom Observation

This week we look specifically at observation-based research. Under this basic umbrella term action research also fits. For teachers looking to do any kind of research in the classroom, observation-based approaches are very important.

Homework: Read Creswell (2013) Chapter 5.

Week 10; May 6

Creswell (2013) Chapter 5 – The Introduction

This week we start looking at some of the major parts of a research paper and start with the Introduction. We go over the purpose of the introduction and the norms regarding how it is to be written.

Homework: Read Creswell (2013) Chapters 6 and 7.

Bring to class a research statement accompanied by a matching set of research questions for your research project.

Week 11; May 13

Creswell (2013) Chapter 6 – The Purpose Statement

Creswell (2013) Chapter 7 – Research Questions and Hypotheses

This week our attention turns to the important framing devices of a research/purpose statement and the research questions. These both play an important role in guiding and limiting the research that one is trying to do.

Homework: Read Nunan & Bailey (2008) Chapters 11 and 12.

Bring to class a statement regarding the elicitation procedures one is planning to employ in their research project.

Week 12; May 20

Nunan & Bailey (2008) Chapter 11 – Elicitation Procedures

Nunan & Bailey (2008) Chapter 12 – Analyzing Classroom Interaction

This week we look at two important areas in research. We start by looking at the different ways we can elicit information from participants. We then turn our attention to the different techniques and approaches to analyzing interactions in the classroom. With the social turn in SLA these are increasing important aspects of research.

Homework: Read Creswell (2013) and Nunan & Bailey (2008) Chapters 8 and 13.

Come to class with a data set that can be manipulated quantitatively.

Week 13; May 27

Creswell (2013) Chapter 8 – Quantitative Methods

Nunan & Bailey (2008) Chapter 13 – Quantitative Data Analysis

This week we delve into the idea of quantitative research. We review the different ways that numbers can be used and dealt with for a range of different purposes for finding information in research.

Homework: Read Creswell (2013) and Nunan & Bailey (2008) Chapters 9 and 14.

Bring to class a set of data that can be evaluated using qualitative methods.

Week 14; June 3 (Holiday - Election Day)

Creswell (2013) Chapter 9 – Qualitative Methods

Nunan & Bailey (2008) Chapter 14 – Qualitative Data Analysis

This week we take a look at how we can use qualitative methods in conducting research. We cover both the different procedures in qualitative research as well as some of the possible procedures we can use.

Homework: Read Creswell (2013) and Nunan & Bailey (2008) Chapters 10 and 15.

Bring to class a set of data that can be used to demonstrate a mixed methods inquiry.

Week 15; June 10

Creswell (2013) Chapter 10 – Mixed Methods Procedures

Nunan & Bailey (2008) Chapter 15 – Putting It All Together

This week we look at ways in which we can integrate both quantitative and qualitative treatments of data in our research. We also spend time trying to tie everything together.

Final projects are due on Saturday, June 20th.