

Prelims Workshop

LING697A

Fall 2009

Instructor: Heidi Harley
Office: Communication 114b
Phone: 626-3554
Office hours; W10-11, or by appointment
email: hharley@email.arizona.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides support for each student to plan, execute, and write up a major research project (for example, a grant proposal, a prelims paper, a dissertation chapter, a journal article etc.); The focus is on producing an original, successful, professional piece of linguistic writing by the end of the semester, but other aspects of professional development will also be touched on.

In 696 we will focus on your research. This is your class, and I'm very open to suggestions on how to run it, if you feel some change is necessary.

THE ORGANIZATION:

Each week two of you will present your work to the group. These are **not** formal (conference style) presentations, but workshop sessions. The goal of these presentations is provide a framework for the discussion of your data/ideas/analyses. Early on in the term we will do a couple of exercises to get everyone going, but after that, presentations are the name of the game. The first couple of classes will be devoted to short (1/2 hour presentations) where everyone presents, so we get an idea of what everyone is working on.

If there are professionalism topics you would like to have covered in this class, please let me know ASAP, and I will try to provide that info.

EXPECTATIONS:

Expectations for work outside of class:

- 1) develop a set of goals for the semester
- 2) develop a reading list for your topic
- 3) establish a committee for your paper
- 4) meet regularly with ALL members of your prelims committee
- 5) write a prelim (or other) paper

What you will be expected to do when leading a discussion of your work:

- 1) Provide a handout.

Q: "But," you say, " I don't have any work yet on my topic! How am I supposed to present anything?"

A: You can always present an/some important paper(s) on your topic instead of your own results, if that's the stage you are at. But you should present your opinions/questions about those papers in that process; the focus is on your developing **your** ideas about the subject. Or do a combination of presenting the literature and what you think.

2) Provide a context for your work (highlight the main ideas and controversies), as well as laying out your hypotheses. NOTE: you should feel free to come and float crazy ideas, half-baked ones, things you came up with in the shower. This is NOT a professional conference and your story doesn't have to hold together in any coherent way at first, until you are ready to write your paper.

What you are expected to do when you are not presenting.

- 1) Attend. You MUST attend everyone else's presentation, unless you are deathly sick.
- 2) Contribute. These are workshops, so feel free to jump in with questions, comments, praise (especially praise!), and ideas. If at anytime you don't understand what a presenter is saying, then stop them **immediately** and tell them so. If you don't, they won't know that they aren't being clear.
- 3) Offer emotional and professional support to the presenter. (I.e., you offer comments and criticism, but try to be nice).
- 4) Do the incidental assignments designed to keep you on track.

GRADING

- 44% Participation & Attendance
- 38% Presentations (you get full marks if you do them and provide a handout). There are six of you, and 24 presentation slots, so at this point everyone will do 4 presentations, plus the brief intro presentation on August 31st. Go on the Yahoo group calendar and sign up for a presentation slot by **Monday 24 August**.
- 2% Goals/Topic Statement, due in email to ENTIRE GROUP **Monday 24 August**
- 2% Questions (minimum one each, preferably more) about other people's topic statements, due **Monday August 31**.
- 2% Preliminary reading list, due **Monday August 31**. Use your best ideas about keywords to search Citation Indexes, LLBA, Google Scholar and the MLA databases. Choose at least 10 recent-ish papers (since 1995) and 3-4 older papers (before 1995) on your topic and/or related topics for your reading list. Use the number of citations **to** papers, especially older papers, as a guide to choosing the most influential works in the area and on related topics. Also check out the unpublished papers posted on LingBuzz, the Optimality Archive, and the Semantics Archive, if relevant.
- 2% Set up committee membership; final list of committee members due **Sept. 14**.
- 6% Starting now, arrange at least one meeting with each of your three committee members. You are required to turn in a brief para describing **their feedback** from that meeting. Must be completed by **October 19**.
- 2% 2-page abstract of paper, due **Mon. Nov. 2**.
- 2% Hand in final paper, due **Mon. Dec. 7th**.

Schedule

Date		
Aug 24 – No meeting. Read syllabus, do assignments for Aug 31.		
Aug 31 – Discussion of Topic Statements, asking of Questions, and presentation of Reading Lists	Everyone should plan on doing between 20 minutes and 1/2 hour summarizing the basic idea/question/data/method of their paper. No handout necessary, but fine if you bring one. Bring your topic statement and reading list, though.	
Sept 7 LABOR DAY	NO CLASS	
	<u>Presenter 1</u>	<u>Presenter 2</u>
Sept 14 — List of committee members due	A1	A2
Sept 21	A3	A4
Sept 28	A5	A6
Oct 5	B1	B2
Oct 12	B3	B4
Oct 19 — Report on first meeting with each committee member due.	B5	B6
Oct 26	C1	C2
Nov 2 – abstract due	C3	C4
Nov 9	C5	C6
Nov 16	D1	D2
Nov 23	NO CLASS – work on papers!!	
Nov 30	D3	D4
December 7 — Papers due	D5	D6