

# Nottingham Trent University

## Module Specification

	Basic module information	
1	Module Title:	Linguistics Dissertation
2	Module Code:	LING39105
3	Credit Points:	40
4	Duration:	Full-year
5	School:	Arts and Humanities
6	Campus:	Clifton
7	Date this version first approved to run:	September 2017

### 8 Pre, post and co-requisites:

These are modules that you must have studied previously in order to take this module, or modules that you must study simultaneously or in a subsequent academic session

<u>Pre, Co, Post</u>	<u>Module Code</u>	<u>Module Title</u>
Pre	Ling207	Research Methods in Linguistics

### 9 Courses containing the module

<u>Level</u>	<u>Core/Option</u>	<u>Mode</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Course Title</u>
6	Option	FT		BA Joint Honours Humanities
6	Option	PT		BA Joint Honours Humanities
6	Option	SW		BA Joint Honours Modern Languages
6	Option	FT		BA Joint Honours Modern Languages
6	Option	PT		BA Joint Honours Modern Languages

### 10 Overview and aims

#### Overview

This module provides students with the opportunity to explore critically and in depth a subject of their own choosing. The dissertation serves as an invitation to students to collect naturally occurring language data for analysis; students may also pursue theoretical topics which evaluate arguments contained in previously published scholarly work. The final product will be a dissertation written in accordance with scholarly conventions of referencing and annotation. If naturalistic data are collected, recordings, transcriptions or other data forming the corpus should be presented in appendices. Each student will be provided with a supervisor who will advise on

content, methodology, bibliographic support and progress of the project.

Students will also complete a synoptic assessment which will allow students to reflect on the entirety of their degree and to demonstrate that they are aware of their individual employability.

### **Aims**

- To allow students practical experience in language project work using research methods appropriate to Linguistics
- To engage students in the process of linguistic investigation, including data collection, the nature of linguistic evidence and research methodologies
- To develop in students a critical and informed stance on language-related issues in relation to many contemporary debates
- To encourage students to apply appropriate linguistic theories to data collected in real-life situations
- To offer students both choice and scope for an individual research initiative
- To allow students to reflect on their degree and how this reflects on their future employability

## **11 Module content**

The content of the module will depend on the topic selected. Each student, however, will be expected to read widely across a substantial range of texts, to select an appropriate topic on which to focus, to develop an argument which recognises a diversity of perspectives on the subject, and to evaluate them. Students whose dissertation depends on fieldwork and the collection of data will be expected to demonstrate familiarity with methods of data collection and analysis appropriate to Linguistics. Supervision advice will be available on questions of content and methodology. Workshops will be held throughout the academic year on topics such as writing a literature review, using programmes such as Refworks and WriteandCite, structuring their dissertation and referencing. Students also have individual supervision meetings with their supervisor throughout the year.

## **12 Indicative reading**

Reading will be determined by the nature of the topic chosen. Advice on appropriate supportive reading and further resources will be given by the tutor. The following are likely to be of general use in planning the dissertation:

Carter, R et al. (1997). *Working with Texts*. London: Routledge.

Milroy, L. (1987). *Observing and Analysing Natural Language*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Milroy, L. and Gordon, M. (2003) *Sociolinguistics: Method and Interpretation*.

London: Blackwell

Rowntree, D. (1981). *Statistics Without Tears*. Harmondsworth: Penguin

Wray, A. et al. (1998). *Projects in Linguistics*. London. Arnold.

### 13 **Learning outcomes**

Learning outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of the module

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**Knowledge and understanding.** After studying this module you should be able to:

- Demonstrate theoretical awareness
- Apply linguistic theory to new contexts
- Be able to integrate and synthesize understanding of language across different disciplinary boundaries
- Acquisition of research skills in linguistics, including data collection
- Integration of knowledge of linguistic theories and their application to new contexts
- Application of critical thinking and logical analysis to the study of language, both theoretical and practical
- Language-related problem solving
- Evaluate and debate theoretical viewpoints
- Analyse data quantitatively and qualitatively
- Ability to reflect on transferable skills and application to future careers

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**Skills, qualities and attributes.** After studying this module you should be able to:

- Ability to sustain a reasoned argument
- Analysis of written and spoken texts
- Use of information resources
- Independent learning strategies
- Time management
- Planning and organization
- High levels of oral and written communication skills
- Research skills
- Ability to reflect on own achievements and how to present these to employers

### 14 **Teaching and learning**

*Range of modes of direct contact*

This indicates the range of direct contact teaching and learning methods used on this module,  
e.g. lectures, seminars

10 hours individual supervision	
12 hours dissertation skills development workshops	
Total contact hours:	22
<i>Range of other learning methods</i>	
This indicates the range of other teaching and learning methods used on this module, e.g. directed reading, research	
Independent learning, research; data collection where appropriate	
Total non-contact hours:	378

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### Assessment methods

This indicates the type and weighting of assessment elements and sub-elements in the module

<u>Element number</u>	<u>Weighting</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description (include any sub-elements)</u>
1	80%	Dissertation	Dissertation of around 10,000 words
2	20%	Coursework	This will include a reflection on their subject specific knowledge and how this applies to their future career; CV, reflection and commentary on how they envisage achieving their aspirations

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### Diagnostic/formative assessment

This indicates if there are any assessments that do not contribute directly to the final module mark

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Students receive feedback from individual supervisors about their progress and can submit parts of their dissertation to be read and discussed by the supervisor.

In parallel with other JH subjects in the School the synoptic assessment will sit in the dissertation module. Dissertation workshops for Linguistics students will include learning skills and activities which will support their employability. The synoptic assessment will make up 20% of the overall module mark and require students to reflect upon their three years at NTU to examine how their degree has helped them in their employment aspirations. This will include skills and knowledge acquired by the student from both their JH subjects as part of their student journey. This will be supported not only by the dissertation supervisor, but also by their personal tutor. As all Linguistics students are Joint Honours students (either Humanities or Modern Languages), students can assess how their subjects have contributed together to their employability skills.

**Further information on assessment**

This section provides further information on the module's assessment where appropriate

**Document management**

16	Module Title:	Linguistics Dissertation	
17	Module Code:	Ling39105	
18	Subject (JACS) Code:	Q100	
19	Cost Centre:	138	
20	School:	AAH	
21	Academic Team:	EMC	
22	Campus:	Clifton	
23	Other institutions providing teaching:	<i>Please complete in box 23 a-d - if applicable</i>	
		Institution	%
23a	Other UK Higher Education or Further Education Institution- Please name Percentage not taught by NTU		
23b	Other public organisation in the UK- Percentage not taught by NTU		
23c	Other private organisation in the UK - Percentage not taught by NTU		
23d	Any other Non-UK organisation - Percentage not taught by NTU		
24	Date this version was formally approved by the School Academic Standards and Quality Committee (SASQC) or Development Approval Group (DAG):	January 2017	