

Course Information

This course will provide you with the tools to obtain, organize, and analyze language-related data. Empirical methods are explored with some attention given to data-driven quantitative methods employed in natural language analysis. The course includes language data collection, basic statistical analysis (as applied to linguistics), and language corpora. Students will also benefit from learning data processing computer software packages (e.g., Excel, R). This course counts for the Minor in Linguistics and Micro-credential in Applied Data Science in the Social Sciences.

Instructor



Dr. Ander Beristain



ander.beristain@slu.edu



Office: Morrissey Hall 1514



Office hours: MW 12:00-1:00 pm

Office Hours

In person or in Zoom

Time: MW 12:00-1:00 pm or by appointment

Honors students

If you register under the “honors” (H0) section of this course, you will need to **meet with the professor during week 1 or 2 of the semester** to think of a project to complete during the semester to receive honors credits. You, with the help of your professor, will make a personalized plan of action that will suit your interests and goals in the class (and life).

Previous examples include: individual research projects, oral presentations in class, a literature review on a given topic covered in class, etc.

Prerequisites

No prerequisites.

Course objectives

In this course, you will:

- learn to use different techniques to summarize qualitative and quantitative linguistic data, and
- apply a particular software tool to analyze and present relevant data in linguistics.

Student learning objectives

By the end of this course, you will have:

- developed an understanding of experimental design;
- developed an understanding of types of data in linguistics;
- developed an understanding of descriptive statistics and how to apply this to language data analysis; and
- developed an awareness of software tools for analyzing language data.

How can I succeed? Student & Course Resources

All students experience stressors and challenges at some point, and seeking support is beneficial. Such challenges may be the result of academic concerns (such as those related to particular assignments or content in a course), or they may be more personal in nature (such as concerns related to relationships, mental health, loss, identities, alcohol or drugs, housing or food security, or finances, among other things). If you experience these or other difficulties, please consider seeking support from the resources available to you.

For concerns related to this course, please contact the instructor or course coordinator. We are invested in your success and will support your success in the ways we can. Additionally, you have access to the many resources SLU provides in support of your personal wellness. You will find a list of available resources on [the Well-being page of the SLU website](#). If you or someone you know is experiencing a crisis: please consult [the Crisis Support and Warning Signs on the University Counseling Center website](#).

In the spirit of *cura personalis*, the University sees your academic success as connected to your health and well-being and provides resources to support your holistic wellness.

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| • Student Responsibility and Community Standards | • Campus Ministry |
| • Instructor Office Hours | • University Counseling Center |
| • Student Success Center | • LGBTQIA* Resources |
| • University Writing Services | • University Title IX Resource Office |
| • Academic and Disability Services | • Dean of Students Office |
| | • Billiken Bounty Food Pantry |

Student Responsibility and Community Standards

As a Catholic, Jesuit institution, SLU holds high standards regarding the conduct of its students both on and off campus. [The Office of Student Responsibility and Community Standards](#) is to help you, as students, think reflectively and act respectfully, both in how you care for your fellow community members and the ways you care for yourself. We actively support educational initiatives and restorative justice that prioritizes your learning and long term success. We also play a central role in educating and training students, faculty and staff about our community standards, values and expectations. Please refer frequently to these resources in the [Student Handbook](#) or talk to our staff if you have questions.

For [Incident Reporting](#) of any type, please provide detailed information regarding the incident you are reporting involving a Saint Louis University member, either as yourself or on behalf of another student. Only current students, faculty or staff members of the SLU community may file a report via the incident report form. Reports

filed through this online incident report are immediately received and viewed the next business day. If you have any questions regarding filing an incident report, please contact the Office of Student Responsibility and Community Standards at 314-977-7326.

Instructor Office Hours

Your instructor is available to meet with you at regular times each week. You are encouraged to take advantage of office hours to ask questions about homework or other assignments, and to talk about your progress in the course. The office hours are listed at the top of this syllabus and online. If you are unable to attend these hours but would like to meet with your instructor outside of class, email to ask for an appointment.

Student Success Center

The Student Success Center (SSC) supports students in reaching their goals in and out of the classroom. Providing a variety of resources, the Student Success Center houses both the Center for Accessibility and Disability Resources (CADR) and Academic Support, which includes Tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, University Writing Services, and Student Success Coaching. The Student Success Center is located in the Busch Student Center, Suite 331, and students can make an appointment with any SSC resource via EAB Navigate. To learn more about the Student Success Center and its resources, please visit: <https://www.slu.edu/life-at-slu/student-success-center/index.php>.

University Writing Services

University Writing Services offers one-on-one consultations with trained writing consultants who help with everything from brainstorming, outlining, and proposing research questions to documenting sources, revising, and implementing feedback. These consultations are available to both graduate and undergraduate students and can take place in-person, asynchronously, or via Zoom. All appointments can be scheduled through EAB Navigate – Student. Getting feedback benefits writers at all skill levels on different writing projects (including but not limited to class assignments, conference papers, cover letters, dissertations, group projects, multimedia assignments, personal statements, senior capstone projects, short answer questions on applications, speeches, and theses). For additional information, visit <https://www.slu.edu/life-at-slu/student-success-center/academic-support/university-writing-services/index.php> or send an email to writing@slu.edu.

Academic and Disability Accommodations

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations must formally register their disability with the University. Once successfully registered, students also must notify their course instructor that they wish to use their approved accommodations in the course.

Please contact the [Center for Accessibility and Disability Resources](#) (CADR) to schedule an appointment to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Most students on the St. Louis campus will contact CADR, located in the Student Success Center and available by email at accessibility_disability@slu.edu or by phone at 314.977.3484. Once approved, information about a student's eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors by email from CADR and within the instructor's official course roster. Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one also are encouraged to contact CADR. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries.

Campus Ministry

Have you heard the term *cura personalis*? It's not just another old Latin phrase here at Saint Louis University; it's an expression that forms the core of how we nurture spiritual life in our community - Care for the whole person! Check out the resources through [Campus Ministry](#) and [other faith based organizations](#) on campus to find links and videos with resources for prayer, managing your personal wellbeing, and bringing your faith life to work for social justice.

University Counseling Center

The University Counseling Center (UCC) offers free, short-term, solution-focused counseling to Saint Louis University undergraduate and graduate students. UCC counselors are highly trained clinicians who can assist with a variety of issues, such as adjustment to college life, troubling changes in mood, and chronic psychological conditions. To make an appointment for a wellness consultation, call 314-977-8255 (TALK), visit [the UCC website](#) or walk into the clinic on the second floor of Wuller Hall. For after-hours needs, please press #9 after dialing the clinic number and ask for a mental health specialist.

LGBTQIA* Resources

Saint Louis University is committed to creating and supporting a safe, inclusive environment for all of our students. This includes the need to validate and affirm all aspects of an individual's identity, including their sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. In the spirit of nurturing the whole person, check out this [LGBTQIA resource page](#) that highlights the clubs and departments on campus and beyond that are available to help support your physical, mental and spiritual health.

Title IX Resource Office

If you have encountered any form of sexual misconduct (e.g. sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic or dating violence), we encourage you to report this to the University. [The Title IX Resource Office](#) of Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, that faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX coordinator, Anna R. Kratky (DuBourg Hall, room 36; akratky@slu.edu; 314-977-3886) and share the basic facts of your experience with her. The Title IX coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus. Note: If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the University Counseling Center at 314-977-TALK. [View SLU's sexual misconduct policy here.](#)

Student Health Center

The Saint Louis University [Student Health Center](#) provides services by appointment. We are seeing patients in our clinic, but many of the services are also available through telehealth. For routine visits, women's health, sports medicine, injury, nurse visits, or for patients who are already established with a dietitian or physical therapist, students may now schedule online at slucare.edu/appointment.

Basic Needs Security

Students experiencing food insecurity, housing insecurity, and any other challenges that are impacting their personal and/or academic wellbeing are encouraged to contact the Dean of Students Office for support. Students can submit an [intake](#) form, email deanofstudents@slu.edu, or call 314-977-9378 to connect with their office. Students may also communicate directly with their instructors about any challenges they are experiencing to receive support and resource referrals.

Billiken Bounty Food Pantry

[Billiken Bounty](#) has partnered with Campus Kitchen to bring you fresh produce. You will need to go to Reinert Hall to select your items; the selection of available produce changes on a weekly basis.

Class Materials

Required book:

- Litosseliti, Lia (ed.). 2018. *Research Methods in Linguistics*. 3rd edn. London: Bloomsbury. [RML]
- Baayen, H. R. 2008. *Analyzing Linguistic Data: A Practical Introduction to Statistics using R*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [ALD]
- **Additional readings will be made available on Canvas.**



REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY:

- a laptop with:
 - a reliable internet connection
 - at least two web browsers installed and recently updated (e.g. Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Explorer)
 - The software RStudio (<https://posit.co/download/rstudio-desktop/>)

Grading scale

Grade (numeric)	Letter	Points
93.0 – 100.0	A	4.0
90.0 – 92.9	A-	3.7
87.0 – 89.9	B+	3.3
82.0 – 86.9	B	3.0
80.0 – 81.9	B-	2.7
77.0 – 79.9	C+	2.3
72.0 – 76.9	C	2.0
70.0 – 71.9	C-	1.7
60.0 – 69.9	D	1.0
0.00 – 59.9	F	0.0

Assessment Components

Class Participation	15%
Homework assignments (10)	30%
Midterm exam	15%
Research presentation	15%
Data analysis project	15%
End-of-semester survey / reflection	10%
	100

Class Participation

Active and informed participation is essential to succeed and required in this class. Grades are based on regular contributions to in-class discussions.

You will be able to obtain **5 points per day**. The following rubric will be employed to evaluate your class participation:

5 points (if ALL of the following are true)

- Arrives for class on time.
- Participates actively both in group work and in whole-class discussions.
- Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the assigned readings.

3 point (if ANY of the following is true)

- Arrives no more than 10 minutes late for class.
- Has a passive attitude when working in groups (other group members do most of the work).
- Is only partially familiar with the key concepts in the assigned readings.
- Participation is mostly limited to personal experiences or anecdotes.

0 points (if ANY of the following is true)

- Arrives more than 10 minutes late for class.
- Works on assignments for other classes or is otherwise distracted on activities not related to the class, such as texting.
- Does not demonstrate any familiarity with the assigned readings.
- Does not volunteer or contribute to the class discussion.

Homework assignments

Homework assignments will be assigned the last day of class that week, and will cover the topics discussed that week. Each assignment will account for **3% of your final grade**. These tasks are designed to give you extra practice with both the theoretical and practical concepts introduced in class. Homework assignments will be due on **Sundays at 11:59 PM**.

Midterm Exam

The midterm exam will assess material from **Weeks 1-8**. It will include multiple-choice and short-answer questions, as well as applied exercises focusing on research practices in linguistics.

Research presentation

You will work in pairs to design and present a poster on an original research topic. You may choose to (1) conduct your own study, (2) analyze an existing dataset (provided by your

instructor), or (3) propose a new research project. Your instructor will provide feedback throughout the semester to help you refine your work.

You will present your project during the 1st SLU Linguistics Showcase on May 4 (during class time). This component counts for 15% of your final grade, distributed as follows:

- 5%: Progress on draft poster files
- 5%: Final version of the poster
- 5%: In-class mock presentation

Note: Friday classes will be dedicated to this project. These workshop sessions will focus on idea development, experimental implementation, data analysis, visualization, and reporting. More details will be shared in class.

Data analysis project

For this project, you will work in pairs and conduct a corpus study using one of the corpora provided by your instructor. You will investigate a research question of your choice, performing a quantitative analysis using R and the statistical methods introduced in the course.

You will submit a well-annotate and fully functional R script (in .rmd format). Evaluation will focus on the logic of your code, the clarity of your analysis procedures, and the appropriateness of your statistical methods.

End-of-Semester Survey

At the end of the semester, you will complete an online reflection survey with 10 short questions about your learning experience in LING 2000. You will earn one point for each thoughtfully answered question.

Technology Support

For University-supported technologies (such as Canvas, Panopto, Zoom and Microsoft Teams), ITS Service Desk support is available from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday to Friday. You may contact the ITS Service Desk in the following ways:

Phone: 1-314-977-4000 or toll free 1-314-977-4000

Email: ask@slu.edu

Self-Service Portal: <https://ask.slu.edu/>

Important course policies

Late work policy: Late homework (any work not turned in by the deadline) will **not** be accepted without documented extenuating circumstances. Documented extenuating circumstances include, but are not limited to, a major medical emergency that requires hospitalization and a family emergency. Events that you know about ahead of time—including University activities and religious holidays—do not constitute documented extenuating circumstances. If you know that you will miss class for an excused absence (a University activity or a religious holiday), you must make arrangements to turn in the homework ahead of time.

Communication

I understand that online (and especially asynchronous) courses can feel isolating. My goal is to try to avoid that by creating continuous opportunities for you to work on your Spanish in relation to linguistics. If you are struggling over class material, need help to prepare for quizzes, or discuss class topics, I am more than happy to work with you; I personally enjoy working with students one on one.

No appointment is “officially” needed for drop-in/office hours. However, in order to organize my schedule, I have created a **site where you can make an appointment to meet with me** (in person or via Zoom).

The link is the following: calendly.com/aberistain/meeting.

Reserving a timeslot gives you preference over somebody that might have decided to show up without one at the same time. If none of the timeslots suit your schedule, just send me an email and set up an appointment to meet at another time.

A note on emails: The best way to contact me is via email to my SLU email address (ander.beristain@slu.edu). I typically reply promptly, but please know that **I will answer emails during the work week** (Monday-Friday) **and between 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM**. Allow 24 hours from the time I read the message for a reply. If you have not heard from me in 48 hours, you are welcome to send me another email.

University Policies

Academic Honesty/Integrity Policy

Academic integrity is the commitment to and demonstration of honest and moral behavior in an academic setting. Since the mission of the University is "the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity," acts of integrity are essential to its very reason for existence. Thus, the University regards academic integrity as a matter of serious importance. Academic integrity is the foundation of the academic assessment process, which in turn sustains the ability of the University to certify to the outside world the skills and attainments of its graduates. Adhering to the standards of academic integrity allows all members of the University to contribute to a just and equitable learning environment that cultivates moral character and self-respect. The full University-level Academic Integrity Policy can be found on the Provost's Office website at: <https://www.slu.edu/provost/policies/academic-and-course/academic-integrity-policy.pdf>.

Disability Accommodations

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Please contact the Center for Accessibility and Disability Resources (CADR) to schedule an appointment to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Most students on the St. Louis campus will contact CADR, located in the Student Success Center and available by email at accessibility_disability@slu.edu or by phone at 314.977.3484. Once approved, information about a student's eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors by email from CADR and within Banner. Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they

may have one also are encouraged to contact to CADR. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries.

Note: due to accreditation requirements, regulatory differences, and/or location-specific resources, the School of Law, the School of Medicine, and SLU Madrid have their own standard language for syllabus statements related to disability accommodations. Faculty in those units should seek guidance for syllabus requirements from their dean's office.

Title IX

Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, domestic or dating violence, we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident that involves a Title IX matter, **that faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX Coordinator that you shared an experience relating to Title IX.** This is true even if you ask the faculty member not to disclose the incident. The Title IX Coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

If you are pregnant or experiencing a pregnancy related condition, the Title IX Coordinator can assist you in understanding your rights and options as well as provide supportive measures.

Anna Kratky is the Title IX Coordinator at Saint Louis University (DuBourg Hall, room 36; anna.kratky@slu.edu; 314-977-3886). If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the University Counseling Center at 314-977-TALK or make an anonymous report through SLU's Integrity Hotline by calling 1-877-525-5669 or online at [SLU.EDU/INTEGRITYHOTLINE](https://www.slu.edu/about/safety/sexual-assault-resources/index.php). To view SLU's policies, and for resources, please visit the following web addresses:
<https://www.slu.edu/about/safety/sexual-assault-resources/index.php>.

Note: due to accreditation requirements, regulatory differences, and/or location-specific resources, the School of Law, the School of Medicine, and SLU Madrid have their own standard language for syllabus statements related to Title IX. Faculty in those units should seek guidance for syllabus requirements from their dean's office.

Statement on the use of generative AI: Generative AI, including but not limited to ChatGPT, Gemini, Microsoft Copilot, Midjourney, DALL-E or Github Copilot may not be used for work in this class. The use of such generative AI tools may compromise your learning by undermining your ability to ideate, fully understand how to structure an argument or narrative or formulate or create nonderivative creative work.

You may not use generative AI to *compose theses or arguments based on theses provided by generative AI*. For example, asking an AI to polish a piece of work you have written is not allowed. You may not use generative AI to compose work as a whole or in part for any assignment in this course.

Please review item three in the section labeled Plagiarism in the [Saint Louis University Academic Integrity Policy](#).

Course Calendar

This tentative schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

	TOPICS	READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
Week 1			
M 1/12	Introduction to Linguistics (online)	Instructor's handout RML: Intro: pp. 1-12.	Welcome survey
W 1/14	Research questions in linguistics (online)	RML: Chapter 1: pp. 13-36.	Response
F 1/16	Introduction to course datasets (online)		Response
Week 2			
M 1/19	No class: MLK Day		
W 1/21	Ethics in linguistic research	RML: Chapter 2: pp. 37-70.	
F 1/23	Workshop 1: Creating ideas		Homework #1
Week 2			
M 1/26	Transcription in linguistics	RML: Chapter 3: pp. 71-102	
W 1/28	Combining methods in linguistic research	RML: Chapter 4: pp. 103-130	
F 1/30	Workshop 2: From question to method		Homework #2
Week 4			
M 2/2	<i>Guest talk:</i> Aurore Mroz, Ph.D. (UIUC)		Reaction
W 2/4	Micro/Macro-linguistic considerations	RML: Chapter 5: pp. 131-166	
F 2/6	Workshop 3: Planning your study		Homework #3
Week 5			
M 2/9	Quantitative Methods: Concepts, frameworks, issues	RML: Chapter 6: pp. 167-192	
W 2/11	No class: Wellness Day		
F 2/13	Workshop 4: Quant. research practice		Homework #4
Week 6			
M 2/16	Organizing and processing quantitative data	RML: Chapter 7: pp. 193-224	
W 2/18	Corpus methods in linguistics	RML: Chapter 8: pp. 225-254	
F 2/20	Workshop 5: Data collection tools		Homework #5
Week 7			
M 2/23	Qualitative Methods: Interviews and focus groups	RML: Chapter 9: pp. 255-288	
W 2/25	Linguistic ethnography	RML: Chapter 10: pp. 289-318	
F 2/27	Workshop 6: Data session I		Homework #6
Week 8			
M 3/2	Digital discourse analysis	RML: Chapter 11: pp. 319-346	
W 3/4	Review for Midterm		Study for Midterm
F 3/6	Midterm Exam (take-home)		

Week 9			
M 3/9	No class: Spring Break		
W 3/11			
F 3/13			
Week 10			
M 3/16	Presenting linguistics research	Instructor's handout	
W 3/18	Poster drafting I		Homework #7
F 3/20	Workshop 7 : Introduction to R	ALD: Chapter 1: pp. 1-20	Bring laptops
Week 11			
M 3/23	Graphical data exploration	ALD: Chapter 2: pp. 21-46	
W 3/25			
F 3/27	Workshop 8 : Data visualization		Homework #8
Week 12			
M 3/30	Probability distributions	ALD: Chapter 3: 47-72	
W 4/1	Poster drafting II		
F 4/3	No class: Easter Break		
Week 13			
M 4/6	No class: Easter Break		
W 4/8	Descriptive statistics I	Rasinger (2014): Chapter 6	
F 4/10	Workshop 9 : Statistics practice I		Homework #9
Week 14			
M 4/13	Descriptive statistics II	Rasinger (2014): Chapter 6	
W 4/15	Inferential statistics I	Rasinger (2014): Chapter 7	
F 4/17	Workshop 10 : Poster drafting III		
Week 15			
M 4/20	Inferential statistics II	Rasinger (2014): Chapter 8	
W 4/22	Guest talk: Dr. Patrick Thane (UT Austin)		
F 4/24	Workshop 11 : Statistics practice II		Homework #10
Week 16			
M 4/27	Student mock presentations		Feedback
W 4/29	Student mock presentations		Feedback
F 5/1	Student mock presentations		Feedback
Week 17			
M 5/4	SLU Linguistics Showcase (2:00-5:00 pm)		Research poster
W 5/6	No class: Finals' Week		End-of-semester survey
Week 18			
M 5/11	No class: Finals' Week		Data analysis project