**UNIVERSIDADE DE SÃO PAULO**

**Faculdade de Filosofia, Letras e Ciências Humanas**

**Departamento de Letras Modernas**

**Área de Estudos Linguísticos e Literários em Inglês**

**2018/2**

Disciplina: **Tópicos de Pesquisa em Língua Inglesa**

### Profa.Dra. Elizabeth Harkot de La Taille, beth.harkot@usp.br

Office: room 32, 3rd. floor (Phone number: 3091-5052)

Office hours Mondays, 12:00-12:30; Thursdays 10:00-11:00 and 18:15-19:15

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course aims at familiarizing the student with key aspects of research within the field of language studies. It will discuss the most frequent types of research carried out in the area, describe the structural process usually followed in its conception as well as the steps in conducting research. The course will also discuss Big Data and paradigm shift; politics, policies and academic hegemonies; and Ig Nobel Prize *vs* “useful” research. Through the exposition to written and oral research reports students are expected to develop their knowledge about research types and strategies at the same time as they practice autonomy and criticism towards academic hegemony.

**CONTENT**

1. Purpose(s) of research activity
2. Types of research
3. Steps: the hourglass model
4. Structural process
5. Big Data / Paradigm shift
6. Policies and academic hegemony (the case of statistics)
7. Policies, academic hegemony, and different epistemologies (Psychology)
8. Ig Nobel Prize/”Useful” research
9. Research examples

**METHODOLOGY**

* Lectures
* Reading of selected material as reference
* Discussion of readings
* Assessment activities

**ASSESSMENT**

* Careful and punctual reading of assigned texts.
* Participation in class discussions (about previous readings).
* Mid-Term Activity
* Seminar

Completion of the reading assignments includes the ability to discuss the readings in class. Students are expected to attend a minimum of 70% of the classes and ***always bring an annotated copy of the readings (hard or soft copy) assigned for the class***.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

AGUIAR, Vera Teixeira de; PEREIRA, Vera W. (Org.) (2007) *Pesquisa em letras* [recurso eletrônico]. Porto Alegre: EDIPUCRS. 136 p.

BELFIORE, Eleonora (2009) On bullshit in cultural policy practice and research: notes from the British case, *International Journal of Cultural Policy*, 15:3, 343-359, DOI: 10.1080/10286630902806080.

DEFEYTER, Margaret A.; RUSSO, Riccardo (2013) The effect of breakfast cereal consumption on adolescents’ cognitive performance and mood, *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, 7, Nov, 1-10.

MUNRO, J. Murray, (2003) “A Primer on Accent Discrimination in the Canadian Context” *TESL Canada Journal/Revue TESL du Canada* vol. 20, no.2, Spring. Available at <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ669737.pdf>, access Aug 25th, 2018.

MORIN, Edgar (2003) *A cabeça bem-feita*: repensar a reforma, reformar o pensamento. Trad. Eloá Jacobina. - 8a ed. -Rio de Janeiro: Bertrand Brasil, 2003. 128 p.

NICOLAU Marcos (2013). *Metodologia do trabalho científico*. [recurso eletrônico]. UFPB. 8 p.

STARMANS, Christina; BLOOM, Paul (2012) Windows to the soul: Children and adults see the eyes as the location of the self, *Cognition* 123, 313–318.

**ASSESSMENT & ASSIGNMENTS**: Students´ production will be evaluated taking into consideration the following activities:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Assignments* | *Maximum score* |
| Readings and participation in class discussions | 1 |
| Mid-Term activity | 4 |
| Seminar | 5 |
| Total: | 10 |

“Substitutiva” will provide the opportunity to compensate for the Mid-Term activity (low mark or absence). Attention: *the ‘substitutiva” substitutes the previous mark, even if the previous mark is higher.*

**ATTENDANCE**

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| If the student for some reason needs an extension (because of illness or some other kind of serious personal problem that prevents him/her from finishing an assignment on time), the teacher must be notified well in advance so that another date can be arranged. The teacher can be reached at beth.harkot@usp.br. Alternatively, a message can be left at DLM-Dep. Letras Modernas (3091-5041).  Office hours: Office hours **Mondays, 12:00-12:30; Thursdays 10:00-11:00 and 18:15-19:15.** Room32, 3rd floor (Phone number: 3091-5052). In case you cannot make it at this time, contact me for another arrangement. |

[Plato](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plato) in [Meno](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meno) : "If you know what you're searching for, why do you search for it? If you don't know what you're searching for, what are you searching for?

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| **Date** | **Activity** | **Reading + question assigned for following class** |
| 1. Aug 27 | Introduction to the course | Morin, Edgar.“A Cabeça bem feita”  *What’s the author’s main point?* |
| 1. Sep 10 | Purposes of research activities  Types of research | NICOLAU Marcos (2013). *Metodologia do trabalho científico*. [recurso eletrônico]. UFPB. 8 p.  *Summarize the information about academic arrticles.*  CREUS, Susana de Quinteros, ESTUDOS SOBRE O TEXTO/DISCURSO. In Pesquisa em Letras, p. 104-110 + dissertações e teses 110-118)  *What are the approaches mentioned in the text?* |
| 1. Sep 17 | Research steps: the hourglass model  Structural process | BELFIORE, Eleonora (2009) On bullshit in cultural policy practice and research: notes from the British case.  *What should good research be like, according to the author?* |
| 1. Sep 24 | Big Data; Policies; Hegemony | http://tylervigen.com/spurious-correlations  <http://tylervigen.com/old-version.html>  Then, read a bit of  [How to Lie with Statistics](https://www.amazon.com/dp/0393310728/ref=rdr_ext_tmb)(Paperback)  by [Darrell Huff](https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=rdr_ext_aut?_encoding=UTF8&index=books&field-author=Darrell%20Huff), [Irving Geis](https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=rdr_ext_aut?_encoding=UTF8&index=books&field-author=Irving%20Geis) for fun!  <https://www.amazon.com/dp/0393310728/ref=rdr_ext_tmb>  Read <http://www.improbable.com/ig/>  And watch the video on the right of your screen which “explains the essence of the Ig Nobel Prizes” |
| 1. Oct 01 | Policies; Hegemony; Ig Nobel Prize | Read: DEFEYTER, Margaret A.; RUSSO, Riccardo (2013) The effect of breakfast cereal consumption on adolescents’ cognitive performance and mood. |
| 1. Oct 08 | Characteristics of the research on the basis of “The effect of breakfast cereal consumption on adolescents” | Read: HARKOT-DE-LA-TAILLE, Elizabeth. “Ser adulto por jovens francesas e brasileiras” |
| 1. Oct 22 | XX EAGiLE | |
| 1. Oct 29 | Characteristics of the research on the basis of “Ser adulto por jovens francesas e brasileiras”  Research preparatiion | Outline theme, hypothesis and method of your research exercise.  Read: STARMANS, Christina; BLOOM, Paul (2012) Windows to the soul: Children and adults see the eyes as the location of the self. |
| 1. Nov 05 | Characteristics of the research on the basis of paper the “Windows to the soul: Children and adults see the eyes as the location of the self.” | Revision of presentations and articles, as well as characteristics of the research types on their basis.  Research preparation |
| 1. Nov 12 | Mid-Term Activity  Research preparation | Read: Munro, J. Murray, “A Primer on Accent Discrimination in the Canadian Context” <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ669737.pdf>.  Research preparation |
| Nov 19 | Characteristics of the research on accent discrimination  Conclusion of research and preparation of seminars | Conclusion of research and preparation of seminars |
| Nov 26 | Seminars |  |
| Dec 03 | Seminars |  |
| 1. Dec 10 | Course discussion |  |
| 1. Dec 17 | “Substitutiva” |  |