
Term Information

Effective Term Summer 2026

General Information

Course Bulletin Listing/Subject Area Linguistics
Fiscal Unit/Academic Org Linguistics - D0566
College/Academic Group Arts and Sciences
Level/Career Graduate
Course Number/Catalog 6050
Course Title Writing Research Proposals
Transcript Abbreviation Writing Proposals
Course Description The goal of this course is to provide students with the opportunity to develop research proposals, including dissertation proposals, and grant and/or fellowship proposals for graduate and/or postdoctoral research. Each student is expected to produce a complete research proposal by the end of the semester.
Semester Credit Hours/Units Fixed: 3

Offering Information

Length Of Course 14 Week
Flexibly Scheduled Course Never
Does any section of this course have a distance education component? No
Grading Basis Letter Grade
Repeatable No
Course Components Seminar
Grade Roster Component Seminar
Credit Available by Exam No
Admission Condition Course No
Off Campus Never
Campus of Offering Columbus

Prerequisites and Exclusions

Prerequisites/Corequisites
Exclusions
Electronically Enforced No

Cross-Listings

Cross-Listings

Subject/CIP Code

Subject/CIP Code 16.0102
Subsidy Level Doctoral Course
Intended Rank Masters, Doctoral

Requirement/Elective Designation

The course is an elective (for this or other units) or is a service course for other units

Course Details

Course goals or learning objectives/outcomes

- Students in this course will learn how to identify appropriate funding opportunities for a particular research project.
- Students in this course will understand the essential characteristics of a competitive research proposal.
- Students in this course will develop skills in writing and revising a research proposal, including formally responding to peer review.
- Students in this course will develop skills in providing written and oral peer review of others' research proposals.

Content Topic List

- Research funding
- Research proposal
- Peer review

Sought Concurrence

No

Attachments

- LING 6050 syllabus.docx: Syllabus

(Syllabus. Owner: McCullough,Elizabeth Ann)

Comments

Workflow Information

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	McCullough,Elizabeth Ann	11/05/2025 01:04 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	McCullough,Elizabeth Ann	11/05/2025 01:05 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal	11/17/2025 12:37 PM	College Approval
Pending Approval	Jenkins,Mary Ellen Bigler Neff,Jennifer Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal Steele,Rachel Lea	11/17/2025 12:37 PM	ASCCAO Approval

Linguistics 6050: Writing Research Proposals

Instructor: [XX]
Office: [XX]
Phone: [XX]
Email: [XX]
Office Hours: [XX]

Course Format and Contact Hours

This 3-credit course is offered in-person, with two 80-minute class meetings per week.

Class Time: [XX]
Class Location: [XX]

Course Description

The goal of this course is to provide students with the opportunity to develop research proposals, including dissertation proposals, and grant and/or fellowship proposals for graduate and/or postdoctoral research. Each student is expected to produce a complete research proposal by the end of the semester.

Course Goals and Objectives

Students in this course will:

1. Learn how to identify appropriate funding opportunities for a particular research project.
2. Understand the essential characteristics of a competitive research proposal.
3. Develop skills in writing and revising a research proposal, including formally responding to peer review.
4. Develop skills in providing written and oral peer review of others' research proposals.

Course Components

Reading Assignments: Reading assignments are listed on the course schedule below. Reading assignments will be drawn primarily from three e-books available through the OSU library (citations and links below). Additional reading assignments are available on Carmen. The reading assignments are intended to provide background information about proposal writing and the federal grants process in the US. You are therefore expected to complete the reading assignments in advance of class meetings and bring any questions about the readings to class.

- LM: [Li, P., & Marrongelle, K. \(2013\). *Having Success with NSF: A Practical Guide*. Wiley.](#)
- PSB: [Pequegnat, W., Stover, E., & Boyce, C. A. \(2011\). *How to Write a Successful Research Grant Application: A Guide for Social and Behavioral Scientists*. Springer.](#)

Yang: [Yang, O. O. \(2012\). *Guide to Effective Grant Writing: How to Write a Successful NIH Grant Application*. Springer.](#)

Writing Assignments: Each student will complete a series of writing assignments during the semester, including both original and revised documents, culminating in a complete research proposal at the end of the term. The writing assignments are intended to provide opportunities for developing a research project, for advancing skills in academic writing, and for formally responding to peer review. Writing assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date they are listed on the course schedule. The final proposal is due at the final exam time for the class. Most class meetings with a writing assignment will be dedicated to peer review, so extensions to writing assignments will not be granted.

1. Preliminary research question: Submit your preliminary research question. The question should be clear and concise (1 sentence maximum), explicitly articulate the focus of your research proposal, and be stated in the form of question.
2. Funding opportunity: Submit a link to the funding opportunity you are aiming for. Briefly explain (2 sentences maximum) why you have selected this funding opportunity for your project.
3. Preliminary outline: Submit a preliminary outline (1 page maximum) for your proposal. Your outline should be in bullet-point format and should include sections for the research question(s), the background motivating the project, the potential significance of the project, and the proposed work (i.e., methods).
4. Specific aims draft: Submit a draft of your specific aims (1 page maximum). The specific aims should briefly summarize the motivation for the study and then clearly articulate the research question(s) and implications of the work.
5. Revised specific aims: Submit your revised specific aims (1 page maximum). The revision should address the feedback you received on the draft.
6. Background and significance draft: Submit a draft of your background and significance section (4 pages maximum). The background and significance section should provide an overview of the relevant previous research, explicitly motivate your research questions based on this previous work, and describe how your expected results will advance knowledge in the field.
7. Revised background and significance: Submit a response to the review of your background and significance section (1 page maximum) and your revised background and significance section (4 pages maximum). The revision should address the feedback you received on the draft.
8. Proposed work draft: Submit a draft of your proposed work section (4 pages maximum). This section should lay out how you plan to address your research questions, in the context of the background literature you have reviewed in the background and

significance section. You should explicitly motivate your approach and all design choices to demonstrate that your methods are appropriate for your questions.

9. Revised proposed work: Submit a response to the review of your proposed work section (1 page maximum) and your revised proposed work section (4 pages maximum). The revision should address the feedback you received on the draft.

10. Complete draft: Submit a complete draft of your proposal (10 pages maximum), including the specific aims, background and significance, and proposed work sections you have been working on, as well as a separate section describing the broader impact of the proposed project.

11. Revised draft: Submit a response to the review of your complete draft (1 page maximum) and a revised draft of your proposal (10 pages maximum). The revision should address the feedback you received on the draft.

12. Final draft: Submit the final version of your proposal (10 pages maximum). The final version should address the feedback you received on the revised draft.

Reviewing Assignments: Each student will complete a series of written peer reviews during the semester. The reviewing assignments are intended to provide an opportunity to develop skills in constructive formal peer review. Reviewing assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date they are listed on the course schedule. Class meetings with a reviewing assignment will be dedicated to peer review, so extensions to reviewing assignments will not be granted.

1. Peer review 1: Submit a peer review (2 pages maximum) of your assigned example NSF proposal following the NSF review criteria. Your review should be thoughtful and constructive.

2. Peer review 2: Submit a peer review of your partner's background and significance draft (1 page maximum) following the NSF review criteria for Intellectual Merit. You should explicitly address both strengths and weaknesses in your review. Your review should be thoughtful and constructive.

3. Peer review 3: Submit a peer review of your partner's proposed work draft (1 page maximum) following the NSF review criteria for Intellectual Merit. You should explicitly address both strengths and weaknesses in your review. Your review should be thoughtful and constructive.

4. Peer review 4: Submit a peer review of your partner's complete draft (2 pages maximum) following the NSF review criteria for both Intellectual Merit and Broader Impact. Your review should include separate sections for Intellectual Merit and Broader Impact and may optionally include a Summary Statement at the end. You should explicitly address both strengths and weaknesses in your review. Your review should be thoughtful and constructive.

Class Participation and Attendance Policy: Class meetings will be dedicated to discussion of reading assignments and peer review of writing and reviewing assignments. All students are expected to actively engage in class discussions and peer review activities. Attendance at all class meetings is therefore expected and students should communicate with the instructor in advance of any absences.

Grading

Final grades will be calculated out of a total of 240 points:

12 Writing assignments	x 10 points	= 120 points (50% of final grade)
4 Reviewing assignments	x 10 points	= 40 points (17% of final grade)
Class participation	x 80 points	= 80 points (33% of final grade)

Grading scale:

A	93-100%	A-	90-92%		
B+	87-89%	B	83-86%	B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%	C	73-76%	C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%	D	60-66%		
E	0-59%				

Policies

Please see the Office of Undergraduate Education's [Syllabus Policies and Statements](#) for course policies on Academic Misconduct, Student Life – Disability Services, Religious Accommodations, and Intellectual Diversity.

Course Schedule

Class	Topic	Assignments
1.1	Introduction	
1.2	Elevator pitches	
2.1	Finding funding	LM Ch. 1, PSB Ch. 3 Preliminary research question
2.2	Anatomy of a proposal	LM Ch. 2
3.1		Yang Ch. 5 Funding opportunity
3.2	Reading the instructions	NSF Proposal Guide (Ch. 1-3)
4.1		NIH application guide (section G.430)
4.2	Review panels	LM Ch. 4 Preliminary outline
5.1		PSB Ch. 7
5.2	Proposal review	Example proposals, NSF review criteria
6.1		Peer review 1
6.2	Specific aims	PSB Ch. 5, PSB Ch. 13
7.1		Yang Ch. 6, Yang Ch. 9
7.2	Writing and reviewing	Specific aims draft

8.1		Revised specific aims
8.2	Background and significance	PSB Ch. 12, Yang Ch. 10
9.1	Writing and reviewing	Background and significance draft
9.2		Peer review 2
10.1	Revising	LM Ch. 5
10.2		PSB Ch. 8, Yang Ch. 19
11.1	Writing and reviewing	Revised background and significance
11.2	Proposed work	PSB Ch. 22, Yang Ch. 12
12.1	Writing and reviewing	Proposed work draft
12.2		Peer review 3
13.1		Revised proposed work
13.2		Complete draft
14.1		Peer review 4
14.2		Revised draft
Finals		Final draft