Romance Linguistics Major
Ling 419: Senior Essay (3 credits)
Grading Criteria

This essay concerns a linguistic problem of the student's choice, written under the supervision of a faculty consultant.

I. Goals of the Senior Essay
   • Demonstrate knowledge of general properties of language
   • Demonstrate integration, construction and application of this knowledge to linguistic analysis
   • Demonstrate ability to identify discuss a linguistic problem

II. This paper should be approximately 10-15 pages and contain the following essential components and be graded according to the table below:

III. The following are essential components your paper should contain in order to achieve the goals stated above. In addition, attention must be paid to the form/organization of the paper. Numbers 1-3 pertain to the content and number 4 to the form of the Essay.

1. Possess a problem-centered focus
   a. It’s important to explain the underlying issues of the problem (i.e. simply defining or identifying the problem is not sufficient).
   b. Presentation and discussion of data bearing on the research question (where relevant) is essential.

2. Employ critical thinking in problem solving
   a. Salient arguments surrounding chosen issue should be identified including a thoughtful analysis and evaluation of major alternative points of view (which then allows for coherent conclusions).
   b. Relevant literature must be included accompanied by an in-depth analysis of the information. This literature analysis should support the main points (i.e. including irrelevant literature or performing basic analysis is not sufficient)
   c. The paper should integrate observations, inferences, and relationships to create meaning (i.e. simply observing and recording the most evident aspects of issue is not sufficient)

3. Justify conclusions
   a. Conclusions should use previous information and concepts and draw plausible conclusions

4. Careful attention to form and organization of the paper
   a. The paper content should enable the reader to follow the writer’s argument through careful attention to organization.
   b. The paper should reflect a careful editing process (references conform to the APA style guide, there are no typos, etc.)
# Romance Linguistics Senior Essay

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>90-100 (3.5-4.0)</th>
<th>80-89 (2.5-3.4)</th>
<th>70-79 (1.5-2.3)</th>
<th>62-69 (1.4-0.7) (&lt;.7 is a fail)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Content</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>knowledge of general properties of language clearly demonstrated; identifies the salient arguments; thoughtfully analyzes relevant literature, demonstrates a strong ability to analyze</td>
<td>knowledge of general properties of language somewhat demonstrated; describes some supporting details; makes connections to the literature; demonstrates an average ability to analyze</td>
<td>knowledge of general properties of language not clearly demonstrated; lacks some supporting details; makes insufficient connections to the literature; demonstrates a basic ability to analyze</td>
<td>knowledge of general properties of language not clearly demonstrated; misinterprets source material; fails to identify relevant literature; demonstrates a poor ability to analyze</td>
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<td><strong>Form</strong></td>
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<td>is well-organized; evidence of attention to essential detail; demonstrates excellent command of the written word</td>
<td>is well-organized; evidence that development was intentional; demonstrates good command of the written word</td>
<td>evidence that some important details were missed; demonstrates basic command of the written word</td>
<td>is poorly organized; evidence that attention was not paid to obvious details; demonstrates minimal ability in the use of the written word</td>
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