

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.)

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