

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT
FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Course: ENGL 294D (3 credit hours)

Lecturer: Dr. Maya Sfeir

Title: Advanced Topics in Grammar: Corpus Linguistics

Office Hours: R 11 am-3 pm & by appointment

Time and Location: TR 9:30-10:45 am, Fisk 204A

Office: Fisk 302D

Spring 2022-2023: Classes Jan. 19-May 4, Exam Period May 9-20

Email: ms213@aub.edu.lb

Extension: x4309

Catalogue Course Description

ENGL 294 Advanced Topics in Grammar (A, B, C, D, E...) 3.0; 3 cr. In-depth study of advanced topics in grammar, such as grammar in context, grammar and discourse, or grammar as science. *May be repeated for credit for a maximum of 6 credits. Annually.*

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a general overview of corpus linguistic as a methodology for linguistic analysis. It aims to familiarize students with existing corpora and introduce them to issues of corpus design, compilation, annotation, and analysis. Students will gain the necessary skills for interpreting corpus data using techniques such as frequency analysis, concordance, collocation, and keyword analysis, among others. The course will also explore topics related to the use of corpora in lexical studies and grammatical studies. It will further examine how corpora are influencing trends in language research in areas such as language teaching and learning, sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, stylistics and literary studies, and translation studies. Throughout the course, students will be introduced to some of the common tools and software packages used for corpus analysis. Students will apply what they have learned to work on their small-scale research project.

Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Define corpus linguistics and describe some of the main theoretical and methodological issues surrounding it
2. Display familiarity with different types of corpora (synchronic vs. diachronic corpora; general vs. specialized corpora; monolingual vs. multilingual corpora; written vs. spoken corpora, etc.)
3. Recognize some of the key considerations for corpus design, compilation, annotation, storage, and analysis
4. Understand applications of corpus linguistics in other disciplines and areas of linguistic research
5. Apply basic statistical techniques to corpus analysis
6. Analyze corpus data using techniques such as frequency analysis, concordance, collocation, N-grams, regular expressions, and keyword analysis
7. Collect, annotate, and analyze their own corpora using a variety of corpus tools and software packages
8. Share their findings in a presentation and formal report using appropriate methods of data presentation

Resources and References Available to Students:

McEnery, T., Xiao, R., & Tono, Y. (2006). *Corpus-based language studies: An advanced resource book*. Routledge: London.

Freely available at: <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/projects/corpus/ZJU/xCBLS/CBLS.htm>

Additional Resources

Baker, P. (2010). *Sociolinguistics and corpus linguistics*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh UP.

Baker, P. (2014). *Using corpora to analyze gender*. London: Bloomsbury.

Baker, P., Gabrielatos, C., & McEnery, T. (2013). *Discourse analysis and media attitudes: The representation of Islam in the British press*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP.

Baker, P., & McEnery, T. (2015) *Corpora and discourse studies: Integrating discourse and corpora*. Hampshire: Plagrove.

Biber, D., & Reppen, R. (2015). *The Cambridge handbook of English corpus linguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP.

Biber, D., Conrad, S., & Reppen, R. (1998/2004). *Corpus linguistics: Investigating language structure and use*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP.

Biber, D. (1988). *Variation across speech and writing*. New York: Cambridge UP.

Egbert, J., Larsson, T., & Biber, D. (2020). *Doing linguistics with a corpus: Methodological considerations for the everyday user*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP.

Gomez-Jimenez, E., & Toolan, M. (2020). *The discursive construction of economic inequality: CADS approaches to the British media*. London: Bloomsbury.

McEnery, T., & Baker, H. (2017). *Corpus linguistics and 17th-century prostitution: Computational linguistics and history*. London: Bloomsbury.

McEnery, T., & Hardie, A. (2013). *Corpus linguistics: Method, theory and practice*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP:

O'Keefe, A., & McCarthy, M. (2010). *The Routledge handbook of corpus linguistics*. London: Routledge.

Sample Corpora

-British National Corpus (BNC)

-Spoken BNC2014

-Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA)

-Corpus Linguistics in Context (CLiC)

-Michigan Corpus of Academic Spoken English (MICASE)

-The Child Language Data Exchange System (CHILDES)

-The Arabic Learner Corpus (ALC)

-The International Corpus of Crosslinguistic Interlanguage (ICCI)

- The Corpus of Early English Correspondence (CEEC)

-A Learners' Corpus of Reading Texts, etc.

Corpus Analysis Tools and Software Packages

-SketchEngine

-AntConc

-TXM

-Python (NLTK)

-R

-CQPWeb

-BNCWeb

Course Policies:

Attendance: You are expected to attend all class meetings. If you are unable to attend class, it is your responsibility to inform me prior to the class meeting. Absences will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Students who, during a term, miss more than one-fifth of the sessions of any course in the first twelve weeks of the term (5 sessions) can be dropped from the course.

Course Requirements:

-Participation (10%): Students are expected to read assigned material and actively partake in class discussions

-Presentations (20%): Students will be asked to give two presentations (10% each): a group presentation on one of the course topics and an individual presentation on the findings of their small-scale research project

-Assignments (50%): Students will submit a number of assignments and reports (three in total) designed to help them master the practical component of the course.

-Small-scale research project (20%): At the end of the course, students are expected to produce a short research project.

Grades will be based on fixed criteria (non-curved).

At least 40% of the overall course assessment will be issued before the last day of withdrawal from classes.

University Policies

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Policy:

Please refer to AUB Student Code of Conduct:

<http://www.aub.edu.lb/pnp/generaluniversitypolicies/Documents/StudentCodeConduct/StudentCodeConduct.pdf>, in particular section 1.1, which concerns academic misconduct including cheating, plagiarism, in-class disruption, and dishonesty. Please be aware that misconduct is vigorously prosecuted and that AUB has a zero tolerance policy. **Course policy is that credible evidence of cheating will result in course failure.**

All writing you do for this course must be your own and must be exclusively for this course, unless the instructor stipulates differently. Please pay special attention to the quotes, paraphrases, and documentation practices you use in your papers.

Turnitin:

Turnitin is an online text-matching tool accessible via Moodle that many faculty at AUB use. Once your work is uploaded, it will be compared with an extensive database of student and publicly accessible writing. When you upload an assignment to Moodle, your assignment may also automatically be scanned through Turnitin. If your instructor has authorized Turnitin to scan the assignment Moodle, you must comply or risk losing credit for the assignment. If you have questions about how the software works or how the Turnitin report will be (or has been) used, please ask your instructor.

Resources for Students

Writing Center: The Writing Center offers free, 30-minute or 1-hour consultations about your writing. The WrC is located on the 2nd floor balcony of Ada Dodge Hall and in Room 336 of West Hall. To meet the tutors and find writing resources, go to <https://aub.edu.lb/writingcenter>. To make an appointment, go to <https://aub.mywconline.com/>.

Library Information Services: Reference librarians and information specialists in the AUB libraries can support you individually with finding academic sources for your research. Jafet information librarians can be contacted in person in their office in the Jafet Library lobby, by email at libinfo@aub.edu.lb, or by phone, extension 2629.

Counseling Center, Student Affairs: The center offers counsel and help to students with a range of academic and non-academic problems. If anything happening in your life is causing you distress and influencing your academic performance, and you feel you could benefit from professional help, contact the counseling center: counselingcenter@aub.edu.lb; +961-1-350000, x3196, West Hall, 210.

Accessible Education Office: AUB strives to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers due to a disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please inform me immediately so that we can privately discuss options. In order to help establish reasonable accommodations and facilitate a smooth accommodations process, you are encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Office: accessibility@aub.edu.lb; +961-1-350000, x3246; West Hall, 314.

Title IX Coordinator: AUB is committed to facilitating a campus free of all forms of discrimination including sex/gender-based harassment prohibited by Title IX. The University's non-discrimination policy applies to, and protects, all students, faculty, and staff. If you think you have experienced discrimination or harassment, including sexual misconduct, we encourage you to tell someone promptly. If you speak to a faculty or staff member about an issue such as harassment, sexual violence, or discrimination, the information will be kept as private as possible, however, faculty and designated staff are required to bring it to the attention of the University's Title IX Coordinator. Faculty can refer you to fully confidential resources, and you can find information and contacts at www.aub.edu.lb/titleix. To report an incident, contact the University's Title IX Coordinator Trudi Hodges at 01-350000 ext. 2514, or titleix@aub.edu.lb. An anonymous report may be submitted online via EthicsPoint at www.aub.ethicspoint.com

Tentative Course Outline

The schedule below is based on a 15-week-long semester. I retain the right to change or update the schedule at any point during the semester.

Week	Topics
Week 1	Introduction to the course History of corpus linguistics
Week 2	Uses and examples of corpora Types of corpora
Week 3	Corpus design, compilation, and storage
Week 4	Corpus mark-up, annotation, lemmatization, semantic tagging, and parsing
Week 5	Statistics for corpus linguistics

Week 6	Frequency, concordance, collocations, keywords, regular expressions, and N-grams
Week 7	Frequency, concordance, collocations, keywords, regular expressions, and N-grams: Applications
Week 8	Corpora in lexical studies
Week 9	Corpora in grammatical studies
Week 10	Corpora in language teaching and learning
Week 11	Corpora in sociolinguistic studies
Week 12	Corpora in discourse analysis
Week 13	Corpora in literary and stylistic analysis (corpus stylistics)
Week 14	Corpora in contrastive and translation studies
Week 15	<i>Project presentations</i>