

QPW Fall 2019 Syllabus

October 31, 2019

1 Course information

Course #: 16.615.690
Time & place: Wednesdays 1:10-4:10 pm, Seminary Place Room 108
Website: On Canvas
Instructor: Adam McCollum (My office is in Room 303)
E-mail: adam.mccollum@rutgers.edu

2 Course overview and goals

The purposes of QPW are twofold. The primary purpose is to guide and support your work towards satisfying the program requirements regarding qualifying papers. The secondary (but related) purpose is to introduce you to skills useful to your development as a scholar and as an academic.

2.1 QP

The department has established clear milestones for your qualifying paper, with deadlines that must be met in order to remain in good standing with the program. In the fall, these milestones revolve around choosing a topic, creating a QP committee, and writing a proposal. Beyond the departmental requirements, the QP represents a chance to establish yourself in the research community with a proceedings paper or, in the best-case scenario, a journal article. To this end, we will spend course time developing, presenting, and critiquing your ideas so you can establish a focused research project that not only communicates to the department that you are capable of conducting scholarly work, but also contributes to the scientific community.

2.2 Professional development

In working on the QPs, we also get an opportunity to work on technical skills, such as L^AT_EX or R, creating a website, bibliography/citation management, and creating a CV, as well as skills particular to communicating scholarly work, such as abstract writing, presentation skills, time management, and handling reviews. As many of you are just starting your first QP, some of these are more immediately relevant than others. As such, **this aspect of the course depends heavily on what you think would be useful** at this stage in your research career.

3 Structure of the course

3.1 Class meetings

As you begin to develop your research ideas, the first month or so of the course will consist of short, weekly meetings on professional development. Even for these meetings, we will spend a little time (5-10 minutes each) discussing the progress of your QP research. As your research progresses, we will meet a little less frequently but for longer for you present on your work. As a graduate seminar, participation in class is a crucial part of the course. You will be expected to come to class prepared to actively discuss any homework or assigned reading. If you absolutely have to miss a class, **please contact me beforehand.**

3.2 Grading

Your grade in this course will depend in equal parts in your participation in the coursework and in your progress in your QP research. Possible grades are Pass/Satisfactory and Fail/Not Satisfactory. If you engage with the content and people in class, then I don't expect we'll have any issues with grades. As is standard, this class will be conducted in accordance with University policy on academic integrity. Please refer to <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

3.3 Schedule

Week 1 (9/4): Overview of course; discussion of QP requirements

- **HW: Come to class with a list of at least 6 conferences**

Week 2 (9/11): Picking a conference; academic goals

- **HW: Determine basics of abstract (what and where)**

Week 3 (9/18): Preparing an abstract; the review process

- **HW: Finish writing first draft of abstract**

Week 4 (9/25): Reviewing each other's abstracts

- **Tuesday, October 1: Find a chair; pick a QP topic**
- **HW: Implement revisions on your abstract**

Week 5 (10/2): The publication process

- **HW: Find three linguists' websites you like**

Week 6 (10/9): Creating a CV

- **HW: Have a faculty member look over your abstract**
- **HW: Send me your CV**

Week 7 (10/16): Building your website; online presence

Week 8 (10/23): Imposter syndrome

Week 9 (10/30): Conferences (talks, poster, networking, etc)

- **HW: Write 1-pg review of Jim Wood's colloquium talk**
- **HW: Prepare for micro talk**

Week 10 (11/6): How to give a conference talk

Week 11 (11/13): No class

Week 12 (11/20): Imposter Syndrom and 5-minute micro talks

- **HW: Write 1-pg review of Jeff Heinz's colloquium talk**

Week 13 (11/27): No class

- **Sunday, December 1: Form a QP committee**

Week 14 (12/4): Working in industry

Week 15 (12/11): No class

- **Sunday, Demceber 14: Meet with QP committee**