

Date: Wed, 28 Dec 2005 14:28:16 -0800
Subject: Field Methods at UCSB

Dear Colleagues,

[...]

Our PhD program requires a full year of Field Methods, which is offered every other year. Instead of the usual 4 units per quarter, this course is worth 6 units per quarter. The department budget includes funding for a speaker to work 10 hours/week, roughly 2 hours in class and 8 hours outside of class with individual students.

Faculty who regularly teach Field Methods in our department are:

Carol Genetti
Matthew Gordon
Marianne Mithun
Sandra A. Thompson

The syllabus varies from year to year according to the faculty involved, but we typically involve the students in working on phonology first quarter, morphosyntax second quarter, and discourse-and-grammar third quarter. Of course, these are really cumulative, as we never stop doing one before doing the other, and early on we're gathering material that will be relevant for all and discussing it. Narratives (and conversations when possible) are recorded and analyzed, starting early in the second quarter. Students generally turn in a paper at the end of each quarter. [...]

We generally include some instruction in various software possibilities at various stages (such as Praat for seeing sound, and database programs like Filemaker and Toolbox), and discussion of fieldwork ethics.

Recent Field Methods courses in our department:

Genetti: Nepali
Mithun: Yupik
Cumming: Taiwanese
Thompson: Tamil
Mithun: Navajo
Genetti: Drokpa Tibetan
Gordon/Thompson: Dida (Kru, Cote d'Ivoire)
Genetti: Sinhala

Cheers,

Sandra A. Thompson, Carol Genetti, and Marianne Mithun
Linguistics, UCSB