Sensorveiledning, ENG4111 – Corpora in English Language Research

Generic guidelines
The exam is a term paper focusing on corpus linguistic methods and their applications in linguistic research. The term paper should reflect the main purpose of the course, which has been highly practical in its approach: the students have planned and compiled their own corpus for research on a topic related to one of the syllabus texts. The students have been encouraged to replicate one of the nine case studies on the syllabus (but it is not an absolute requirement). The language of the term paper is English. In the assessment both content and language will be considered, as well as the appropriate presentation of quotations, references and linguistic examples. The evaluation (and marking) of the candidate's performance on the exam follow the underlying principles regarding practical and analytical skills, judgement and independent thinking, according to the general evaluation criteria specified by "Universitets- og høgskolerådet".

The content of the paper, as well as the assessment of it, should reflect some of the stated aims and learning outcome of the course, namely that the students should demonstrate that they:
- understand how to select and work with digital text corpora for different types of language studies.
- know how to use digital tools for analysing and handling corpus data.
- have insight into the ways in which corpora are designed, compiled and annotated.
- be able to plan and carry out a linguistic study based on corpus data.

The term paper should take up approx. 10 standard pages excluding front matter and references. (One standard page = a page of running text with 1.5 line spacing and a 12 pt font, c. 400 words.).

The candidates have to write a paper where they focus on CL methods and draw on empirical material from their own corpus, i.e. the term paper is by definition corpus-based. To reflect the content/aims of the course, the paper needs to include some general background to corpus linguistic methods and a description of the corpora applied, their design and some observations regarding the compilation process. It is important that candidates show that they have understood the main principles of corpus research, notably how to analyse and manage large quantities of data in a linguistically sound manner.

Students are expected to refer to their course reading in their papers, and, particularly for those papers whose object of study is different from the study chosen for replication, it is expected that they should also be able to find other secondary sources relevant to their topic.

The term paper is expected to follow normal conventions of academic writing with respect to form, structure and the appropriate use of sources and references. The students have been made aware of the university's rules for citation (and against plagiarism) as stated at http://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/sources-citations/ and are expected to abide by these. The students may use different styles of references (we do not require the use of one specific style), although they have been told that an author-date style is preferred, and that the list of references should be alphabetic by author's last name.

The students have been given the following list of elements that a term paper should normally contain, although this need not be a template for the structure of the paper.
- **Introduction**. introduce your object of study and state your aim and scope, including research question(s), (as well as hypotheses, if any)

- **Method and Material**. give a description of the corpus/corpora you have compiled (principles behind it with reference to syllabus texts), how this particular corpus fits your research purposes, an overview of how the material was extracted from the corpus, including a brief description of AntConc and relevant functions in AntConc
- **Theoretical background / literature review**: present previous research on your object of study (most importantly the study you are replicating, if applicable), define (and if necessary – discuss) terms used and situate your analysis in relation to related/previous research (if your study is only loosely connected to one of the case studies, you need to refer to (and present) relevant secondary literature on the topic (min. one or two sources). Outline how the analysis will be carried out in terms of linguistic classification (relating your method to one of the syllabus texts, if applicable).
- **Analysis**, with examples (and tables/graphs, if relevant) and discussion of analysis and findings to support your arguments.
- **Conclusion**. state your findings, evaluate your research and (if relevant) compare your own findings to those of similar studies, especially the one you have replicated, if relevant. (Also briefly reflect on the success of your corpus research project)
- **References**, where you list all the sources you use, including the software AntConc, etc.
- **Appendix** including an overview of texts in your corpus.