

The School of Liberal Arts

Linguistics

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Linguistics is the scientific study of language. Language is a, if not the, particularly human ability. The study of this ability includes definitional characteristics, the acquisition and loss of language by “hu-per-offspring-kind”, its formal properties of sound, meaning, and juxtaposition, and the social contextualization of its use. The major program in linguistics is designed to train the student in modern techniques of language analysis and description, while

providing exposure to the elements of diversity and universality in human language use. The student gains familiarity with real language data, while developing theoretical and philosophical frameworks within which to evaluate this knowledge.

The linguistics major is an interdisciplinary program, integrating courses from thirteen departments. The skills acquired in formal analysis, language, and social modeling provide a student with useful tools in pursuit of careers in artificial intelligence, computer systems modeling, language teaching/translating, cultural/language resource management, bilingual education, speech pathology, international relations, and management communication.

BACHELORS OF ARTS IN LINGUISTICS

The major in linguistics consists of ten courses selected from the list below. The student should take at least one course in each of the following areas: phonology, syntax, language history, and language and thought. As courses are distributed among various departments, the student must consult with the Program Adviser in selecting courses to fulfill this distribution requirement. No language courses taken to fulfill the college proficiency requirement may be counted toward the major.

BACHELORS OF SCIENCE IN LINGUISTICS

Linguistics B.S. majors will be required to take six credits of mathematics. Linguistics majors who take less math or use Symbolic Logic as their fulfillment of the math proficiency requirement would continue to receive the B.A.

ANTH 315 Cognitive Anthropology

ANTH 329 The Nature of Language

ANTH 330 History of Writing

ANTH 331 Introduction to Historical Linguistics

ANTH 340 Language and Culture

ANTH 344 Dialectology

ANTH 359 Introduction to Syntax

ANTH 363 Linguistic Phonetics

ANTH 364 Studies in Phonology

ANTH 365 Morphology

ANTH 366 Discourse Analysis: Pragmatics of Language Use
ANTH 367 Language and Its Acquisition
ANTH 368 Language and Power
ANTH 369 Language and Gender
ANTH 642 Linguistics Field Methods
ANTH 670 Spoken Nahuatl
ANTH 672 Spoken Yoruba
ANTH 680 Spoken Yucatecan Maya
ANTH 681 Introduction to Maya Hieroglyphs
ANTH 682 Classical Yucatec

COURSES OFFERED BY OTHER DEPARTMENTS

ASTJ 101, 102 Beginning Japanese I, II
ASTJ 203, 204 Intermediate Japanese I, II
CPSC 350 Programming Languages
CPSC 466 Artificial Intelligence
FREN 314 French Phonetics
FREN 410 French in Louisiana
FREN 416 Translation Theory and Practice
FREN 611 Field Research on French in Louisiana
FREN 621 History of the French Language
FREN 691 Special Problems in French Linguistics
GERM 365 Advanced Russian Grammar
GERM 372 Translation: Theory and Practice of an Impossible Art
GERM 607 Slavic Contributions to Linguistics
HBRW 101 Introductory Hebrew
HBRW 102 Intermediate Hebrew
LING 343 Semantics of Natural Language
LING 301 Semantics
LING 389 Brain and Language: Service Learning

LING 411/NSCI 411 Brain and Language
MATH 111, 112 Probability and Statistics I, II
MATH 301 Probability and Statistics
PHIL 121 Elementary Symbolic Logic
PHIL 304 Mathematical Logic
PHIL 343 Semantics of Natural Language
PHIL 380 Language and Thought
PHIL 606 Advanced Symbolic Logic
PHIL 607 Mathematical Logic
PHIL 618 Mental Representation
PHIL 662 Philosophical Logic
PSYC 351, 352 Special Projects in Psychology
(director approval required)
PSYC 367 Brain and Behavior
PSYC 657 Cognitive Neuroscience
PSYC 658 Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory
SOC 303 Introduction to Research Design
SOC 304 Introduction to Research Analysis
SOC 644 Language Behavior and Communications
SPAN 426 Spanish Phonetics and Phonology
SPAN 427 Iberoamerican Dialectology
SPAN 601 Methods of Teaching Spanish and Portuguese
SPAN 606 Hispanic Bilingualism
SPAN 651 History of the Spanish Language
SPAN 656 Spanish Dialectology in the New World
THEA 309 Stage Speech

LING 301 Semantics, the Study of Meaning (3)

Prof. Howard. What does the word “cat” mean? This course looks at three answers. One says that “cat” is just the set of all cats. Another says that “cat” refers to a prototypical cat, one described by the characteristics common to all the cats that you have ever

seen. The third answer says that “cat” is the word that the brain associates with the cats that you saw when you were younger. Each of these answers assumes that the mind works in a certain way, so the right one tells us something about how the mind works in situations that have nothing to do with the meaning of “cat”.

LING 343 Semantics of Natural Language (3)

Prof. Forbes. An introduction to the study of meaning in natural languages. The central techniques involve extending the methods of logical semantics for formal languages. No prerequisites, but prior exposure either to generative grammar (e.g., ANTH 359) or symbolic logic (e.g., PHIL 121) would not be wasted. Same as PHIL 343.

LING 381, 382 Special Topics in Linguistics (3, 3)

Staff. Special topics in linguistics. For description consult the director. Other departments offer courses with linguistic import as well. These courses may count toward the major upon consultation with the Program Adviser.

LING 389 Service Learning (1)

Staff. Prerequisite: Departmental approval. Students complete a service activity in the community in conjunction with the content of a three-credit corequisite course.

LING 411 Brain and Language (3)

Prof. Howard. The goal of this course is to learn how the brain is organized to produce and comprehend language and to understand linguistic disorders attendant on brain damage. There is an optional service learning component in which students can work with a speech therapist at a local health-care provider. Same as NSCI 411.

LING H491, H492 Independent Studies (3, 3)

Staff.

LING H499-H500 Honors Thesis (3, 4)

Staff. Prerequisites: approval of program director and course director. Thesis may involve field study as well as intensive reading and research in a selected subfield within linguistics.

LING 681, 682 Special Topics in Linguistics (3, 3)

Staff. Special topics in linguistics. For description consult the director.

Other departments offer courses with linguistic import as well. These courses may count toward the major upon consultation with the Program Adviser.