

Linguistics

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Olanike-Ola Orie, Anthropology

Elizabeth Poe, French and Italian

Paul Schierhorn, Theatre and Dance

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.

BACHELOR 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 advisor in selecting courses to fulfill this distribution requirement. As one of the ten courses, the student must take a three-credit independent studies course correlating this general background with an area of specialization. Honors' thesis work fulfills the independent studies requirement. No language courses taken to fulfill the college proficiency requirement may be counted toward the major.

BACHELOR 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.

Anthropology

- 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

Asian Studies

ASTJ 101, 102 Beginning Japanese I, II

ASTJ 203, 204 Intermediate Japanese I, II

Computer Science

*CPSC 350 Programming Languages

*CPSC 466 Artificial Intelligence

English

ENLS 402 Structure of English Language

ENLS 405 History of the Language

ENLS 407 Introduction to Old English

French

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

Germanic and Slavic Languages

GERM 365 Advanced Russian Grammar

GERM 372 Translation: Theory and Practice of an Impossible Art

GERM 607 Slavic Contributions to Linguistics

Hebrew

HBRW 101 Introductory Hebrew

HBRW 102 Intermediate Hebrew

Linguistics

LING 343 Semantics of Natural Language

LING 301 Semantics

LING 389 Brain and Language: Service Learning

LING 411 Brain and Language

Mathematics

MATH 111, 112 Probability and Statistics I, II

MATH 301 Probability and Statistics

Philosophy

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

Psychology

PSYC 307 Thinking and Information Processing

PSYC 314 Sensory Processes and Perception

PSYC 351, 352 Special Projects in Psychology (advisor approval required)

PSYC 367 Brain and Behavior

PSYC 657 Cognitive Neuroscience

PSYC 658 Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory

Sociology

SOCI 303 Introduction to Research Design

SOCI 304 Introduction to Research Analysis

SOCI 644 Language Behavior and Communications

Spanish

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

Theatre

THEA 309 Stage Speech

LING 301 Semantics, the Study of Meaning (3)

Mr. 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)

Mr. 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 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)

Mr. 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.

LING H491, H492 Independent Studies (3, 3)

Staff.

LING H499-H500 Honors Thesis (3, 4)

Staff. Prerequisites: approval of program coordinator 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 coordinator.

* *Non-LAS course. See the college SPC restrictions.*