Linguistics

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George Cummins, Germanic and Slavic Languages
Graeme Forbes, Philosophy
Harry Howard, Spanish and Portuguese
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Barbara Moely, Psychology
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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 twelve 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, international relations, and management communication.

Major

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. No language courses taken to fulfill the college proficiency requirement may be counted toward the major.

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 331 Introduction to Historical Linguistics
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 640 Culture and Language
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 607 Survey of French Linguistics
FREN 621 History of the French Language
FREN 691 Special Problems in French Linguistics

Germanic and Slavic Languages
GERM 365 Advanced Russian Grammar
GERM 607 Slavic Contributions to Linguistics

Hebrew
HBRW 101 Introductory Hebrew
HBRW 102 Intermediate Hebrew

Mathematics
MATH 111, 112 Probability and Statistics I, II
MATH 301 Probability and Statistics

Philosophy
PHIL 121 Elementary Symbolic Logic
PHIL 380 Language and Thought
PHIL 606 Advanced Symbolic Logic
PHIL 618 Mental Representation

Psychology
PSYC 307 Thinking and Information Processing
PSYC 314 Sensory Processes and Perception
PSYC 351, 352 Special Projects in Psychology (advisor approval required)
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 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.

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