



# LINGUISTICS COURSE CATALOG

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS

## CONTACT

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[www.ling.rochester.edu](http://www.ling.rochester.edu)

### **LING 102 Language and Social Identity** (*Spring*), 4 credits

This course introduces how language is used and perceived to mark social characteristics of an individual or group of individuals. We will examine how social identity is constructed linguistically, which linguistic cues are used consciously to denote different social identities, and how most linguistic cues delineating social groups are below conscious awareness. Topics include: prescriptive and descriptive perspectives of language, dialects, accents, language standardization, language and dialect contact, and linguistic profiling.

### **LING 104 Language and Society** (*Fall*), 4 credits

This course investigates the relationship between language and culture at the interface of linguistics and anthropology. It examines the ways in which language reflects the perception of the world, ways of life and beliefs of its speakers, creates rituals and maintains social ties, and is used by people of different ages, genders, social classes, and ethnicities. We will discuss hypotheses that try to explain the nature of relationship between language and culture and then turn to a wide variety of topics which are relevant for both linguists and anthropologists. These include, for instance, kinship systems, language of perception (e.g. colors, spatial relations), politeness across languages and cultures, and writing systems.

### **LING 105 Language and Advertising** (*Fall, Spring*), 4 credits

The course examines the use advertisers make of language in selling their products and how it affects our perceptions of the product and ourselves. The emphasis is on learning about linguistic practice. The course will appeal to those who are curious about the central role language plays in the art of persuasion presented as advertising. The course touches upon the structure of language insofar as it is relevant for understanding advertising as a form of social action. The acquired linguistic tools will help us to understand how commercial messages achieve their effect.

### **LING 107 Language and Landscape: Life is Water** (*Fall, Spring*), 4 credits

Water is on track to be the most pressing environmental issue in the upcoming decades. But beyond its physical substance, what is water? How do we understand its value in our lives? Who controls it? This course will focus on the language and landscape of water, its geography and physical presence on the landscape, to examine how languages shape our actions, understanding and knowledge of what water is in human communities. In the course we'll examine indigenous points of view around water in the Americas and in Australia and how they embody themselves in their landscapes in relation to water.

We'll examine the language of issues such as access to water, and water rights and the concept of ownership of water. We'll focus on case studies of current communities coping with the value and role of water in their communities. We'll touch on aspects of the geography of water: aquifers, rivers, water sources, and practices such as irrigation and mapping to understand the ways that languages embody us in place, using as tools linguistic concepts such place names and toponyms, spacial orientations. The goal of the seminar is to build a base for an informed understanding of how knowledge is coded in languages, and shapes concepts and environmental practices. The course will consist of readings, films and discussion, and final project.

### **LING 110 Intro to Linguistic Analysis** (*Fall, Spring*), 4 credits

This course introduces students to the study of the structure of human language. We will cover the six core areas of linguistic investigation: Phonetics (articulation, acoustics, and perception of speech sounds), Phonology (sound patterns), Morphology (internal structure of words and their organization in the mental lexicon), Syntax (internal structure of phrases and sentences), Semantics (word and sentence meaning), and Pragmatics (language use in context). The course focuses on developing skills in the areas of linguistic data analysis and interpretation of linguistic data in ways that aim to address theoretical and empirical issues in the study of language. In addition to the lecture students will need to register for a peer-led workshop.

### **LING 160 The Rhetorical Sentence** (*Fall, Spring*), 4 credits

Drawing on work from functional linguistics (e.g., Halliday, Hyland, Vande Kopple) and voice (Elbow), this course investigates the sentence—especially its rich potential for creating the writer's meaning, persona, and voice. Through studying form-meaning relationships, we will see how sentence patterns shape meaning and affect readers' interpretations not only in sentences, but also across paragraphs, essays, and larger works. Assignments will regularly involve analyzing texts chosen by students and playing purposefully with language. To aid analysis, GPT will be used to generate different versions of the "same" text, and AntConc, a simple corpus analysis tool, will help reveal textual patterns across large amounts of text. Through a final project, students will investigate some aspect of the sentence in a medium and context of their choice or address an interesting theoretical question about the sentence. This course is ideal for those interested in any kind of writing, writing education, or editing. Background in linguistics or grammar is not necessary. Open to undergraduates and graduate students.

### **LING 161 Modern English Grammar** (*Spring*), 4 credits

This course is a comprehensive review of the grammar of Modern Standard English. The course will be of interest to those who wish to sharpen their language skills, or to know more about the workings of the English language whether for practical, cognitive or creative ends. Drawing on work in mostly pre-theoretical, descriptive linguistics this course reveals the mechanics of Standard English structure, with occasional detours into the finesse of usage across registers (dialect to slang). Students will learn to develop the ability to see patterns in grammar, as well as its structural possibilities and limits. Assignments will regularly involve reflection on form, usage and speaker judgments. Through a final project, students will investigate some aspect of an English variety available to them. Throughout, students will be working with their data samples of English to explore how speaker choices lead to particular grammatical structures or yield ungrammaticality. Background in linguistics or grammar not needed.

### **LING 162 Modern African-American English** (*Spring*), 4 credits

This course looks at the varieties of English used primarily by and among African Americans. We will first explore and discuss the linguistic features (lexicon and grammar) of African American English (AAE). We will also investigate the ways in which AAE is being utilized in popular culture. Additionally, we will look at AAVEs connection to African languages and creoles. Finally, this course will look at the issues connected to AAVE and attitudes towards this variety and its effects on teachers expectations and students' progress; linguistic profiling and discrimination in employment and housing.

### **LING 204(W)/404 History of Linguistic Thought** (*Spring*), 4 credits

This course looks at key ideas in linguistics, starting in Babylon and Ancient China and working towards the study of meaning in modern linguistic theory and philosophy of language. Among the topics we will look at are: writing and its influence on grammatical traditions; the advent of historical linguistics, linguistic phylogeny, and the comparative method; European structuralism; American structuralism; variation within and across languages; the rise of generative grammar; Chomskys philosophy of linguistics, including competence and I-language; literal meaning and beyond. Students will be expected to read a selection of primary literature and participate actively in class discussion. The course will be assessed by essays (essay questions and reading lists for each essay to be provided). Prerequisites: LING 110 & LING 210 OR LING 220

### **LING 205/405 Intro to Historical Linguistics** (*Fall*), 4 credits

This course is designed to give an introduction to the principles of linguistic variation and



change, and to examine their practical application in the interdisciplinary subfields of historical linguistics and historical sociolinguistics. Topics covered include diachrony and synchrony, genetic relations, the comparative method and language classification, sound change, morphological, syntactic and semantic change, borrowing, types of language contact, areal linguistics, and linguistic variation and social stratification.

### **LING 206/406 History of the English Language (Fall), 4 credits**

All languages change over time, often in predictable patterns. Where did today's standard English come from, and how is our sense of that standard tied to assumptions about race, class, gender, and nationality? To find out, we will begin roughly 5,000 years ago, studying the common ancestor of languages as different as English, Hindi, and Polish: Proto-Indo-European. We will learn about the prehistoric roots of English, then turn to the earliest written evidence of it: "Anglo-Saxon" or "Old English," ca. 600-1100. The language was transformed in the wake of the Norman Invasion of 1066, as English became lower in status than both Anglo-Norman French and Latin for a few centuries. Next, we will learn about the growth of English, and its changes, in the age of Chaucer (Middle English) and Shakespeare (Early Modern English). Finally, we will explore processes of standardization, hybridization, and diffusion in the complex effects of English's spread across the globe over the course of the past 450 years.

### **LING 207/407 Old English (Spring), 4 credits**

At the end of the 5th century, after Roman occupation of Britain had ended, invaders from coastal Germany and the Netherlands settled in England and displaced the Celtic-speaking population. The language these tribes spoke and wrote gives us the oldest witnesses of perhaps the most influential and widely-spoken language in the world today: English. In this class, we will learn to read the earliest records of English (c. 700-1100) by studying the grammar, vocabulary, and poetics of the period. We will explore the variety of surviving Old English texts - elegies, heroic epic, riddles, religious verse, Latin philosophy (translated in prose and verse), Biblical translation, sermons, charms, maxims, and more - as well as the history of book production during the period. By the end of the term, your new facility in Old English will enable you to read, understand, and translate some of the most beautiful poems ever written. No prerequisites for the course; as pre-1800 as you can get.

### **LING 208 Language Development (Fall), 4 credits**

Introduces children's language development, including the acquisition of phonology,

syntax, and semantics. Focuses on the acquisition of a first language by young children, comparing the acquisition of a variety of spoken and signed languages to find possible universal principles of language learning. Prerequisite: BCSC 152 or LING 110. No ASL background required.

### **LING 210(W)/410 Intro to Language Sound Systems (Fall), 4 credits**

The goal of this course is to provide a background for understanding the principles that underlie the structure of sound systems in human languages. Starting with the notion phoneme, the course focuses on acoustic and articulatory phonetics, as a basis for understanding phonological processes and change in linguistic sound forms. Students will acquire skills in the production, recognition, and transcription of sounds in various languages of the world. The course will serve as a foundation for work in language documentation, sociolinguistics and sociophonetics, morphology. This course can be taken as LIN 210 or as LIN 410 and is meant for linguistics majors and non-majors alike. In addition to the lecture students will need to register for a peer-led workshop. Prerequisites: LING 110

### **LING 216/416 Speech on the Brain (Spring), 4 credits**

Focusing on an interdisciplinary approach to (1) neural representations of speech sounds and contrasts (2) responses from auditory nerve through brainstem, midbrain, and cortex (3) techniques for analyzing the neural responses to speech. Students work in interdisciplinary teams on a final project.

### **LING 217 Language and Psycholinguistics (Fall), 4 credits**

Focusing on an interdisciplinary approach to (1) neural representations of speech sounds and contrasts (2) responses from auditory nerve through brainstem, midbrain, and cortex (3) techniques for analyzing the neural responses to speech. Students work in interdisciplinary teams on a final project.

### **LING 218 Language and the Brain (Spring), 4 credits**

In this seminar-style class, we will discuss the brain activities involved in language processing. Specific topics include speech perception, word recognition (both visual and spoken), sentence comprehension and production, aphasia, first and second language acquisition. Students are expected to read journal articles or book chapters and take turns leading class discussions. Prerequisite: BCSC 152 or BCSC 261 or LING 216/BCSC 266

### **LING 220(W)/420 Intro to Grammatical Systems** (*Spring*), 4 credits

This introductory course examines the grammatical structure of sentences from the standpoint of transformational grammar. The course develops the basic techniques of syntactic analysis in order to develop a working theory of a (fragment of) English. The theory is then tested against data from other languages and revised accordingly. LIN 220W partially satisfies the Upper-Level Writing requirement for the Linguistics major. Linguistics majors should take the W version of the course. In addition to the lecture students will need to register for a peer-led workshop. Prerequisite: LING 110.

### **LING 224/424 Intro to Computational Linguistics** (*Fall*), 4 credits

This course covers foundational concepts in computational linguistics and is designed for students with a strong background in formal linguistic methods but only rudimentary programming experience. Major focus is placed on the use of formal languages as a tool for understanding natural language as well as on developing students' ability to implement foundational algorithms pertaining to those formal languages. Topics include basic formal language theory, finite state phonological and morphological parsing, and syntactic parsing for context free grammars and mildly context sensitive formalisms. Students who have taken the CSC17X series should consult with the instructor prior to enrollment, since there is overlap with a subset of the technical material covered in those courses. Conversely, while it is possible to enter this course with no programming experience and do well, students new to programming may wish to take CSC161 or to attend a CIRC programming bootcamp prior to taking this course. Prerequisite: LING 110

### **LING 225/425 Intro to Semantic Analysis** (*Fall*), 4 credits

This course introduces students to the basics of the analysis of meaning in natural language. The first section focuses on devices that motivate certain forms to take on the meanings they have. The second section of the course moves on to discuss how meanings combine to form meanings for larger units how words and phrases combine to form sentences meanings. Using logical notation we illustrate the formal analysis of natural language meaning in terms of truth-conditions. We will discuss the basics of set theory, and investigate how meanings represented in these terms correlate with the syntactic and lexical structures of sentences of natural language. Students of graduate standing or those with strong formal backgrounds may consider starting with LING 265/465 instead, for which this course is ordinarily a prerequisite. This course counts towards satisfying the core course requirement for majors. Prerequisites: LING 110

**LING 226/426 Morphology** (*Fall*), 4 credits

The course examines the structure and definition of the linguistic unit 'word' its typology and the relationship of the morphological component to other levels in the grammar. The course includes an introduction to analytical techniques with emphasis placed on an examination of data from a range of languages. The building blocks of words will be analyzed and topics such as affixation, reduplication and inflectional and derivational morphology will be covered. We will examine the properties of words and how they fit into the larger structure of linguistic knowledge, including the relationship between words and syntactic structure (ex., phrases and sentences) and the relationship between words and phonological structure (ex., phonological rules and prosodic structure).

**LING 227/427 Phonetics and Phonology** (*Spring*), 4 credits

This course is intended to provide participants with an overview of research in an area of phonetics and phonology. Issues vary from term to term but may cover areas in segmental, metrical and intonational phonology and the phonology/phonetics interface. Prerequisites: LING 110, LING 210

**LING 228/428 Lexical Semantics** (*Spring*), 4 credits

In this course we investigate the study of word-meaning in current linguistics and cognitive science. We examine the meanings of lexical items such as verbs, nouns, adjectives, and prepositions, and also other categories of words, including various function words and discourse particles. We examine theories of word-meaning, and examine how words and vocabulary may vary between languages. Prerequisites: LING 110, and either LING 210, LING 220 or LING 225 or permission of instructor

**LING 230/430 Sign Language Structure** (*Spring*), 4 credits

An examination of signed languages and the cognitive constraints that shape them, through a detailed consideration of the structure of American Sign Language and other natural signed languages of the world. Includes training in sign language notation and analysis. Prerequisites: ASL 106 in the immediately preceding semester or permission of the instructor. B or better in ASL 106.

**LING 240/440 Topics in Language Variation and Change** (*Fall*), 4 credits

This course offers an overview of the study of language variation and change. We will



examine some of the ways that spoken language varies according to the social characteristics and social motivations of its speakers. Methods for quantitative analysis of linguistic variation will be introduced. Prerequisites: LIN 110. LIN 210 or 220 recommended but not required

### **LING 245/445 Philosophy of Language** (*Fall*), 4 credits

[Prerequisite: One previous course in Philosophy] General nature of language and specific puzzles about language: the nature of truth and meaning, speech acts, reference, propositional attitudes, metaphor, understanding, interpretation, indeterminacy, etc. (PHIL 110 is recommended prior to taking this course.)

### **LING 247/447 Natural Language Processing** (*Spring*), 4 credits

Issues of understanding language in context using commonsense knowledge of the world. Topics will include a survey of English phrase structure and parsing, semantic representation (e.g., events, semantic roles, time, causality and speech acts), and theories and techniques for understanding language in context, including intention recognition, text understanding using knowledge of scripts and plans, and models of spoken dialogue systems (e.g., conversational agents such as Siri). CSC447, the graduate level version of the course, requires a substantial individual project. Prerequisite: CSC 242

### **LING 248/448 Statistical Speech and Language Processing** (*Fall*), 4 credits

An introduction to statistical natural language processing and automatic speech recognition techniques. This course presents the theory and practice behind the recently developed language processing technologies that enable applications such as speech-driven dictation systems, document search engines (e.g., finding web pages) and automatic machine translation. Students taking this course at the 400 level will be required to complete additional readings and/or assignments. Pre-reqs: CSC 172 and CSC 242

### **LING 250/450 Data Science for Linguistics** (*Spring*), 4 credits

This course addresses linguistic research questions through data science techniques. The course will focus on developing skills to (i) acquire and process a variety of language data, from using established corpora to capturing data in the wild, and (ii) to investigate language use, particularly syntactic and semantic phenomena, through descriptive and inferential statistical techniques. A significant part of the course will be devoted to hands-on projects and will include developing familiarity with using the programming languages

Python and R to acquire and explore linguistic data. Familiarity with statistics and/or computational linguistics is advantageous, but not necessary. Prerequisites: LING 110, and either LING 210, LING 220 or LING 225.

### **LING 260(W)/460 Syntactic Theory** (*Fall*), 4 credits

This course addresses linguistic research questions through data science techniques. The course will focus on developing skills to (i) acquire and process a variety of language data, from using established corpora to capturing data in the wild, and (ii) to investigate language use, particularly syntactic and semantic phenomena, through descriptive and inferential statistical techniques. A significant part of the course will be devoted to hands-on projects and will include developing familiarity with using the programming languages Python and R to acquire and explore linguistic data. Familiarity with statistics and/or computational linguistics is advantageous, but not necessary. Prerequisites: LING 110, and either LING 210, LING 220 or LING 225.

### **LING 261/461 Constraint Based Syntax** (*Fall*), 4 credits

This syntactic theory course examines syntactic phenomena from the perspective of phrase structure and lexicalist grammar as opposed to transformational grammar. The course will examine and develop phrase structure grammar (specifically Head-driven Phrase Structure Grammar) approaches to standard syntactic problems, contrasting them where appropriate with transformational approaches. No background in non-transformational approaches will be assumed. This course can be taken as LIN 261 or as LIN 461 and is meant for linguistics majors and non-majors alike. Prerequisites: LING 110 & LING 220 or instructor permission.

### **LING 265/465 Formal Semantics** (*Spring*), 4 credits

This course is an in-depth introduction to the formal analysis of natural language meaning, employing techniques that have been developed in language and formal philosophy over the last century. Issues include intensionality, quantification, tense, presupposition, plurality, the analysis of discourse, and other current issues. Familiarity with syntax, logic, and/or computation are helpful.

### **LING 266/466 Intro to Pragmatics** (*Spring*), 4 credits

Within theoretical linguistics, pragmatics is (broadly speaking) the study of how language users convey meaning. This course covers three general areas: (1) How meaning carried by

linguistic elements (such as sentences) interacts with meaning that arises from inferences about speakers intentions; (2) Ways of characterizing meaning, especially with respect to linguistic elements not easily handled in traditional semantic (i.e., truth-conditional) terms; (3) The role of context in determining meaning. Topics to be discussed include the relation between semantics and pragmatics, representations of context, truth-conditional and other types of meaning, presupposition; implicature and Grices Cooperative Principles

### **LING 267/467 Nominal Semantics** (*Spring*), 4 credits

This course covers topics at the interface of syntax and semantics. No specific syntax or semantics background is required, though the equivalent of LING 225 is recommended.

### **LING 268/468 Computational Semantics** (*Spring*), 4 credits

This course is a hands-on exploration of recent advances in computational models of meaning. The first part of the course will focus on implementing traditional rule-based compositional semantics in the functional programming language Haskell. We will construct a sophisticated model of formal semantics, culminating in examining the use of monads to model types of natural language meaning phenomena. The second part of the course explores distributional semantic models and their implementation, where lexical meaning is defined in terms of lexical co-occurrence, estimating meaning from large-scale corpus resources.

### **LING 270(W)/470 Preserving Diversity in Language and Culture** (*Fall*), 4 credits

This class is addressed to anyone interested in fieldwork involving data collection of spoken language, including for instance linguists, anthropologists, or historians. Languages and cultures are currently disappearing on an unprecedented level due to the effects of globalization and displacement of people. Minority groups are often the most affected. As languages and cultures die, we lose entire knowledge systems and communities an integral part of their identity. This class introduces you to major techniques and tools of collecting and curating language data, using it for your research purposes, and making it useful to speech communities and other scholars. We will investigate the importance of language as a social convention from an interdisciplinary perspective, including, e.g., issues in intercultural research and ethics in fieldwork. Students will design their own projects, depending on their personal interests, and receive hands-on training in audio and video recording, time-aligned annotations, data management, and archiving. Prerequisites: LING 110 or permission from instructor.

**LING 281/481 Statistical Methods in Computational Linguistics** *(Fall), 4 credits*

This course covers advanced topics in computational linguistics, with a focus on the deployment of statistical methods for advancing linguistic theory as well as the use of linguistic theory for designing statistical models. Topics include models of phonetic category perception and learning, phonotactic, morphological, and syntactic grammar induction, and syntactic and semantic parsing. Prerequisites: Required: LING 224/424. Recommended: STAT 212 or MATH 201 or CSC 262 or equivalent.

**LING 282/482 Deep Learning Methods in Computational Linguistics** *(Fall), 4 cre.*

This course covers advanced topics in computational linguistics, with a focus on the deployment of deep learning methods for advancing linguistic theory as well as the use of linguistic theory for designing deep learning models. Topics include phonotactic, morphological, and syntactic grammar induction as well as morphological, syntactic and semantic parsing. Prerequisites: LING 224 or CSC 247, Recommended Prerequisites: LING 281 or CSC 248

**LING 389(W)/471/589 Senior Seminar** *(Spring), 4 credits*

This is a hands-on class which allows you to work with a language consultant with the goal of writing a grammar sketch or a short research paper. At the end of this course, you will have acquired methods and techniques to describe a language not known to you previously. This includes recording and collection of data, data processing and analysis. The class is an opportunity to apply the knowledge of linguistic theory that you acquired during your major in linguistic research on an unfamiliar language. Another focus of this course is training in grammar writing skills. Ultimately, this course provides you with a solid basis to do fieldwork for language description and linguistic research in your own in the future. Prerequisites: LING 110, LING 210, LING 220, LING 225

**LING 391(W) Independent Study** *(Fall, Spring), 1-4 credits*

Registration for Independent Study courses needs to be completed through the instructions for online independent study registration.

**LING 394 Internship** *(Fall, Spring), 4 credits*

Registration for Independent Study courses needs to be completed through the instructions for online independent study registration.

**LING 395 Independent Research** (*Fall, Spring*), 1-4 credits

Registration for Independent Study courses needs to be completed through the instructions for online independent study registration.

**LING 395H Independent Research - Honors** (*Fall, Spring*), 1-4 credits

Registration for Independent Study courses needs to be completed through the instructions for online independent study registration.

**LING 491 Master's Reading in Linguistics** (*Fall, Spring*), 1-4 credits

**LING 495 Master's Research in Linguistics** (*Fall, Spring*), 1-4 credits

**LING 501 Graduate Proseminar** (*Fall*), 4 credits

**LING 590 Supervised Teaching** (*Fall, Spring*), 1 credits

**LING 591 PhD Reading in Linguistics** (*Fall, Spring*), 1-12 credits

**LING 595 PhD Research in Linguistics** (*Fall, Spring*), 1-12 credits

**LING 595A PhD Research in Absentia** (*Fall, Spring*), 1-12 credits

**LING 895 Continuation of Master's Enrollment** (*Fall, Spring*), 0 credits

**LING 897 Master's Dissertation** (*Fall, Spring*), 0 credits

**LING 897A Master's Dissertation in Absentia** (*Fall, Spring*), 0 credits

**LING 897B Master's Dissertation - Study Abroad** (*Fall, Spring*), 0 credits

**LING 899 Master's Dissertation** (*Fall, Spring*), 0 credits



**LING 995 Continuation of Doctoral Enrollment** (*Fall, Spring*), 0 credits

**LING 997 Doctoral Dissertation** (*Fall, Spring*), 0 credits

**LING 997A Doctoral Dissertation in Absentia** (*Fall, Spring*), 0 credits

**LING 999 Doctoral Dissertation** (*Fall, Spring*), 0 credits

**LING 999A Doctoral Dissertation in Absentia** (*Fall, Spring*), 0 credits

## **FACULTY AND STAFF**

**Scott Grimm**, Associate Professor and Department Chair

**Joyce McDonough**, Richard Turner Professor

**Ash Asudeh**, Professor and Director of the Center for Language Science

**Maya Abtahian**, Associate Professor

**Aaron White**, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies

**Nadine Grimm**, Assistant Professor

**Asia Pietraszko**, Assistant Professor and Undergraduate Advisor

**Mary Moroney**, Adjunct Professor

**J.C. Wamsley**, Adjunct Professor

**Andrew Bray**, Adjunct Professor

**Bryan Michielsen**, Department Manager