

# LINGUISTICS (LING-UA)

## LING-UA 1 Language (4 Credits)

*Typically offered Fall, Spring, and Summer terms*

Language is a social phenomenon, but languages share elaborate and specific structural properties. Speech communities exist, exhibit variation, and change within the strict confines of universal grammar, part of our biological endowment. Universal grammar is discovered through the careful study of the structures of individual languages, by cross-linguistic investigations, and the investigation of the brain. Introduces fundamental properties of the sound system and of the structure and interpretation of words and sentences against this larger context.

**Grading:** CAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

## LING-UA 2 The Linguistics of Names (4 Credits)

*Typically offered not typically offered*

This course is a general introduction to linguistic analysis through the study of personal, product, and place names. Throughout the course, we will use linguistic data to assess whether names constitute a special component of language, or whether they behave linguistically like non-name words. Topics include trends in naming and the diffusion of linguistic innovations, the phonological processes involved in nickname formation, sound symbolism, place names and their connection to settlement history, sociodemographic correlates of name choice, and names and the mind/brain. Students will gain hands-on experience working with linguistic data by analyzing patterns in names.

**Grading:** CAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

## LING-UA 3 Language and Mind (4 Credits)

*Typically offered Fall and Spring*

Introduces the field of cognitive science through an examination of language behavior. Begins with interactive discussions of how best to characterize and study the mind. These principles are then illustrated through an examination of research and theories related to language representation and use. Draws from research in both formal linguistics and psycholinguistics.

**Grading:** CAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

## LING-UA 4 Intro to Semantics (4 Credits)

*Typically offered Fall and Spring*

Focuses on the compositional semantics of sentences. Introduces set theory, propositional logic, and predicate logic as tools and goes on to investigate the empirical linguistic issues of presuppositions, quantification, scope, and polarity. Points out parallelisms between the nominal and the verbal domains.

**Grading:** CAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

**Prerequisites:** (LING-UA 1 OR LING-UA 13 OR LING-UA 3).

## LING-UA 5 Intro Psycholinguistics (4 Credits)

*Typically offered Fall*

Psycholinguistics aims to understand the mental processes that underlie both the representation and acquisition of language. Topics include language acquisition, speech perception, lexical representation and access, sentence production, and the relationship between phonology and orthography.

**Grading:** CAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

**Prerequisites:** LING-UA 1 or LING-UA 3.

## LING-UA 6 Patterns in Language (4 Credits)

*Typically offered Fall*

Can machines think? Do patterns in online searches predict the spread of the flu? Did Shakespeare really write that sonnet? Scientists use patterns in language to answer these questions, using the same concepts that underlie search engines, automatic translators, speech recognition, spell-checkers, and auto-correction tools. Focuses on the technological and linguistic ideas behind these applications and offers hands-on experience and insight into how they work. No programming experience required.

**Grading:** CAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

## LING-UA 8 Language, Power, and Identity (4 Credits)

Explores how identity is a process of "becoming" rather than a mode of "being" by examining how speakers enact their gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, and socioeconomic class through everyday conversations, narratives, performances, literacy activities, and public debates. Also explores the moral and political consequences of people's identification strategies by examining how their beliefs about language reinforce or contest normative power structures. Readings on the relationship between bilingual education and accent discrimination, multilingualism and youth counterculture, migration and code-switching, media and religious publics, linguistic nationalism and xenophobia, and literacy and neo/liberalism in different areas of the world.

**Grading:** CAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

## LING-UA 9 Indigenous Languages of the Americas (4 Credits)

Focuses on phonology and phonetics (i.e., sound structure), but also addresses the structure of words and phrases. Topics: bilingualism, language contact, language loss, indigenous language education, literacy, orthography, and language policy. Emphasis on the Quechuan languages of the Andes in South America, spoken in Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia.

**Grading:** CAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

## LING-UA 10 Structure of The Russian Language (4 Credits)

*Typically offered Spring*

An introduction to the morphosyntax of Russian. Students learn how to analyze the underlying structures of this language by using formal tools in syntactic theory. The core areas of Russian grammar: case, aspect, argument structure alternations, topic/ focus structure, negation, binding, control, and wh-movement. No knowledge of Russian required.

**Grading:** CAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

**Prerequisites:** LING-UA 13.

## LING-UA 11 Sound and Language (4 Credits)

*Typically offered Fall*

Phonetic and phonological theory at an elementary level. Topics include the description and analysis of speech sounds, the anatomy and physiology of speech, speech acoustics, and phonological processes. Students develop skills to distinguish and produce sounds used in the languages of the world and to transcribe them using the International Phonetic Alphabet.

**Grading:** CAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

**LING-UA 12 Phonological Analysis (4 Credits)***Typically offered Fall and Spring*

How languages organize sounds into highly constrained systems. Topics: What do the sound systems of all languages have in common? How can they differ from each other? What is the nature of phonological processes, and why do they occur?

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**Prerequisites:** LING-UA 11.**LING-UA 13 Grammatical Analysis (4 Credits)***Typically offered Fall and Spring*

What determines the sequencing of words in a given language? How can we explain word-order variation within and across languages? Are there universal syntactic properties common to the grammar of all languages? Presents the modern generative approach to the scientific study of language and systematically develops a model that will account for the most basic syntactic constructions of natural language.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**Prerequisites:** (LING-UA 1 OR LING-UA 3).**LING-UA 14 Language Change (4 Credits)***Typically offered Fall of even numbered years*

The methods of genealogical classification and subgrouping of languages. Examines patterns of replacement in phonology, morphology, and syntax. Focuses on internal and comparative phonological, morphological, and syntactic reconstruction. Considers phonological developments such as Grimm's, Grassmann's, and Verner's Laws.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**LING-UA 15 Language & Society (4 Credits)***Typically offered Fall*

Considers contemporary issues in the interaction of language and society, particularly work on speech variation and social structure. How social factors affect language. Topics: language as a social and political entity; regional, social, and ethnic speech varieties; bilingualism; and pidgin and creole languages.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**LING-UA 16 Grammatical Analysis II (4 Credits)***Typically offered Fall*

Introduces primary literature in syntactic theory and leads to an independent research project. Topics vary: binding theory, control, case theory, constraints on movement, antisymmetry, argument structure and applicatives, ellipsis, derivation by phase, etc.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**Prerequisites:** LING-UA 13.**LING-UA 18 Bilingualism (4 Credits)***Typically offered Fall*

Considers social forces that favor or inhibit bilingualism, as well as the educational consequences of bilingual education (and of monolingual education for bilingual children). Examines the impact of bilingualism on the languages involved. Special attention to code switching, with particular reference to its psycholinguistic and sociolinguistic aspects.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**LING-UA 19 Advanced Semantics (4 Credits)**

Builds a solid command of predicate logic and elements of the lambda calculus. Introduces the principles of compositional model theoretic semantics. Analyzes constituent order and a set of specific phenomena, possibly varying from year to year.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**Prerequisites:** LING-UA 4.**LING-UA 21 Sex, Gender, & Language (4 Credits)***Typically offered Spring*

How linguistic practices reflect and shape our gender identity. Do women and men talk differently? Are these differences universal or variable across cultures? How does gendered language intersect with race and class-linked language? What impact does gendered language have on social power relationships?

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**LING-UA 23 African American Vernacular English (4 Credits)***Typically offered Fall*

African American Vernacular English in terms of its linguistic and cultural distinctiveness, both intrasystemically and compared to other dialects of American English. Relates the English vernacular spoken by African Americans in urban settings to creole languages. The history of its expressive uses, and the educational, attitudinal, and social implications connected with the language.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**LING-UA 27 Grammatical Diversity (4 Credits)***Typically offered Fall and Spring*

Introduces the syntax of languages quite different from English, from various parts of the world. Considers what they may have in common with English and with each other and how to characterize the ways in which they differ from English and from each other.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**Prerequisites:** LING-UA 13.**LING-UA 29 Morphology (4 Credits)***Typically offered Spring*

Introduces rules for composing words and sentences from the smallest units of linguistic combination (morphemes). Why can the same message be expressed in one word in some languages but require an entire sentence in others? Why do the shapes of prefixes, suffixes, and roots change depending on their semantic and phonological context? What rules do different languages use for forming new words?

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**Prerequisites:** (LING-UA 1 OR LING-UA 3).**LING-UA 30 Language in Latin America (4 Credits)***Typically offered Spring*

How and why American varieties of Spanish and Portuguese differ from European varieties, as well as the distribution and nature of dialect differences throughout the Americas. Examines sociolinguistic issues: class and ethnic differences in language, the origin and development of standard and nonstandard varieties, and the effects of contact with Amerindian and African languages. Considers Spanish- and Portuguese-based creoles and the question of prior creolization.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

**LING-UA 32 Language, Culture, and Identity in Italy (2 Credits)**

What we call the Italian language today—the Italian of newspapers and television, of Italian language tuition, of street signs, of the Italian parliament—is only one variant among many languages spoken within the Italian peninsula throughout its history. Examines how local dialects and regional variants of Italian continue to have a significant cultural role in literature, music, and cinema. Taught in English.

**Grading:** CAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

**Prerequisites:** (ITAL-UA 1 OR LING-UA 1 OR LING-UA 2).

**LING-UA 37 The Syntax/Semantics Interface Cross-linguistically (4 Credits)**

*Typically offered Spring*

In many languages of the world, the topic and the focus of the sentence, the scope relations among quantifiers and negation, and the role of the speaker and addressee are made transparent by word order and various suffixes on the verb. Studies data from languages from Hungarian to Kathmandu Newari from the perspective of theoretical linguistics and asks what they tell us about how the syntax/semantics interface works in universal grammar.

**Grading:** CAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

**Prerequisites:** LING-UA 4 AND LING-UA 13.

**LING-UA 42 Romance Syntax (4 Credits)**

Introduces the syntax of Romance languages, primarily French, Italian, and Spanish, but also various Romance dialects. Considers what they have in common with each other (and with English) and how best to characterize the ways in which they differ from each other (and from English).

**Grading:** CAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

**Prerequisites:** LING-UA 13.

**LING-UA 43 Neural Bases of Language (4 Credits)**

*Typically offered Fall and Spring*

A state-of-the-art survey of the cognitive neuroscience of language, a rapidly developing multidisciplinary field at the intersection of linguistics, psycholinguistics, and neuroscience. Covers all aspects of language processing in the healthy brain, from early sensory perception to sentence-level semantic interpretation, as well as a range of neurological and development language disorders.

**Grading:** CAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

**Prerequisites:** (PSYCH-UA 25 OR PSYCH-UA 29 OR LING-UA 1 OR LING-UA 3).

**LING-UA 44 Field Methods (4 Credits)**

*Typically offered Fall and Spring*

Analysis (LING-UA 13), or permission of the instructor. Offered every year. Collins, Gallagher, Gouskova. 4 points. Students interview a native speaker of an unfamiliar language to study all aspects of the language's grammar: phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics. We evaluate and organize real, nonidealized linguistic data and formulate generalizations that serve as the basis for research.

**Grading:** CAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** Yes

**Prerequisites:** LING-UA 11 AND LING-UA 13).

**LING-UA 48 Linguistics as Cognitive Science (4 Credits)**

*Typically offered Spring term of odd numbered years*

Approaches from linguistics, philosophy, and psychology. Topics: the evidence for constructing grammars, the interpretation of grammatical rules as cognitive or neural operations, the significance of neo-behaviorist approaches to language and computational modeling for a cognitive theory of language, the connection between linguistics theory and genetics, and the importance of sociocultural and historical variation for understanding the nature of language.

**Grading:** CAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

**LING-UA 52 Machine Learning for Language Understanding (4 Credits)**

This course covers widely-used machine learning methods for language understanding—with a special focus on machine learning methods based on artificial neural networks—and culminates in a substantial final project in which students write an original research paper in AI or computational linguistics. If you take this class, you'll be exposed only to a fraction of the many approaches that researchers have used to teach language to computers. However, you'll get training and practice with all the research skills that you'll need to explore the field further on your own. This includes not only the skills to design and build computational models, but also to design experiments to test those models, to write and present your results, and to read and evaluate results from the scientific literature.

**Grading:** CAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

**Prerequisites:** (CSCI-UA 2 OR CSCI-UA 3 OR CSCI-UA 101) AND MATH-UA 121 AND (ECON-UA 18 OR ECON-UA 20 OR MATH-UA 233 OR MATH-UA 234 OR MATH-UA 235 OR MATH-UA 238).

**LING-UA 54 Learning to Speak: First and Second Lang Acquisition of Sound (4 Credits)**

*Typically offered Fall and Spring*

We discuss scientific data from both first- and second-language acquisition of sound systems to understand how they differ, and how humans learn language both in infancy and adulthood. Presupposes an introduction to phonetics, phonology, and/or psycholinguistics.

**Grading:** CAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

**Prerequisites:** (LING-UA 11 OR LING-UA 12).

**LING-UA 55 Intro to Morphology at An Advanced Level (4 Credits)**

*Typically offered Fall and Spring*

The building blocks of words and sentences: the atomic units of word structure, their hierarchical and linear arrangement, and their phonological realization(s). An introduction to fundamental issues including allomorphy, morpheme order, paradigm structure, blocking, and cyclicity. Interactions of morphology with syntax, phonology, semantics, and variation.

**Grading:** CAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

**Prerequisites:** LING-UA 11 AND LING-UA 12.

**LING-UA 57 English Dialects (4 Credits)***Typically offered Spring*

Regional dialects of English in the United States and abroad. Dialect variation is studied on many linguistic levels, from word choice to the pronunciation of vowels to the construction of sentences. Topics include the fundamentals of dialectology, the historical development of regional dialects, mechanisms of language change, and social evaluation of dialects. Connections are made to techniques of quantitative data analysis, practical applications of dialectology, and the importance of dialect data for the development of (socio)linguistic theory.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**LING-UA 59 First Language Acquisition (4 Credits)***Typically offered Spring*

Linguistic development from birth to early school age, examining monolingual, bilingual, and atypical (e.g., autistic, Specific Language Impairment) populations. Focuses first on development in the individual linguistic domains of phonology, vocabulary, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics and then examines deeper theoretical and experimental approaches to language acquisition, with a focus on primary literature and active debates in the field.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**Prerequisites:** (LING-UA 1 OR LING-UA 3).**LING-UA 60 Structure of Korean (4 Credits)**

Covers the various aspects of the Korean language, focusing on its uniqueness in light of general linguistics. The course begins with a brief introduction to the language structure in general and proceeds to more extensive overviews of the Korean language in the following areas: genetic affiliation, historical development, lexicon, writing system, sound patterns, word structure, and sentence structure. The primary objective of the course is to gain a general understanding of the Korean language and to be able to analyze some of the linguistic phenomena that are unique to the Korean language.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**Prerequisites:** EAST-UA 259.**LING-UA 61 Experimental Syntax and Semantics (4 Credits)**

How do we understand and produce sentences in a language we speak? How do we acquire the knowledge that underlies this ability? Psycholinguistics seeks to address these questions using quantitative measurements drawn from sources such as corpora or human experiments, as well as using computational simulations implementing cognitive models. This class is an introduction to the methods and questions studied in experimental linguistics, with a focus on the mechanisms that underlie language comprehension by adult speakers, at the word level and above (syntax, semantics and pragmatics).

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**Prerequisites:** LING-UA 1 OR LING-UA 3.**LING-UA 102 Research Seminar (4 Credits)***Typically offered Fall and Spring*

This course is required for all students writing a Senior Honors Thesis in the Department in the 2025–2026 academic year. The course has three primary objectives: (a) provide a forum where students engage in intellectual discussion about the process of conducting independent research; (b) provide guidance and structure to students in the process of conducting their independent research projects; and (c) work with students on writing and submitting a DURF Grant Proposal for their thesis project. All honors students must have a research mentor and approved research project prior to registering for the course. This course does not replace the guidance provided by a student's primary research mentor.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** Yes**LING-UA 470 Structure and Variation (4 Credits)**

Sounds, sentence structure, word order, and word meaning and formation, with attention to situational and social variations. Combines analysis with an observational study of a language community.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**LING-UA 980 Internship (1-4 Credits)***Typically offered Fall*

981 Prerequisite: permission of the director of undergraduate studies. In the term prior to the internship, the student must present a written description of the proposed internship that clearly indicates the linguistic content of the project. 1 to 4 points per term.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**LING-UA 981 Internship (1-4 Credits)***Typically offered Spring*

981 Prerequisite: permission of the director of undergraduate studies. In the term prior to the internship, the student must present a written description of the proposed internship that clearly indicates the linguistic content of the project. 1 to 4 points per term.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** No**LING-UA 997 Independent Study (1-4 Credits)***Typically offered Fall of even numbered years*

Prerequisite: permission of director of undergraduate studies. 1 to 4 points each term.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** Yes**LING-UA 998 Independent Study (1-4 Credits)***Typically offered Spring*

Prerequisite: permission of the director of undergraduate studies. 1 to 4 points per term.

**Grading:** CAS Graded**Repeatable for additional credit:** Yes

**LING-UA 9032 The Structure of French (in French) (4 Credits)**

This course provides a linguistic introduction to the French language. Students will learn how to analyze the underlying structures of this language by using formal tools developed in linguistic theory. We will focus on the following core areas of grammar: phonetics and phonology (sound system), morphology (word formation), syntax (phrase and sentence structure) and semantics (meaning). This course should be of interest to those who wish to strengthen their knowledge of French and to develop their formal linguistic tools on the analysis of the grammatical structure of this language. This course is offered in French

**Grading:** CAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No

**Prerequisites:** (LING-UA 1 OR LING-UA 3 OR LING-UA 11 OR LING-UA 13) AND FREN-UA 30.

**LING-UA 9102 Seminar: (4 Credits)**

Topics and prerequisites vary by semester.

**Grading:** CAS Graded

**Repeatable for additional credit:** No