

Linguistics

*Undergraduate Adviser: Jason Merchant, Cl 305, 702-8523,
merchant@uchicago.edu*

*Departmental Secretary: Vanessa Wright, Cl 304, 702-8522,
vwright@midway.uchicago.edu*

Web: www.humanities.uchicago.edu/depts/linguistics/

Program of Study

The purpose of the B.A. program with concentration in linguistics is to provide a solid, integrated introduction to the core subdisciplines of linguistics, as well as a language background sufficient to provide a database for the theoretical parts of the program. This introduction provides students with a general orientation and overview of the field and prepares them for productive advanced study in linguistics. Linguistics concentrators should discuss course selection annually with the departmental undergraduate adviser.

Program Requirements

The B.A. degree requirements in linguistics are (1) Introduction to Linguistics (LING 20100-20200-20300), usually taken during the second year; (2) the four linguistics core courses: Syntax I (LING 20400), Phonetics (LING 20600), Semantics-Pragmatics (LING 20700), and Phonology I (LING 20800), which are usually divided between the third and fourth years; (3) three language courses beyond the first year in French, German, or Russian (a different language may be substituted in some cases upon approval of a petition to the department); and (4) a non-Indo-European language requirement usually satisfied by taking a three-quarter course in an approved language. Linguistics students often take additional linguistics courses as electives or courses in related fields such as anthropology, computer science, philosophy, psychology, or sociology.

Summary of Requirements

<i>College Language Requirement</i>	<i>demonstrated competence in French, German, or Russian equivalent to one year of study</i>
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Concentration	3	LING 20100-20200-20300 (introductory courses)
	4	LING 20400, 20600, 20700, and 20800 (core courses)
	3	courses in French, German, or Russian beyond the first year †
	3	courses in an approved non-Indo-European language ††
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† *Credit may be granted by examination.*

†† *Credit must be earned by course registration, not by placement.*

Approved non-Indo-European languages include Akkadian, American Sign Language, Arabic, Aramaic, Basque, Chinese, Coptic, Egyptian, Hebrew, Hungarian, Japanese, Korean, native American languages (Aymara, Fox, Greenlandic Eskimo, Yucatec Maya), Swahili, Tamil, Tibetan, Turkish, Uzbek.

Honors. Fourth-year students who have maintained a 3.0 or higher overall GPA and a 3.5 or higher GPA in linguistics courses may consult with the departmental undergraduate adviser about submitting an honors essay. Consultation should take place at the beginning of the student's senior year. The honors essay must be submitted by the fifth week of the quarter in which the student plans to graduate.

Grading. Letter grades are needed in all required concentration courses; otherwise, courses may be taken for the grade of *P/F*.

Joint Degree Program. The core curriculum for the B.A. closely follows the basic program for the M.A. degree in the Department of Linguistics. Students who have demonstrated a high ability in linguistics may apply for a joint B.A./M.A. They should consult with the Dean of Students of the Division of the Humanities (Wb 105) no later than the first week of the Spring Quarter of their third year. To be considered for admission to the program, the student must have maintained a 3.5 or higher GPA in LING 20100, 20200, and 20300, and in the linguistics core courses (at least two of which must be completed before petitioning for admission). Joint degree program students take all the remaining required linguistics courses for the M.A. degree. Their knowledge of the content of the four core courses is tested in the qualifying examination given in the Spring Quarter. The remaining additional requirement is the M.A. thesis. For the M.A. thesis to be completed by the end of the fourth year, the following schedule must be met: (1) the two faculty members supervising the thesis must have approved the research topic, plan, and reading list by the end of the Autumn Quarter; (2) the supervisors must confirm completion of the research by the end of Winter Quarter; and (3) the thesis must be completed by the fifth week of the Spring Quarter.

Faculty

A. Dahlstrom, B. Darden, V. Friedman, S. Fulop, S. Gal, A. Giannakidou, J. Goldsmith, G. Gragg, G. Hansson, K. Landahl, J. Merchant, S. Mufwene, J. Sadock, M. Silverstein

Courses

Linguistics (LING)

11100. Biological and Cultural Evolution. (=BIOS 29286, BPRO 23900, CHSS 37900, HIPS 23900, NCDV 27400, PHIL 32500) *PQ: Third- or fourth-year standing. Core background in evolution and genetics strongly recommended.* For course description, see Big Problems. *W. Wimsatt, S. Mufwene. Winter.*

20100-20200-20300/30100-30200-30300. Introduction to Linguistics I, II, III. (=ANTH 27001-27002-27003/37001-37002-37003, SOSC 21700-21800-21900) *Must be taken in sequence.* This course is an introductory survey of methods, findings, and problems in areas of major interest within linguistics and of the relationship of linguistics to other disciplines. Topics include the biological basis of language, basic notions of syntax, semantics, pragmatics, basic syntactic typology of language, phonetics, phonology, morphology, language acquisition, linguistic variation, and linguistic change. *J. Merchant, Autumn; J. Goldsmith, Winter; S. Mufwene, Spring.*

20400/30400. Syntax I. (=ANTH 37801) *PQ: LING 20100, 20200, 20300/30100, 30200, 30300; or equivalent.* An introduction to basic goals and methods of current syntactic theory through a detailed analysis of a range of phenomena, with emphasis on argumentation and empirical justification. Major topics include phrase structure and constituency, selection and subcategorization, argument structure, case, voice, expletives, and raising and control structures. *J. Merchant. Autumn.*

20500/30500. Syntax II. (=ANTH 37802) *PQ: LING 20400/30400 or consent of instructor.* A continuation of LING 20400/30400. Major topics include wh- movement, islands, the Binding Theory, and the nature of unbounded dependencies, with a view to understanding their properties and distribution cross-linguistically. *A. Dahlstrom. Spring.*

20600/30600. Phonetics. (=ANTH 37700) *PQ: LING 20100, 20200, 20300/30100, 30200, 30300; or consent of instructor.* This is an introduction to the study of speech sounds. Speech sounds are described with respect to their articulatory, acoustic, and perceptual structures. There are lab exercises both in phonetic transcription and in the acoustic analysis of speech sounds. *K. Landahl. Autumn.*

20700/30700. Semantics and Pragmatics. *PQ: LING 20400/30400.* An introduction to formal, model-theoretic approaches to aspects of truth-conditional meaning and the tools used to analyze them (propositional and predicate logic, type theory, the lambda-calculus). Further topics include non-truth-conditional aspects of meaning such as presupposition and implicature. *A. Giannakidou. Winter.*

20800/30800. Phonology I. (=ANTH 37300) *PQ: LING 20100, 20200, 20300, or 20600/30100, 30200, 30300 or 30600; or equivalent.* An introduction to the general principles of phonology as a discipline. The emphasis is on fundamental notions which have always been central to

phonological analysis, and which transcend differences between theoretical approaches: contrast, neutralization, natural classes, distinctive features, and basic phonological processes (e.g., assimilation). Although earlier structuralist approaches are discussed, the emphasis is on generative phonology, both "classical" and autosegmental models, with brief discussion of Optimality Theory. *G. Hansson. Winter.*

20900/30900. Phonology II. (=ANTH 37302) *PQ: LING 20800/30800.* An introduction to output-oriented and constraint-based approaches, focusing on Optimality Theory. This currently dominant framework of phonological analysis is studied in considerable detail. The point of departure is prosodic structure in its various aspects (e.g., syllabification, quantity, stress and metrical structure), but processes of segmental phonology are also reexamined in light of the theory. *G. Hansson. Spring.*

21000/31000. Morphology. (=ANTH 37500) This course deals with linguistic structure and patterning beyond the phonological level, focusing on analysis of grammatical and formal oppositions, and their structural relationships and interrelationships (morphophonology). *J. Sadock. Spring.*

21100-21200/31100-31200. Language in Culture I, II. (=ANTH 37201-37202) *PQ: Consent of instructor. Must be taken in sequence.* For course description, see Anthropology. *R. Moor, Autumn, 2002; J. Blommaert, Winter, 2003. M. Silverstein, Autumn, 2003; S. Gal, Winter, 2004.*

21300/31300. Historical Linguistics. *PQ: LING 20600 or 20800/30600 or 30800; or consent of instructor.* This course concerns linguistic change and variation and the theory of genetic comparison and reconstruction. *K. Kazazis. Winter.*

21600/31600. Language Development. (=HUDV 23900/31600, PSYC 23200/33200) For course description, see Psychology. *S. Goldin-Meadow. Winter.*

21700/31700. Experimental Phonetics. *PQ: LING 20600/30600 or consent of instructor.* This course is an exploration of various instrumentation available for speech analysis and synthesis. Hands-on work is emphasized. This year's topic is vowel synthesis. Perception-related literature is also assigned for reading and discussion. *K. Landahl. Winter.*

23900/33900. Languages of the World. A nontechnical general survey of human languages, examining their diversity and uniformity across space and time. Major topics include language families and historical relationships, linguistic typology and language universals, sound and structural features of the world's languages, and writing systems. *J. Merchant. Winter.*

27200/37200. Language, Power, and Identity in Southeastern Europe: A Linguistics View of the Balkan Crisis. (=ANTH 27400/37400, HUMA 27400, SLAV 23000/33000) Language is a key issue in the articulation of ethnicity and the struggle for power in Southeastern Europe. This course familiarizes students with the linguistic histories and structures that have served as bases for the formation of modern Balkan ethnic identities and that are being manipulated to shape current and future events. Course content may vary in response to ongoing current events. *V. Friedman. Winter.*

27700/37700. Language and Thought. (=PSYC 27600/37600) For course description, see Psychology. *D. McNeill. Winter.*

29100/39100. Survey of Industrial Linguistics. This course introduces computer science students to concepts of linguistics and linguistics students to basic approaches in language processing, so that the unique problems involved in processing natural human language and speech can be better grasped in relation to software development. *J. Goldsmith. Winter.*

29700. Reading and Research Course. *PQ: Consent of instructor and undergraduate adviser. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Staff. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

29900. B.A. Paper Preparation Course. *PQ: Consent of instructor and undergraduate adviser. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Staff. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

Indo-European Linguistics (INDO)

20100/30100. Introduction to Indo-European Linguistics. *PQ: Knowledge of at least one older Indo-European language.* Fundamental principles of comparison and historical reconstruction based on Indo-European data. Survey of older attested languages and evidence from the subgroups of Indo-European. Sketch of correspondences, pertinent rules, and resultant reconstructed structures. *B. Darden. Autumn.*

Languages in Linguistics (LGLN)

20100-20200-20300/30100-30200-30300. Introductory Modern Hebrew I, II, III. (=HEBR 10501-10502-10503, JWSC 25000-25100-25200, JWSG 35000-35100-35200) For course description, see Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (Hebrew). *A. Finkelstein. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

20400-20500-20600/30400-30500-30600. Intermediate Modern Hebrew I, II, III. (=HEBR 20501-20502-20503, JWSC 25300-25400-25500, JWSG 35300-35400-35500) *PQ: LGLN 20300 or equivalent.* For course description, see Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (Hebrew). *A. Finkelstein. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

22900-23000-23100/32900-33000-33100. Advanced Modern Hebrew I, II, III. (=HEBR 30501-30502-30503, JWSC 25600-25700-25800, JWSG 35600-35700-35800) *PQ: LGLN 20600 or equivalent.* For course description, see Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (Hebrew). *A. Finkelstein. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

25100/35100. Old Church Slavonic. (=SLAV 22000/32000) *PQ: Knowledge of another Slavic language or good knowledge of one or two other old Indo-European languages.* For course description, see Slavic Languages and Literatures (General Slavic). *V. Friedman. Winter.*

27800/37800. Romani Language and Linguistics. (=ANTH 27700/47900, EEUR 21000/31000) An introduction to the language of the Roms

(Gypsies). The course is based on the Arli dialect currently in official use in the Republic of Macedonia, but due attention is given to other dialects of Europe and the United States. The course begins with an introduction to Romani linguistic history followed by an outline of Romani grammar based on Macedonian Arli. This serves as the basis of comparison with other dialects. The course includes readings of authentic texts and discussion of questions of grammar, standardization, and Romani language in society. *V. Friedman. Spring.*

36000. Structure of Russian Phonology. *B. Darden. Winter.*

36400. History of Russian Phonology. *B. Darden. Autumn.*

37900. Introduction to Comparative Semitics. (=NELG 20301) *PQ: One year of a Semitic language or LING 21300/31300.* Examination of the lexical, phonological, and morphological traits shared by the members of the Semitic language family, and exploration of the historical relationships among these languages and the possibility of reconstructing features of the parent speech community. *G. Gragg. Autumn.*

American Sign Language

10100-10200-10300. American Sign Language I, II, III. *PQ: Consent of instructor.* American Sign Language is the language of the Deaf in the United States and much of Canada. It is a full-fledged autonomous language, unrelated to English or other spoken languages. This introductory course teaches the student basic vocabulary and grammatical structure, as well as aspects of Deaf culture. *D. Ronchen. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

10400-10500-10600. Intermediate American Sign Language I, II, III. *PQ: LGLN 10300.* In this course we continue to increase grammatical structure, receptive and expressive skills, conversational skills, basic linguistic convergence, and knowledge of idioms. *Field trip required.* *D. Ronchen. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

Swahili

25200-25300-25400/35200-35300-35400. Swahili I, II, III. This course is designed to help students acquire communicative competence in Swahili and a basic understanding of its structures. Through a variety of exercises, the students develop both oral and writing skills. *Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

26800-26900-27000/36800-36900-37000. Intermediate Swahili I, II, III. *Autumn, Winter, Spring.*