

# Linguistics

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## Program of Study

The purpose of the B.A. program in linguistics is to provide a solid, integrated introduction to the scientific study of language through course work in the core subdisciplines of linguistics, as well as to ensure that the student has a language background sufficient to provide a complement to the theoretical parts of the program and for an understanding of the complexities of human language. This program provides students with a general expertise in the field and prepares them for productive advanced study in linguistics.

Students majoring in other fields of study may also complete a minor in linguistics. Information follows the description of the major.

## Program Requirements

The B.A. in linguistics requires thirteen courses. These courses fall into two categories: departmental courses in linguistics and language requirements. The following departmental courses must be taken by all linguistics majors: (1) Introduction to Linguistics (LING 20100-20200-20300), often taken during the second year; and (2) four linguistics core courses: Syntax I (LING 20400), Phonetics (LING 20600), Phonology I (LING 20800), and one of either Pragmatics (20710) or Semantics I (LING 22050). The four core courses are often divided between the third and fourth years.

The language requirement is designed to ensure breadth of study in a non-Indo-European language. This requirement can be met in four different ways: (1) registration in a three-quarter course in a non-Indo-European language on campus; (2) examination credit in a non-Indo-European language for which the University offers placement examinations; (3) registration for an intensive one-quarter course in the structure of a non-Indo-European language offered by a member of the linguistics faculty (or by another faculty member upon approval by the linguistics undergraduate adviser); or (4) completion of an approved intensive language program taken elsewhere for languages not offered or tested for at the University of Chicago. Students who fulfill the language requirement with fewer than three quarters must substitute elective courses offered in linguistics for the language course quarters not taken.

The first three electives for the major must be courses offered by the department. For any further electives, a student may petition the department to substitute a related course in another department. In no case can a total of fewer than thirteen quarters of study fulfill the requirements for the B.A.

NOTE: Students who entered the University prior to Autumn 2004 may choose to fulfill either the requirements for the major as stated here or those that were in place when they entered the University.

### Summary of Requirements

3	LING 20100-20200-20300 (introductory courses)
4	LING 20400, 20600, 20800, and either 20700 or 22050 (core courses)
0-3	courses in a non-Indo-European language*
3-6	linguistics concentration electives, depending on how the language requirement is satisfied**
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\* *Credit may be granted by examination. When the language requirement is met by examination, three electives in linguistics must be substituted.*

\*\* *At least three courses must be taken in the linguistics department. With prior approval of the linguistics undergraduate adviser, up to three of the remaining electives may be taken in other departments.*

**Honors.** In order to receive the degree in linguistics with honors, a student must write an honors essay. At the end of a student's third year, any student who has maintained a 3.0 or better grade point average and a 3.5 or better grade point average in linguistics courses may consult with the linguistics undergraduate adviser about submitting an honors essay. The honors essay must be submitted by fifth week of the quarter in which the student plans to graduate.

This program may accept a B.A. paper or project used to satisfy the same requirement in another major if certain conditions are met and with the consent of the other program chair. Approval from both program chairs is required. Students should consult with the chairs by the earliest B.A. proposal deadline (or by the end of their third year, if neither program publishes a deadline). A consent form, to be signed by both chairs, is available from the College adviser. It must be completed and returned to the College adviser by the end of Autumn Quarter of the student's year of graduation.

**Grading.** Students majoring or minoring in linguistics take requirements for the program for quality grades. With consent of the instructor, other students have the option of taking linguistics courses on a *P/F* basis.

## Minor Program in Linguistics

Students in other fields of study may complete a minor in linguistics. The minor in linguistics requires a total of seven courses: the three courses in the introductory sequence (LING 20100-20200-20300) and any four additional courses in linguistics.

Students who elect the minor program in linguistics must meet with the linguistics undergraduate adviser before the end of Spring Quarter of their third year to declare their intention to complete the minor. The adviser's approval for the minor program should be submitted to a student's College adviser by the deadline above on a form obtained from the College adviser. Courses in the minor (1) may not be double counted with the student's major(s) or with other minors and (2) may not be counted toward general education requirements. Courses in the minor must be taken for quality grades, and more than half of the requirements for the minor must be met by registering for courses bearing University of Chicago course numbers.

## Faculty

A. Dahlstrom, B. Darden, V. Friedman, S. Gal, A. Giannakidou, J. Goldsmith, C. Kennedy, J. Merchant, S. Mufwene, J. Riggle, J. Sadock, M. Silverstein, A. Yu

## Courses: American Sign Language (ASLG)

**10100-10200-10300. American Sign Language I, II, III.** 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.*

## Courses: Languages in Linguistics (LGLN)

**11100. Accelerated Elementary Modern Greek I.** (=MOGK 11100/30100)  
For course description, see Classical Studies (Modern Greek). *Autumn.*

**11200. Accelerated Elementary Modern Greek II.** (=MOGK 11200/30200)  
For course description, see Classical Studies (Modern Greek). *Winter.*

**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 required; SLAV 20100/30100 recommended.* For course description, see Slavic Languages and Literatures (General Slavic). *V. Friedman. Winter.*

**26500/36500. Structure of Lak.** (=SLAV 24600/34600) *PQ: Basic knowledge of linguistics required; knowledge of Russian recommended.* For course description, see Slavic Languages and Literatures (East European). *V. Friedman. Spring, 2007.*

**27800/37800. Romani Language and Linguistics.** (=ANTH 27700/47900, EEUR 21000/31000) For course description, see Slavic Languages and Literatures (East European). *V. Friedman. Spring, 2008.*

## Courses: Linguistics (LING)

**11000. Biological and Cultural Evolution.** (=BIOS 29286, BPRO 23900, CHSS 37900, HIPS 23900, PHIL 22500/32500) *PQ: Third- or fourth-year standing or consent of instructor. Core background in evolution and genetics strongly recommended.* For course description, see Big Problems. *W. Wimsatt, S. Mufivene. Offered 2007-08; not offered 2006-07.*

**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. *A. Dahlstrom, Autumn; J. Riggle, Winter; M. Silverstein, Spring.*

**20150/30150. Language and Communication.** This course can be taken as a complement to the Introduction to Linguistics sequence or as an alternative

to it by nonmajors. Topics include: What is the position of spoken language in the usually multimodal forms of communication among humans? In what ways does spoken language differ from signed language? What features make spoken and signed language linguistic? What features distinguish linguistic means of communication from animal communication? How do humans communicate with animals? From an evolutionary point of view, how can we account for the fact that spoken language is the dominant mode of communication in all human communities around the world? What factors bring about language evolution? *S. Mufwene. Winter, 2007.*

**20400/30400. Syntax I.** *PQ: LING 20100-20200-20300/30100-30200-30300 or equivalent.* This course introduces 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. *C. Kennedy. Autumn.*

**20500/30500. Syntax II.** *PQ: LING 20400/30400 or consent of instructor.* This course is a continuation of LING 20400/30400. Topics include wh-movement in questions, relative clauses, clefts, and comparatives. We also cover islands, crossover, parasitic gaps, superiority, resumptivity, wh-in-situ, multiple wh-fronting, reconstruction, and anaphora, as well as understanding their properties and distribution cross-linguistically. *J. Merchant. Winter.*

**20550/30550. Syntax III.** *PQ: LING 20500/30500 or consent of instructor.* This course is a continuation of LING 20400-20500, with special emphasis on issues of the morphology-syntax interface. *A. Dahlstrom. Spring.*

**20600/30600. Phonetics.** *PQ: LING 20100-20200-20300/30100-30200-30300 or consent of instructor.* This course 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. *J. Riggle. Autumn.*

**20700/30700. Pragmatics.** This course is an introduction to the pragmatics of natural language and its relation to basic semantic and syntactic theory. Topics include speech acts, implicature, presupposition, and the incrementation of context. *J. Sadock. Autumn.*

**20800/30800. Phonology I.** *PQ: LING 20100-20200-20300/30100-30200-30300 or 20600/30600, or equivalent.* This course is an introduction to the general principles of phonology as a discipline. The emphasis is on fundamental notions that have always been central to phonological analysis and that transcend differences between theoretical approaches: contrast, neutralization, natural classes, distinctive features, and basic phonological processes (e.g., assimilation). We focus on generative phonology, both "classical" and autosegmental models, with brief discussion of optimality theory. *J. Riggle. Winter.*

**20900/30900. Phonology II.** *PQ: LING 20800/30800.* This course deals with the interfaces between phonology, morphology, and phonetics. Specific topics vary, but in general we cover issues in prosodic morphology and optimality theory. *A. Yu. Spring.*

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

**21300/31300. Historical Linguistics.** *PQ: LING 20600/30600 or 20800/30800, or consent of instructor.* This course deals with the issue of variation and change in language. Topics include types, rates, and explanations of change; the differentiation of dialects and languages over time; determination and classification of historical relationships among languages, and reconstruction of ancestral stages; parallels with cultural and genetic evolutionary theory; and implications for the description and explanation of language in general. *A. Yu. Spring.*

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

**21700/31700. Experimental Phonetics and Phonology.** *PQ: LING 20600/30600 or consent of instructor.* This course provides students with hands-on experience in learning methods in experimental phonetic research, including the acoustic analysis and synthesis of speech, recording and interpreting aerodynamic parameters during speech (air flow, air pressure), and recording place of articulation information using palatography. The design of perception tests and reaction time tests is also covered, along with simple statistics and methods of presenting results graphically. The course is suitable for students planning future research and study in phonetics and phonology, especially in linguistics but also in speech technology and communication disorders. *Winter.*

**22050/32050. Semantics I.** This course is an introduction to natural language semantics and to formal, model-theoretic approaches to aspects of truth-conditional meaning. Topics include quantification, modality, polarity, tense and aspect, event structure, and the semantics of noun phrases. Tools from classical logic (propositional and predicate logic; type theory) are covered. Further topics include non-truth-conditional aspects of meaning, such as presupposition and implicature. *C. Kennedy. Autumn.*

**22100/32100. Semantics II.** *PQ: LING 22050/32050.* This course is a continuation of LING 22050/32050 with emphasis on the interfaces with syntax and pragmatics. Topics include temporal and aspectual operators in an event semantics with times, as well as type-shifting, partitivity, and crosslinguistic variation in NP-quantification. We also discuss negative polarity, scalarity,

and free choice phenomena with modality, as well as scope, indefinites, choice functions, and the semantics of questions. *A. Giannakidou. Winter.*

**23900/33900. Languages of the World.** This course is 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, language and population distribution, *sprachbund* effects, sound and structural features of the world's languages, and writing systems. *Winter.*

**24001/34001. Meaning.** (=PHIL 24001/34001) For course description, see Philosophy. *J. Stern. Autumn, 2006.*

**24500/34500. Dialect Voices in Literature.** (=AFAM 24500, CRPC 24500, ENGL 14600/34600) In this course, we use linguistic techniques to analyze literary texts, especially to assess how adequately and successfully dialect is represented, whether it matches the characters and cultural contexts in which it is used, and what effects it produces. Authors may include Toni Morrison, Zora Neale Hurston, Mark Twain, William Faulkner, and Richard Wright. *S. Mufwene. Autumn, 2008.*

**26700/36700. Human Being, Language, and Mind: An Introduction to Cognitive Linguistics.** (=SLAV 21700/31700) For course description, see Slavic Languages and Literatures (General Slavic). *S. Clancy. 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) For course description, see Slavic Languages and Literatures (General Slavic). *V. Friedman. Winter.*

**27500/37500. Language and Globalization.** (=ANTH 27705/47905, BPRO 24500, CRPC 27500/37500) For course description, see Big Problems. *S. Mufwene, W. Wimsatt. Winter, 2007.*

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

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

### Courses: Swahili (SWAH)

**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, students develop both oral and writing skills. *Autumn, Winter, Spring.*