

Linguistics (LIN)

LIN 306 Introduction to the Study of Language 3 Hours

Survey of major areas of linguistics: sound systems, grammatical structures, historical development of languages, language families and linguistic universals, dialect differences and their social significance.

LIN 312 Topics in Interdisciplinary Approaches to Language 3 Hours

An interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary introduction to the manifold aspects of language.

LIN 312C Culture and Communication 3 Hours

An introduction to the study of culture through communication and the theory of signs.

LIN 312D Languages around the World 3 Hours

Explores the language families of the world. Considers such questions as: what does it mean for languages to be related, and how do we know that they are related in the first place; why are there only a handful of language families in Europe and Africa while there are scores in South America and New Guinea; What can we say about where a language or language family may have originated; and how much living history is being lost as languages become endangered or extinct when people stop speaking them?

LIN 312E Language of Sign and Gesture 3 Hours

Explores how language, a faculty that arises in the brain, is expressed by the body, both for spoken languages (via the vocal tract) and for signed languages (via the hands and face). Also includes an examination of how language, a special cognitive faculty unique to humans, intersects and overlaps with other communication systems, with a focus on gesture, the nonlinguistic communicative systems used by humans and some nonhuman species.

LIN 313 Language and Computers 3 Hours

Examine a conceptual, non-programming overview of how computers learn, understand, and generate human language, including text encoding, machine learning, language modeling, and text generation. Study what makes human language difficult for computers, how these challenges are overcome, and implications for society. Engage in quantitative reasoning; technical background not required.

LIN 315 Speech Science 3 Hours

Neurophysiological mechanisms underlying the encoding and decoding of speech.

LIN 119S, 219S, 319S, 419S, 519S, 619S, 719S, 819S, 919S Topics in Linguistics 1-9 Hours

This course is used to record credit the student earns while enrolled at another institution in a program administered by the University's Study Abroad Office. Credit is recorded as assigned by the study abroad adviser in the Department of Linguistics. University credit is awarded for work in an exchange program; it may be counted as coursework taken in residence. Transfer credit is awarded for work in an affiliated studies program.

LIN 321L American English 3 Hours

An overview of the historical development of English in the Americas. Attention to regional, social, and ethnic differences, and their implications for public education.

LIN 323L English as a World Language 3 Hours

An account of the spread of English around the world; national, social, and regional varieties.

LIN 129S, 229S, 329S, 429S, 529S, 629S, 729S, 829S, 929S Topics in Linguistics 1-9 Hours

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LIN 344K Phonetics: The Production and Perception of Speech Sounds 3 Hours

Articulation and transcription of speech sounds; distinctive feature systems; physiological and acoustical aspects of phonetics; common phonological processes.

LIN 345 Language Change and Language Variation 3 Hours

Introduction to the study of how languages change and the principles developed by linguists to account for these changes. Investigation of the various domains in which change occurs, and the social and linguistic motivations for change. Examines the methods linguists use to determine the earlier profile of a language or its parent language, before identified changes occurred.

LIN 346 Exploring Accents 3 Hours

Explores how different speakers of the same language differ in their pronunciation, according to regional and social groupings. Acoustic analysis of English speakers will provide the basis of an inquiry into how and why accents differ.

LIN 350 Special Topics in the Study of Language 3 Hours

Nontechnical examination of social, educational, and political problems to which current linguistic knowledge is relevant.

LIN 350.10 How to Describe a Language 3 Hours

Practical introduction to language documentation and preservation. Subjects include language diversity and practical methods for describing, documenting, and preserving languages, with an emphasis on the phonological and morphological analysis of restricted data sets, as well as the role of linguists in conjunction with communities of speakers who wish to document or revitalize their languages.

LIN 350.11 Speech Intelligibility 3 Hours

An overview of the main empirical findings on talker-, listener-, and signal-related factors that shape speech intelligibility, the degree to which spoken language can be comprehended. Explores how signal-related (physical), peripheral (auditory-perceptual), and system-related (mental) factors condition variation in both the production and perception of intelligible speech. Also examines how variation in intelligibility conditions different levels of spoken language processing and different tasks that the listener is performing during spoken language comprehension.

LIN 350.12 Analyzing Text Data: A Statistics Toolkit for Linguists 3 Hours

Introduction to statistical concepts and analyses via language problems and linguistic data sets.

LIN 350.15 Computational Semantics 3 Hours

Studies methods for automatically learning and analyzing word meanings and sentence meanings. Encompasses vector space models as well as logic-based semantics.

LIN 350.4 Language and People 3 Hours

Areas in language and linguistics that most directly impact people, such as language and ethnicity, language and nation-building, and language politics.

LIN 350.6 Indigenous Languages of the Americas 3 Hours

Examines various aspects of languages in the Americas, including their linguistic structures, the cultural domains in which they exist, and their histories of language contact and change.

LIN 350C Language and the Brain 3 Hours

Explore the neuroanatomical and functional operations of the major brain structures that underlie speech/language. Examine hemispheric dominance for language, neurological and language breakdowns in aphasia, and brain imaging methods and studies of language representation.

LIN 350E Why Chinese Has No Alphabet 3 Hours

Introduction to the history and evolution of the Chinese writing system and language. No background in Chinese language, culture, or linguistics is required.

LIN 350G The Politics of Insult 3 Hours

Examine how linguistic practices of (im)politeness and verbal aggression shape—and are shaped by—social hierarchies, cultural contexts, and political dynamics across different contexts, from liberal to anti-liberal. Analyze how seemingly neutral concepts of "civility" and appropriate speech" often mask power relations while exploring how taboo language, conflict talk, and transgressive communication can both challenge and reinforce existing social orders.

LIN 350S Word Meaning 3 Hours

LIN 351 Language and Identity 3 Hours

Investigate the central importance of language to the formation of people's regional, social class, gender, ethnic, and age identities through psycholinguistics, cognitive psychology, sociophonetics, and popular media sources. Examine how socially driven spoken language variation is created and how it is perceived.

LIN 351C A Linguistic History of India 3 Hours

Explore the richly documented linguistic and literary history of languages in the Indian subcontinent, paying attention to linguistic phenomena, contact effects, and language-based movements.

LIN 351D Language, Culture, and the Texas German Experience 3 Hours

The evolution of the culture and language of German immigrants to Texas from the 1840s through the present and how they have influenced other ethnic groups in Texas.

LIN 351E Language and Thought 3 Hours

Study the relation between language and thought, using a cognitive science approach. Examine the words people use and how people think; whether language structure affects thought; and some cognitive aspects of language.

LIN 351F Native American Verbal Art 3 Hours

Examine the verbal artistic traditions such as jokes, story-telling, song, chant, poetry, etc., of Native American peoples.

LIN 351G Bilingual Language Acquisition 3 Hours

Examine various aspects of bilingual first language acquisition including phonology, morphology, and syntax, as well as the child's use of his/her languages.

LIN 351I Linguistics of Writing 3 Hours

Discuss how language relates to the written word and how linguistic analysis is intertwined with writing. Examine the typology and evolution of writing systems, the psycholinguistics of reading and writing, and the role of writing in contemporary language politics.

LIN 351P Language, Cognition, and Rhythm 3 Hours

Explore connections between language and various musical forms, and what the psychological basis for these connections might be.

LIN 353C Introduction to Computational Linguistics 3 Hours

Introduction to key representations and algorithms used in computational linguistics and key natural language processing applications.

LIN 353D Computational Discourse and Natural Language Generation 3 Hours

Introduction to machine learning models for discourse processing and text generation. Explore open issues in NLG, including evaluation, ethics, and factuality.

LIN 353N Natural Language Processing 3 Hours

Introduces theoretical and applied topics relating to natural language processing, including machine translation, search, automatic summarization, and dialog systems.

LIN 353S English Syntax for Writing 3 Hours

LIN 355 Sign Languages and Signing Communities 3 Hours

Examine the grammar of signed languages, their use in signing communities, and the acquisition of signed languages as first languages. No knowledge of American Sign Language is required. Conducted in English.

LIN 357 Undergraduate Research 3 Hours

Supervised research experience.

LIN 358Q Supervised Research 3 Hours

Supervised student-initiated research.

LIN 360K Introduction to English Grammar 3 Hours

Introduction to the study of the syntactic structure of modern English from the viewpoint of generative grammar.

LIN 364 Introduction to Psycholinguistics 3 Hours

LIN 364M History of the English Language 3 Hours

Development of sounds, forms, and vocabulary of the English language from its origins to the present.

LIN 365 Bias 3 Hours

An interdisciplinary introduction to bias from the perspectives of psychology, political science, business, philosophy, and linguistics.

LIN 371 Machine Learning for Text Analysis 3 Hours

Examine basic machine learning methods, with an emphasis on building applications that intelligently analyze text. Explore supervised learning (e.g., logistic regression, neural networks), unsupervised learning (e.g., clustering), and natural language processing.

LIN 372J Meaning and Message 3 Hours

Explore theories of linguistic meaning using logical and mathematical tools. Introduction to key ideas from compositional and lexical semantics.

LIN 372K Sound Patterns: From Sound to Word 3 Hours

Methods and principles of analyzing the sound systems of languages.

LIN 372S Syntax: From Word to Utterance 3 Hours

Discuss the methods and principles of describing the syntactic systems of languages.

LIN 373C Child Language 3 Hours

Examine theory and research concerning the development of language in children.

LIN 373D African American Language 3 Hours

Introduction to the history and contemporary form of African American Language (AAL). Through readings, examine the linguistic description of essential features, the use of AAL in the creation of culturally and historically influential texts, and AAL as a subject of public discussion.

LIN 373E Endangered Languages 3 Hours
Examine language rights as a tool for defending small-scale and minority language communities against the spread of national and global languages.

LIN 373F Historical Perspectives on the German Language 3 Hours

LIN 373I Building Blocks of Modern German 3 Hours

LIN 373L American Indian Languages and Cultures 3 Hours
Explore the myriad of indigenous languages of North America and how they are intertwined with culture.

LIN 373P Introduction to Cognitive Science 3 Hours

LIN 373S Speech Play and Verbal Art 3 Hours
Examine speech play and verbal art (from puns to lies to songs to stories to poetry) from ethnographic and linguistic perspectives in a host of contexts and languages.

LIN 374M Sociolinguistics 3 Hours
Explore current interests in sociolinguistic research literature. Examine language and gender; social, regional, and ethnic dialects of American English; language use in African American communities; language and identity in a pluralistic society; and language, literacy, and education.

LIN 377 Syntactic Theory 3 Hours
Introduction to formal syntax, which refers to the use of a mathematically precise formalism to model the syntax of human languages and test theories against the challenge of new data. Hands-on solving of syntax puzzles of increasing complexity.

LIN 379 Conference Course in Linguistics 3 Hours
Supervised individual study of selected problems in linguistics.

LIN 679H Honors Tutorial Course 6 Hours
Supervised individual reading for one semester, followed by research and writing to produce a substantial paper.

LIN 679HA Honors Tutorial Course 3 Hours
Supervised individual reading for one semester, followed by research and writing to produce a substantial paper.

LIN 679HB Honors Tutorial Course 3 Hours
Supervised individual reading for one semester, followed by research and writing to produce a substantial paper.

LIN 380K Phonology I 3 Hours
The descriptive techniques of generative phonology.

LIN 380L Syntax I 3 Hours
An introduction to the description and analysis of syntax.

LIN 380M Semantics I 3 Hours
An introduction to formal semantics and pragmatics, and the logical techniques needed to analyze them.

LIN 380S Sociolinguistics 3 Hours
An introduction to sociolinguistic research, with attention to theoretical issues.

LIN 381K Phonology II 3 Hours
Readings and problems in current phonological theory.

LIN 381L Syntax II 3 Hours
Advanced description and analysis of syntax.

LIN 381M Phonetics 3 Hours
Speech production and perception; acoustic phonetics; phonetics and phonology; experimental techniques.

LIN 381S Semantics II 3 Hours
Continuation of Linguistics 380M. Descriptive methods and theoretical tools for investigating meaning in human languages; an introduction to propositional content and speech acts.

LIN 382 Historical Linguistics 3 Hours
The principles of language change, reconstruction of earlier linguistic stages, language contact, and language relatedness.

LIN 383 Topics in Comparative and Diachronic Linguistics 3 Hours
The comparative method; applications to particular linguistic families.

LIN 383.11 Comparative Semitic Linguistics 3 Hours
Examine the Semitic languages and review the basic features of their phonology, morphology, and syntax.

LIN 383.3 Introduction to Romance Linguistics 3 Hours

LIN 383.6 History of the Arabic Language 3 Hours

LIN 383.8 Introduction to Diachronic Linguistics: Germanic 3 Hours

LIN 384 Topics in Language Structures 3 Hours
Languages studied have included Chatino, German, Mayan, Romance languages, and others.

LIN 384.4 German Syntax 3 Hours

LIN 385 Field Methods in Linguistic Investigation 3 Hours
Methods of research in phonological and grammatical description; work with speakers of under-described languages.

LIN 386M Topics in Mathematical and Computational Linguistics 3 Hours

LIN 386M.2 Computational Linguistics I 3 Hours

LIN 386M.3 Computational Linguistics II 3 Hours

LIN 386M.4 Computational Linguistics III: Advanced Parsing 3 Hours

LIN 387 Linguistics and Language Teaching 3 Hours
Application of the findings of linguistics to the teaching of languages.

LIN 389C Research in Computational Linguistics 3 Hours

LIN 389D Research in Documentary and Descriptive Linguistics 3 Hours

LIN 389P Research in Phonetics and Phonology 3 Hours

LIN 389S Research in Syntax and Semantics 3 Hours

LIN 389V Research in Signed Languages 3 Hours

LIN 391 Topics in Descriptive Linguistics 3 Hours

LIN 391.2 Studies in English Grammar 3 Hours

LIN 392 Topics in Current Linguistic Research 3 Hours
A reading course in a selected area of linguistics.

LIN 392.1 Introduction to Cognitive Science 3 Hours

LIN 392.2 Tools for Linguistic Description 3 Hours
Basic tools for analyzing and describing a language through linguistic fieldwork, including phonetic transcription, the discovery and presentation of surface phonology, morphophonology, inflectional morphology, derivational morphology, grammatical categories, and syntax.

LIN 392.3 Linguistic Typology 3 Hours
An introduction to the typological study of language: the investigation into the nature of human language, as informed by systematic cross-linguistic comparison.

LIN 393 Seminar in Linguistic Topics 3 Hours

LIN 393.10 Metaphor Across Cultures, Genres, and Time 3 Hours
Explore how and why metaphors vary both across and within cultures, across different genres, and through time.

LIN 393.4 Neurolinguistics 3 Hours

LIN 393.6 Speech Play and Verbal Art 3 Hours

LIN 393.8 Linguistics of Signed Languages 3 Hours

LIN 393.9 Language Contact 3 Hours

Examine the phenomenon of language contact from both structural and sociocultural angles. Investigate processes and patterns involved in lexical and structural borrowing, formation of new contact varieties such as creoles and mixed languages, role of contact in driving and shaping language change, and dynamics of specific contact zones. Explore the role of discourse strategies and norms, bilingualism, code-switching, and particular sociocultural practices in determining the nature of the contact that takes place and its effects on the languages involved.

LIN 393C Language Acquisition 3 Hours

LIN 393P Topics in Phonology and Phonetics 3 Hours

LIN 393S Topics in Syntax and Semantics 3 Hours

LIN 393S.3 Frame Semantics 3 Hours

Explore theories and applications frame semantics within linguistics.

LIN 393S.4 Lexical Semantics 3 Hours

Explore theories of word meaning, including what the basic elements of word meaning are, how those elements are composed into more complex meanings, and what kinds of grammatical processes augment and modify word meanings. Examine the nature of lexical categories, representations of events and individuals, and how a word's meaning is related to its syntactic and morphological properties.

LIN 393S.5 Lexical Semantic Typology 3 Hours

Examine the way word meanings and their grammatical behavior vary across languages. Examine specific case studies to explore how the same types of word meanings can be represented differently across languages and how the principles that relate word meaning to grammar also vary, focusing on argument realization, morphological processes of word building, and lexical inventories.

LIN 393S.6 Minimalist Program 3 Hours

Investigate work within the minimalist program, the current instantiation of the principles and parameters approach to the study of the human language faculty. Examine the development of the minimalist program, including a critical overview of its key concepts and the basic properties of its formal framework. Explore several case studies drawn from very recent work within this tradition that are illustrative of the nature of the approach.

LIN 393S.7 Word Meaning and Syntax 3 Hours

Investigate the interface between word meaning and syntax beginning with an overview of polysemy, vagueness, prototypes, semantic change and the acquisition of word meaning. Explore the mapping from the lexicon to the syntax, focusing on predicate-argument mapping, argument alternations, and lexicalization patterns.

LIN 394K Philosophy of Language 3 Hours

LIN 395 Conference Course in Linguistics 3 Hours

Supervised research.

LIN 396 Topics in Sociolinguistics 3 Hours

Detailed investigation of an area of current interest in sociolinguistics. Most topics provide an opportunity for field research.

LIN 396.2 Introduction to Graduate Linguistic Anthropology 3 Hours

LIN 396.3 Ethnography of Speaking 3 Hours

LIN 396.4 Turkic Cultures and Languages in Central Asia 3 Hours

LIN 396.7 Grammar of the Arabic Language 3 Hours

LIN 397 Forum for Doctoral Candidates 3 Hours

LIN 698 Thesis 6 Hours

LIN 398R Master's Report 3 Hours

Preparation of a report to fulfill the requirement for the master's degree under the report option.

LIN 398T Supervised Teaching in Linguistics 3 Hours

Teaching under the close supervision of the course instructor; weekly group meetings with instructor, individual consultations, and reports throughout the teaching period.

LIN 399W, 699W, 999W Dissertation 3,6,9 Hours