

Linguistics

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Linguistics is the scientific study of human language. It seeks to understand and explain the properties of language in a clear and formal manner. Linguists document understudied and endangered languages, explore the consequences of language contact, measure language variation and change, investigate the structure of language, and analyze the construction of meaning.

Some of the main subfields of linguistics are phonetics (the physical properties of sounds), phonology (the grammar of sounds), morphology (the structure of words), syntax (the organization of phrases and sentences), semantics (meaning), and sociolinguistics (the interaction of language and society).

A Bachelor of Arts with a major in linguistics is available (with an honors option) as is a linguistics minor, both involving coursework in the various subfields.

The study of linguistics prepares students for careers which utilize insight into the workings of language including language instruction, translation and interpreting, speech pathology, anthropology, the reconstruction of prehistory, and computational fields related to the interaction of language and technology. Academic careers of linguistic research and teaching are also possible after further training at the graduate level.

In addition, a major in linguistics offers students a liberal education and develops verbal and analytical skills that are valuable in a variety of less directly related careers such as journalism, literary study, and the law.

The linguistics program is staffed by faculty from a number of MU departments. Supporting course work is offered in Communication, Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences, the College of Education and Human Development, English, Psychology, Philosophy, and the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures.

Although specialists in the field commonly know two or more languages, such knowledge is complementary rather than essential.

Faculty

Professors D. Fritz*, M. Gordon**

Associate Professors A. Alcazar**, R. Grollemund**, C. Horisk**, T. Kazic*, J. Kramer**, M. Marlo**, R. Pinnow**, A. Radulescu*

Assistant Professors R. Botezatu**, N. Smith**

Emeritus Faculty N. L. Furbee*, J. Goodman*, P. Weirich*, G. Youmans*, J. Zemke*

* Graduate Faculty Member - membership is required to teach graduate-level courses, chair master's thesis committees, and serve on doctoral examination and dissertation committees.

** Doctoral Faculty Member - membership is required to chair doctoral examination or dissertation committees. Graduate faculty membership is a prerequisite for Doctoral faculty membership.

Undergraduate

- BA in Linguistics (<https://catalog.missouri.edu/collegeofartsandscience/linguistics/ba-linguistics/>)
- Minor in Linguistics (<https://catalog.missouri.edu/collegeofartsandscience/linguistics/minor-linguistics/>)

Departmental Honors

A student wishing to graduate with honors in Linguistics must earn a 3.3 GPA in all courses and complete all the requirements for the BA in Linguistics. In addition, with the assistance of their honors thesis advisor, the student must develop, plan and conduct research on an independent project, normally while enrolled in LINGST 4991. A committee consisting of the thesis advisor and a second reader, to be selected by the advisor and the program director, will examine the student on the resulting thesis of 25-40 pages in an oral exam held no later than the thirteenth week of the term during which the student expects to graduate. The second reader will be provided with a copy of the thesis at least two weeks before the examination. After completing any revisions that the exam committee recommends, the student will submit a final version of the thesis for linguistics program records and will then be recommended to the College of Arts and Science for a BA with Honors in Linguistics.

Graduate

- Graduate Minor in Linguistics (<https://catalog.missouri.edu/collegeofartsandscience/linguistics/grad-minor-linguistics/>)

Interdepartmental Program in the College of Arts and Science
335 Tate Hall
(573) 882-6421

Director of Linguistics: Matthew Gordon

A graduate minor in linguistics consists of at least 12 hours including two electives and two required courses: LINGST 7630 Phonology and LINGST 7640 Syntax. Electives are to be drawn from our list of upper level linguistics classes (see <http://linguistics.missouri.edu/courses.html>).

Graduate degrees in linguistics are not offered but MA and PhD programs that emphasize language and linguistics are available in some cooperating units such as Anthropology, Communication, English, Philosophy, and the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures.

The linguistics area program is staffed by faculty from various departments (see below). Supporting course work may be drawn from a range of units including Anthropology, Black Studies, Classical Studies, Communication, the College of Education and Human Development, English, Psychology, Philosophy, the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, and Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences.

Financial aid, when available, is arranged through the participating departments.

Cooperating Graduate Degree Programs

Anthropology (<https://catalog.missouri.edu/collegeofartsandscience/anthropology/#graduatetext>)

Interested Anthropology and other graduate students may minor in Linguistics. Linguistics is a integral component of ethnographic research.

Communication (<https://catalog.missouri.edu/collegeofartsandscience/communication/#graduatetext>)

In the Department of Communication, students learn to apply the study of communication to their professional and personal lives. Students may receive a MA, or PhD through this department.

Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences (<https://catalog.missouri.edu/collegeofhealthsciences/speechlanguagehearingsciences/#graduatetext>)

The discipline of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences encompasses the distinct but related fields of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. Students may receive a MA, or PhD through this department.

English (<https://catalog.missouri.edu/collegeofartsandscience/english/#graduatetext>)

The English department offers MA and PhD degrees with opportunities to study in the area of English Language and Linguistics.

Philosophy (<https://catalog.missouri.edu/collegeofartsandscience/philosophy/#graduatetext>)

The Philosophy Department offers MA and PhD degrees with opportunities to study in the field of the philosophy of language.

Romance Languages and Literatures (<https://catalog.missouri.edu/collegeofartsandscience/romancelanguages/>)

The MA in Romance Languages with an emphasis on Language Teaching (MALT) is available from the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures.

LINGST 1060: Human Language

(same as ANTHRO 1060, SLHS 1060, ENGLISH 1060). General introduction to various aspects of linguistic study. Elementary analysis of language data, with some attention to application of linguistic study to other disciplines.

Credit Hours: 3

LINGST 2001: Topics in Linguistics-General

Organized study of selected topics. Subjects and earnable credit may vary from semester to semester.

Credit Hour: 1-99

Prerequisites: consent of chair

LINGST 2601: Languages of Africa

(same as BL_STU 2601, ENGLISH 2601). Introduction to the diversity of the 2000+ African languages, including first-hand experience exploring a few in detail with native speakers. Features of African languages are compared with others of the world. Political and social aspects of language in Africa are discussed.

Credit Hours: 3

LINGST 2700: Elementary Logic

(same as PHIL 2700). Introduces a symbolic language for representing the structure of arguments. Presents precise rules for demonstrating

the validity of arguments. Covers natural deduction for sentence and predicate logic. Develops skill in constructing derivations.

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: sophomore standing and grade of C or better in MATH 1050, MATH 1100, MATH 1160, MATH 1400, or MATH 1500

LINGST 2820: Minds, Brains, and Machines: An Introduction to Philosophy of Cognitive Science

(same as PSYCH 2820, PHIL 2820). Cognitive science is a many-splendored thing. It draws on a variety of disciplines, including psychology, neuroscience, computer science, linguistics, anthropology, and philosophy. The purpose of this course is to introduce the central questions of cognitive science, the conceptual and empirical tools used to investigate those questions, and some of the answers that have emerged so far. After an initial overview of the foundations of the cognitive-scientific enterprise as a whole, we will see what particular sectors of it have to say about mental capacities such as language, categorization, reasoning, social cognition, and consciousness.

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: Sophomore standing required

Recommended: PSYCH 1000

LINGST 3001: Topics in Linguistics-General

Organized study of selected topics. Subjects and earnable credit may vary from semester to semester.

Credit Hour: 1-99

Prerequisites: consent of chair

LINGST 3010: American Phonetics

(same as SLHS 3010). Analysis of production and acoustics of the sounds of speech with an emphasis on American English; practice in broad and narrow transcription using the International Phonetic Alphabet.

Credit Hours: 3

LINGST 3210: Anatomy and Physiology of the Speech Mechanism

(same as SLHS 3210). Introduction to anatomical and functional aspects of the speech mechanism.

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: Sophomore standing

LINGST 3220: Speech Acoustics

(same as SLHS 3220). An introduction to the acoustic aspects of speech as they relate to the respiratory, phonatory, resonatory, and articulatory systems.

Credit Hours: 3

LINGST 3470: Culture as Communication

(same as ANTHRO 3470, COMMUN 3470). Study of the influence of culture on communication processes. Examines topics such as the impact of values, worldviews, histories, and power in cultural identity development and intercultural interactions.

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: sophomore standing

LINGST 3620: Languages of the World

(same as ENGLISH 3620). Introduction to the diversity of the world's languages emphasizing historical relations and structural similarities and differences.

Credit Hours: 3

LINGST 3710: Survey of Minority and Creole Languages of the U.S. and the Caribbean

(same as SPAN 3710, FRENCH 3710). Analysis of the state of the minority languages of the U.S. and the Creole languages of the Caribbean with particular attention to the social status of these languages and speakers' attitudes toward them in context of ethnic, cultural, and national identity (taught in English).

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: sophomore standing

LINGST 3721: Spanish Phonetics

(same as SPAN 3721). Introductory course to the study of Spanish phonological, phonetic and spelling systems, practice of pronunciation, phonetic transcriptions, and introduction to the variation of Spanish pronunciation in the Hispanic world. The course is conducted in Spanish.

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: SPAN 2160

LINGST 4001: Topics in Linguistics-General

Organized study of selected topics. Subjects and earnable credit may vary from semester to semester.

Credit Hour: 1-99

Prerequisites: consent of chair

LINGST 4001H: Topics in Linguistics-General - Honors

Organized study of selected topics. Subjects and earnable credit may vary from semester to semester. Prerequisites: consent of chair; honors eligibility required,

Credit Hour: 1-99

LINGST 4001W: Topics in Linguistics-General - Writing Intensive

Organized study of selected topics. Subjects and earnable credit may vary from semester to semester.

Credit Hour: 1-99

Prerequisites: consent of chair

LINGST 4100: Language, Meaning, and Reality: An Introduction to Philosophy of Language

(same as PHIL 4100; cross-leveled with LINGST 7100, PHIL 7100). Examination of contemporary views of the relationship between language, minds, and the world.

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: Sophomore standing

Recommended: One other course in Philosophy

LINGST 4100W: Language, Meaning, and Reality: An Introduction to Philosophy of Language - Writing Intensive

(same as PHIL 4100W; cross-leveled with LINGST 7100, PHIL 7100). Examination of contemporary views of the relationship between language, minds, and the world.

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: Sophomore standing

Recommended: One other course in Philosophy

LINGST 4110: Advanced Logic

(same as PHIL 4110; cross-leveled with LINGST 7110, PHIL 7110). Presents the method of truth trees for sentence and predicate logic. Examines proofs concerning the decidability, soundness, and completeness of formal systems. Emphasizes the theory of formal systems.

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: sophomore standing and PHIL 2700; or instructor's consent

LINGST 4200: Introduction to Old English

(same as ENGLISH 4200; cross-leveled with ENGLISH 7200, LINGST 7200). A beginning study of the Old English language in its cultural and historical contexts, with emphasis on gaining a reading knowledge.

Credit Hours: 3

LINGST 4412: Gender, Language and Communication

(same as COMMUN 4412, ANTHRO 4412; cross-leveled with COMMUN 7412, ANTHRO 7412, LINGST 7412). Relationships among gender, language, nonverbal communication, and culture.

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: junior standing or departmental consent

LINGST 4420: Historical Linguistics

(same as ANTHRO 4420, ENGLISH 4660; cross-leveled with ANTHRO 7420, LINGST 7420, ENGLISH 7660). Methods of tracing the history of languages by glottochronology, and by comparative and internal reconstructions; cultural and linguistic implications of such reconstructions and of areal linguistics.

Credit Hours: 3

Recommended: junior/senior standing

LINGST 4420W: Historical Linguistics - Writing Intensive

(same as ANTHRO 4420W, ENGLISH 4660W; cross-leveled with ANTHRO 7420, LINGST 7420, ENGLISH 7660). Methods of tracing the history of languages by glottochronology, and by comparative and internal reconstructions; cultural and linguistic implications of such reconstructions and of areal linguistics.

Credit Hours: 3

Recommended: junior/senior standing

LINGST 4600: Structure of American English

(same as ENGLISH 4600; cross-leveled with ENGLISH 7600, LINGST 7600). Introduction to English linguistics. Study of the grammar and pronunciation of contemporary English, with the major focus on syntax.

Credit Hours: 3

Recommended: junior standing

LINGST 4610: History of the English Language

(same as ENGLISH 4610; cross-leveled with ENGLISH 7610, LINGST 7610). Historical changes in the grammar and pronunciation of the English language from Old English to the present. Introduction to Indo-European origins of English.

Credit Hours: 3

Recommended: junior standing

LINGST 4620: Regional and Social Dialects of American English

(same as ENGLISH 4620; cross-leveled with ENGLISH 7620, LINGST 7620). The study of regional and social variation in pronunciation, vocabulary, and syntax of American English.

Credit Hours: 3

Recommended: LINGST 4600 and LINGST 4610 or equivalent

LINGST 4620W: Regional and Social Dialects of American English - Writing Intensive

(same as ENGLISH 4620W; cross-leveled with ENGLISH 7620, LINGST 7620). The study of regional and social variation in pronunciation, vocabulary, and syntax of American English.

Credit Hours: 3

Recommended: LINGST 4600 and LINGST 4610 or equivalent

LINGST 4630: Phonology

(same as ENGLISH 4630; cross-leveled with ENGLISH 7630, LINGST 7630). Survey of the sound patterns of English and other languages.

Credit Hours: 3

Recommended: LINGST 1060 or LINGST 4600 or equivalent

LINGST 4630H: Phonology - Honors

(same as ENGLISH 4630H; cross-leveled with ENGLISH 7630, LINGST 7630). Survey of the sound patterns of English and other languages.

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: Honors eligibility required

Recommended: LINGST 1060 or LINGST 4600 or equivalent

LINGST 4640: Syntax

(same as ENGLISH 4640; cross-leveled with ENGLISH 7640, LINGST 7640). Study of the properties of phrase and sentence-level grammar, emphasizing English, with some comparison to other languages.

Credit Hours: 3

Recommended: LINGST 1060 or LINGST 4600 or equivalent

LINGST 4710: History of the French Language

(same as FRENCH 4710; cross-leveled with FRENCH 7710, LINGST 7710). Study of the French language from its Latin origin to the present. The course includes a survey of the external, social, political, and historical factors that have affected the development of French, followed by diachronic study of the internal structural features of the language.

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: FRENCH 3420 and FRENCH 3430

LINGST 4711: History of the Spanish Language

(same as SPAN 4711; cross-leveled with LINGST 7711, SPAN 7711). Diachronic analysis of phonological morphological, and syntactical systems of Spanish, from Vulgar Latin to contemporary dialects.

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: SPAN 3420 and SPAN 3430

LINGST 4720: Structure of Modern French

(same as FRENCH 4720; cross-leveled with LINGST 7720, FRENCH 7720). An introductory presentation of the phonological and syntactic systems of contemporary standard French.

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: FRENCH 3160

LINGST 4721: Structure of Modern Spanish

(same as SPAN 4721; cross-leveled with LINGST 7721, SPAN 7721). Synchronic analysis of phonology morphology and syntax of spoken Spanish dialects.

Credit Hours: 3

Recommended: four 3000-level courses in Spanish

LINGST 4722: Spanish Across the Continents

(same as SPAN 4722; cross-leveled with SPAN 7722). This course focuses on the effects of migratory movements on language change, considering the Spanish spoken in Latin America, Puerto Rico, Spain and the USA. The class sharpens awareness and recognition of the linguistic diversity of the Spanish-speaking regions of the world. Graded on A-F basis only.

Credit Hours: 3

Recommended: four 3000-level courses in Spanish

LINGST 4723: Language and Society: Spanish in the U.S.

(same as SPAN 4723; cross-leveled with SPAN 4723). This class surveys linguistic and social issues pertaining to Spanish in the U.S. (past, present and future). Topics include bilingualism, code switching (a.k.a. Spanglish), first language attrition, linguistic identity, and the role of Spanish in Education, services and media. Graded on A-F basis only.

Credit Hours: 3

Recommended: four 3000-level courses in Spanish

LINGST 4730: Linguistic Theory and Language Acquisition

(same as RM_LAN 4730; cross-leveled with LINGST 7730, RM_LAN 7730)The goal of this class is to study the implications of current linguistic theory for contemporary research on second language acquisition. In particular, the hypothesis that second language acquisition follows some of the same principles as first language acquisition is explored. Course is taught in English.

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: LINGST 4720, LINGST 4721, or LINGST 4600

LINGST 4740: Interdisciplinary Introduction to NLP

(same as CMP_SC 4740; cross-leveled with LINGST 7740, CMP_SC 7740). The goal of this course is to enable students to develop substantive NLP applications. Focus on current structural and statistical techniques for the parsing and interpretation of texts.

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: senior standing

LINGST 4810: Psycholinguistics

(same as SLHS 4810; cross-leveled with LINGST 7810, SLHS 7810). Examination of the knowledge and processes that underlie the human ability to produce and understand language.

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: instructor's consent

LINGST 4870: Field Methods in Linguistics

(same as ANTHRO 4870, ENGLSH 4670; cross-leveled with LINGST 7870, ANTHRO 7870, ENGLSH 7670). Intensive training in collection and analysis of data taken from a native speaker of a non-Indo-European language. May be repeated for credit.

Credit Hours: 4

Prerequisites: Contact the Linguistics advisor to request permission

Recommended: 9 hours of linguistics

LINGST 4870W: Field Methods in Linguistics - Writing Intensive

(same as ANTHRO 4870W, ENGLSH 4670W; cross-leveled with LINGST 7870, ANTHRO 7870, ENGLSH 7670). Intensive training in collection and analysis of data taken from a native speaker of a non-Indo-European language. May be repeated for credit.

Credit Hours: 4

Prerequisites: Contact the Linguistics advisor to request permission

Recommended: 9 hours of linguistics

LINGST 4960: Special Readings in Linguistics

Independent study through readings, conferences, reports.

Credit Hour: 1-3

Prerequisites: instructor's consent

LINGST 4991: Honors Thesis in Linguistics

Based on an original research project in theoretical or applied linguistics. Topic, director, and second reader approved by Linguistics Committee, College of Arts and Science.

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: qualification for Honors degree

LINGST 7100: Language, Meaning, and Reality: An Introduction to Philosophy of Language

(same as PHIL 7100; cross-leveled with LINGST 4100, PHIL 4100). Examination of contemporary views of the relationship between language, minds, and the world.

Credit Hours: 3

Recommended: one other course in Philosophy

LINGST 7110: Advanced Logic

(same as PHIL 7110; cross-leveled with LINGST 4110, PHIL 4110). Presents the method of truth trees for sentence and predicate logic. Examines proofs concerning the decidability, soundness, and completeness for formal systems. Emphasizes the theory of formal systems.

Credit Hours: 3

LINGST 7200: Introduction to Old English

(same as ENGLISH 7200, MDVL_REN 7411; cross-leveled with LINGST 4200, ENGLISH 4200, MDVL_REN 4411). A beginning study of the Old English or Anglo-Saxon language in its cultural context, with emphasis on gaining a reading knowledge.

Credit Hours: 3

LINGST 7420: Historical Linguistics

(same as ANTHRO 7420, ENGLISH 7660; cross-leveled with ANTHRO 4420, LINGST 4420, ENGLISH 4660). Methods of tracing the history of languages by glottochronology, and by comparative and internal reconstructions; cultural and linguistic implications of such reconstructions and of areal linguistics.

Credit Hours: 3

LINGST 7600: Structure of American English

(same as ENGLISH 7600; cross-leveled with ENGLISH 4600, LINGST 4600). Introduction to English linguistics. Study of the grammar and pronunciation of contemporary English, with the major focus on syntax.

Credit Hours: 3

LINGST 7610: History of the English Language

(same as ENGLISH 7610; cross-leveled with ENGLISH 4610, LINGST 7610). Historical changes in the grammar and pronunciation of the English language from Old English to the present. Introduction to Indo-European origins of English.

Credit Hours: 3

LINGST 7620: Regional and Social Dialects of American English

(same as ENGLISH 7620; cross-leveled with ENGLISH 4620, LINGST 4620). The study of regional and social variation in pronunciation, vocabulary, and syntax of American English.

Credit Hours: 3

LINGST 7630: Phonology

(same as ENGLISH 7630; cross-leveled with ENGLISH 4630, LINGST 4630). Survey of the sound patterns of English and other languages.

Credit Hours: 3

Recommended: at least one course in linguistics

LINGST 7640: Syntax

(same as ENGLISH 7640; cross-leveled with ENGLISH 4640, LINGST 4640). Study of the properties of phrase-and sentence-level grammar, emphasizing English, with some comparison to other languages.

Credit Hours: 3

Recommended: at least one course in linguistics

LINGST 7720: Structure of Modern French

(same as FRENCH 7720; cross-leveled with LINGST 4720, FRENCH 4720). An introductory presentation of the phonological and syntactic systems of contemporary standard French.

Credit Hours: 3

LINGST 7870: Field Methods in Linguistics

(same as ANTHRO 7870, ENGLISH 7670; cross-leveled with ANTHRO 4870, ENGLISH 4670, LINGST 4870). Intensive training in collection and analysis of data taken from a native speaker of a non-Indo-European language. May be repeated for credit.

Credit Hours: 4

Prerequisites: instructor's consent

LINGST 8000: Problems

Independent study through readings, analysis of special linguistic problems, reports.

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: one Advanced Linguistics course and instructor's consent

LINGST 8120: Bilingualism and Language Contact

(same as SPAN 8120, FRENCH 8120). Global analysis of the study of Bilingualism from a combined sociocultural, sociolinguistic and psycholinguistic perspective based on current research and examination of various phenomena of language contact (taught in Eng.).

Credit Hours: 3

LINGST 8600: Seminar in the English Language

(same as ENGLSH 8600). Descriptive and historical studies of the English language. Topics (e.g., The Germanic Origins, Modern Syntactic Analysis) announced at time of registration. May be repeated up to twelve hours with departmental approval.

Credit Hours: 3
