

*choosing  
linguistics  
as a  
field of study*



Department of Linguistics  
Indiana University Bloomington  
2019-2020

## PREFACE

This pamphlet is intended to provide you with basic information about the undergraduate program in Linguistics, information that should help you decide how best to focus your studies in this field. The contents of the pamphlet may answer many of the questions that you have. However, you should consult with the undergraduate academic advisor for the Department of Linguistics for guidance and approval in setting up your program, as well as with instructors in courses you have taken and with the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

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For complete Departmental Information and Requirements please see the College of Arts and Sciences Academic Bulletin at <http://bulletins.iu.edu/iub/college/2016-2017/index.shtml>

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## I. THE FIELD OF LINGUISTICS

For over 2000 years language has been an object of serious scholarly inquiry. Since the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century a surge of interest in language phenomena has led to the growth and development of the field and the establishment of academic departments. The field of linguistics, then, is concerned with the study of human language as a universal part of human behavior and thinking. Linguists seek to understand the place of language in human life and society, and the ways in which it is organized to fulfill the needs of the people it serves and the functions it performs. They examine human language in all its different forms and manifestations around the world.

The undergraduate curriculum in linguistics is designed to broaden and enrich students' experience of language by introducing them to aspects of the linguistic investigation of language use, meaning, variation and change, and by training them in the description and analysis of linguistic structure. Our curriculum consists of a core set of courses in which students are trained in how to examine various facets of language. We also offer a range of elective coursework to shape the major according to the students' particular interests. Field methods, the capstone course in the linguistics curriculum, tests students' abilities by engaging them in the analysis of some insufficiently documented language.

Our linguistics majors are trained to become language professionals. More generally, we aim to contribute to the breadth of education of other students in the arts and sciences by engaging them in analytical and social approaches to language in all its diverse manifestations.

II. LINGUISTICS AS A MAJOR A. BA Linguistics major

1. Outline

The major requires at least 30 credit hours in linguistics and required language courses. Courses acceptable as equivalent to L490 (Linguistic Structures) and as suitable electives outside the Department of Linguistics are listed in the Appendix.

Required linguistic coursework (12 credit hours):

L306	Phonetics	(3 cr)
L307	Phonology	(3 cr)
L310	Syntax	(3 cr)
L431	Field Methods	(3 cr) OR
L441	Field Methods for Sociolinguistics	(3 cr)

Elective linguistic coursework (12 credit hours):

- Elective 1 (any level)
- Elective 2 (200-400 level)
- Elective 3 (300-400 level)
- Elective 4 (300-400 level, may be in a related field with advisors' approval)

Language coursework (6 - 12 credit hours):

- ▶ Structural knowledge (choose 1 option)
  - Foreign language (other than major European languages): 2 semesters
  - L432 Advanced Field Methods (3 cr)
  - L490 Linguistic Structures (3 cr)
  - Approved structure course outside department
- ▶ In-depth knowledge
  - Foreign language 300-400 level (3 cr)

(This requirement is waived for students who double major in Linguistics and a foreign language.)

## 2. Sample course planner

The major in linguistics normally requires three years to complete, although it can be done in two. The tables below provide two sample programs spread over a three-year period. FL=foreign language

Year 1	Fall L103 or L203 (elec.)	Spring L306  L310
Year 2	L307 FL 300-400	L308 (elective helpful for L431) LING elective
Year 3	L431 LING elective	L432 or L490
Year 1	Fall L103 or L203 (elec.)	Spring L306  L310
Year 2	L307 Approved FL	LING elective Approved FL
Year 3	L431 LING elective	L441 LING elective

B. BA Interdepartmental Linguistics/Anthropology Major

The interdepartmental major in Linguistics and Anthropology provides an interdisciplinary examination of the structure and role of language within indigenous populations. The major requires 41 credit hours in Linguistics, Anthropology, and related languages.

General core courses (12 credit hours):

Either : LING-L 103 Intro to the Study of Language (3 cr)  
or  
LING-L 203 Intro to Linguistic Analysis (3 cr)

ANTH-L 200 Language and Culture (3 cr)  
ANTH-E 200 Social & Cultural Anthropology (3 cr)  
LING-L 315 Intro to Sociolinguistics (3 cr)

Elective (5-6 courses, at least 2 from ANTH and 2 from LING—15-18 credit hours)

Language change (3 credit hours), choice of:  
ANTH-L 407 Language and Prehistory  
LING-L 430 Language Change & Variation

Fieldwork (3 credit hours), choice of:  
ANTH-E 302 Lab in Ethnography  
LING-L 431 Field Methods  
LING-L 441 Field Methods for Sociolinguistics

Language coursework (3 or 8 credit hours), choice of: LING-L  
490 Linguistics Structures (3 cr.)  
LING-L 432 Advanced Field Methods (3 cr.)  
American Indian language (2 semesters—8 cr.)  
African language (2 semesters—8 cr.)

Additional electives to reach 41 hours, with at least 15 hours each in LING and in ANTH

C. B.S. Degree in Computational Linguistics (CL)

Get in on the ground floor of a brand-new degree, geared for students interested in the interaction between language and computer technology. The degree requires a foundation in math and logic, while the major consists of 50 hours of Linguistics, Computer Science, and a related concentration or minor.

Math and Logic Foundation (10-11 credit hours):

MATH-M 212 Calculus II

(4 cr) STAT-S 320 Intro to Statistics

(3 cr) Logic Requirement, choice of:

PHIL-P 250 Introductory Symbolic Logic (3 cr)

COGS-Q 350 Math & Logic for Cognitive Science (4 cr)

Core-Linguistics (12 credit hours):

LING-L 203 Intro to Linguistic Analysis (3 cr.)

LING-L 306 Phonetics (3 cr.)

LING-L 307 Phonology (3 cr.)

LING-L 310 Syntax (3 cr.)

Core-Computational (12 credit hours):

LING-L 245 Language and Computers (3 cr)

LING-L 415 Corpus Linguistics (3 cr)

LING-L 435 Foundational Skills in CL (3 cr)

LING-L 445 Intro to CL (3 cr)

Core-Computer Science (8 hours):

CSCI-C 211 Intro to Computer Science (4 cr.)



CSCI-C 212 Intro to Software Systems (4 cr.)

Electives (6-7 credit hours), choice of two of:

LING-L 308 Morphology	(3 cr.)
LING-L 315 Intro to Sociolinguistics	(3 cr.)
LING-L 325 Semantics	(3 cr.)
CSCI-A 290 Tools for Computing	(1.5 cr.)
CSCI-C 241 Discrete Structures for CSCI	(3 cr.)
CSCI-C 343 Data Structures	(4 cr.)
COGS-Q 351 Intro to Artificial Intelligence & Computer Simulation	(3 cr.)

Outside concentration or minor: COGS, CSCI, INFO, MATH, PSY, or foreign language (different from World Cultures and Languages requirement)

#### D. 3 + 2 Joint B.S./M.S. Degree in Computational Linguistics

Another fantastic new option for students interested in entering the burgeoning field intertwining language and computer technology. Three years of undergraduate study include the core courses outlined in the B.S. degree in Computational Linguistics as well as the outside concentration or minor, while two years of graduate study include work in Linguistics, Informatics, Computer Science, Informatics, Information and Library Science, and Cognitive Science. For more information, contact the undergraduate academic advisor, Krystie Herndon, or the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Dr. Ann Bunger.

### III. LINGUISTICS AS A MINOR

#### A. Minor in Linguistics

A minor in Linguistics requires a minimum of 15 credit hours of coursework of which 9 credit hours must be at the 300-level or above. One course may be taken in a related field. Possible courses from other areas are listed in the Appendix.

Requirements (15 credit hours):

L103 Introduction to the Study of Language (3 cr)

or

L203 Introduction to Linguistic Analysis (3 cr)

Elective 1 (any level)

Elective 2 (300-400 level)

Elective 3 (300-400 level)

Elective 4 (300-400 level, may be from related field)

Ideally the minor will have some type of focus. Four sample minor programs are listed below.

#### Sample Minor A: General Overview

L103 Introduction to the Study of Language (3 cr)

L306 Phonetics (3 cr)

L307 Phonology (3 cr)

L308 Morphology (3 cr)

L310 Syntax (3 cr)

#### Sample Minor B: Phonetics/Phonology Focus

L203 Introduction to Linguistic Analysis (3 cr)

L306 Phonetics (3 cr)

L307 Phonology (3 cr)

L315 Sociolinguistics (3 cr)

L431 Field Methods (3 cr)

Sample Minor C: Syntax/Semantic Focus

L203 Introduction to Linguistic Analysis (3 cr)

L310 Syntax (3 cr)

L325 Semantics (3 cr)

L367 Languages of the World (3 cr)

L490 Linguistic Structures (3 cr)

Sample Minor D: African Linguistics Focus

L203 Introduction to Linguistic Analysis (3 cr)

L306 Phonetics (3 cr)

L307 Phonology (3 cr)

L431 Field Methods (3 cr)

L480 Introduction to African Linguistics (3 cr)

## B. Minor in Computational Linguistics

A minor in Computational Linguistics requires 15-16 credit hours in linguistics and foundational computational courses, including:

LING-L 203 Introduction to Linguistic Analysis (3 cr.)

One (1) of the following:

- LING-L 307 Phonology (3 cr.)
- LING-L 310 Syntax (3 cr.)

One (1) of the following (4 cr.):

- INFO-H 101 Intro to Informatics, Honors
- INFO-I 101 Intro to Informatics
- INFO-H 210 Information Infrastructure I, Honors
- INFO-I 210 Information Infrastructure I

LING-L 435 Foundational Skills in Computational Linguistics  
(*unless student has proof of programming skills, usually by  
having completed a programming course*) (3 cr.)  
LING-L 445 The Computer and Natural Language (3 cr.)

If needed to complete minor hour requirements, electives can include:

LING-L 245 Language and Computers (3 cr.)

LING-L 415 Corpus Linguistics (3 cr.)

Another related course approved by the Director of  
Undergraduate Studies

#### IV. Special opportunities for study and support

##### A. Honors program

Requirements for admission to the program:

- 1) Applicants must have had at least three (3) courses in Linguistics, of which two (2) must be required core courses.
- 2) GPA: overall minimum -- 3.3  
Linguistics courses -- 3.5
- 3) Recommendation from a faculty member.
- 4) Strong interest in a specific area of study.

Ideally, completion of all or most Linguistics major requirements by the end of junior year, particularly L431 Field Methods, is recommended prior to embarking upon the Linguistics Honors program.

Requirements for graduating with Honors in Linguistics:

- 1) Maintain a GPA of 3.5 in Linguistics courses.

- 2) Receive a minimum grade of B for each of two required Honors courses:
  - a) L399 Readings in Linguistics (Honors) (3-6 credits)
  - b) L499 Honors Project (3-6 credits) An original piece of research, fieldwork, or language-related project, evaluated by the student's project advisor and one other faculty member.

#### B. Double major

Students pursuing a B.A. degree are encouraged to expand their academic and career opportunities by becoming double majors. In order to obtain a degree with a double major, students must complete appropriate requirements in both of the major fields. Students must also meet the residency requirement of 10 hours in each major in Bloomington. Areas that are often combined with linguistics these days include language specializations of all types (eg. English, German, Spanish, French, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Arabic), International Studies, Speech and Hearing Sciences, Anthropology, Religious Studies, Psychology, Sociology, and Media. Students pursuing a B.S. degree do not have the option of adding double majors. Instead, they should consult their academic advisor about adding minors, or, if time permits, dual degrees.

#### C. Individual readings

For students who wish to pursue a course of study that is not available in the Department's regular course offerings, an individual readings course is offered, designated by the course designation LING-X 490. The course may be taken for 1 to 4 credits, but requires prior approval of a faculty member willing to supervise and direct the readings and/or research.

#### D. Undergraduate research grants

The Honors Division offers a number of modest research grants each semester in support of undergraduate research projects. Funding is provided for travel or materials which are necessary for the research project. Applications are available from the Honors Division at 324 North Jordan. Deadlines for applications are usually early in the semester preceding the one in which the project is to be conducted.

Such projects will be given credit as LING-X 490 Readings in Linguistics. If appropriate, the faculty member directing the project may act as sponsor for the undergraduate's application to the Honors Division.

#### E. Overseas Study

The Department of Linguistics encourages students to study overseas. If at all possible, Linguistics majors should plan to study overseas some time during their undergraduate academic careers, gaining the invaluable experience of learning in a country where the language they are specializing in is spoken. Students set up overseas study experiences through the Office of Overseas Study, Franklin Hall 303, 812/855-9304, <http://www.indiana.edu/~overseas/>.

#### F. Undergraduate Initiatives

The Department of Linguistics has an undergraduate student association! UnderLings-The Undergraduate Linguistics Club is a group of like-minded language enthusiasts who meet to celebrate the wonders and fun of words, how language is put together, and the importance of language in human interaction. Keep watch for information on UnderLings activities this school year!

## G. Student Testimonials

“Regardless of any career applications, I am glad I studied linguistics simply because I loved it.”

Caroline Hewitt, BA 2018

“Language has always been a fascination of mine, and the linguistics program at IU is full of brilliant professors that have inspired me.”

Madison Jones, BA 2016 (Distinction)

“Being a Linguistics major has made me reflect on the use of language in everyday communication, and has made me a better observer of the world in general.”

Czesia Eid, BA 2015

“Entering the field of linguistics has challenged my capabilities, captivated my interests, and excited the learner within me.”

Juliet Roberts, BA 2015

## V. Career possibilities—what can a major in Linguistics lead to?

### 1) Graduate School:

The major in linguistics provides a great foundation for continuing your studies in linguistics (theoretical or applied), speech or communication sciences, cognitive science, human-computer interaction, library/information sciences, anthropology, philosophy, education, English, or foreign languages. If you are interested in pursuing a non-linguistics graduate degree, you may want to consider a double major with the other field of interest.

How do you discover if graduate school is right for you?

- ▶ Talk with your professors about graduate school, or about any of your career plans—they want to get to know you, and you need them as good references later on
- ▶ Find professors interested in having undergraduate students help them conduct research
- ▶ See <http://gradschools.com/programs/linguistics.html>, a great resource for finding graduate programs in specific geographical or academic areas of interest

## 2) Professional Programs:

If you are considering working in the field of law—and linguistics is the hot new major for those interested in law school—contact the Health Professions and Pre-Law Center (HPPLC) here at IUB. HPPLC has resources for preparing for the LSAT and for choosing courses that will help prepare you for law school, as well as a reference letter service that you can use for graduate school, as early as your freshman year.

### Location:

Maxwell Hall 010  
 Bloomington, IN 47405

812-855-1873 Fax:

812-856-2770

[hpplc@indiana.edu](mailto:hpplc@indiana.edu)

[www.hpplc.indiana.edu](http://www.hpplc.indiana.edu)

## 3) Employment:

Visit employment websites regularly to see what types of jobs are available to students with a BA, specifically, those that require a background in linguistics. Useful websites include:

<http://www.in.gov/jobs/stateemployment>

<http://www.lsadc.org>—The Linguistics Society of America

<http://www.linguistlist.org>—The Linguist List



<http://www.esljobs.com> –ESL jobs worldwide

You should also consult the Arts and Sciences Career Services, 625 N. Jordan, which provides workshops, individual counseling, and other services to assist you in deciding upon a future career. You can find out more about their services at: <http://ascs.indiana.edu/index.html>

You can prepare for jobs in:

Education, such as lecturer, multimedia manager, ESL content developer, English language instructor, technical writing program manager, grant writer, teacher training, language program coordinator, professional reader, linguistics indexer, curriculum developer, test designer and evaluator.

Computers and industry, such as computational linguist, transcriber/translator, linguistic content analyst, journalist, programmer analyst, software engineer, editor/proofreader, consultant, annotator, lexicographer/terminologist, text developer, voice user interface designer, information analyst.

Government, research and law, such as translator, researcher, consultant, interpreter, tester/trainer, language documenter and preserver, technical writer, linguistic analyst, forensic linguist.

Promotion and entertainment, such as consumer insights consultant, product-naming specialist, actor/trainer (particularly in speaking in different accents).

## VI. Faculty in Linguistics

Kelly Harper Berkson, Assistant Professor

Interests: indigenous languages of North America, language endangerment and revitalization, phonetics, phonetics-phonology interface, phonology

Robert Botne, Professor

Interests: African languages, Bantu, tense and aspect, semantics, morphology, general linguistics

Ann Bunger, Lecturer

Interests: language acquisition and processing, word learning, language-cognition interface, syntax-semantics interface, event representation, attention and memory during language use

Damir Ćavar, Associate Professor

Interests: theoretical linguistics, natural language technologies, corpus linguistics, computational linguistics

Malgorzata Ćavar, Assistant Professor

Interests: phonetics and laboratory phonology, L2 acquisition, computational and corpus linguistics, theoretical phonology

Stuart Davis, Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies

Interests: Phonological theory, language change and variation, African American English, Semitic languages, general linguistics

Kenneth de Jong, Professor and Department Chair

Interests: Phonetics, phonology, experimental approaches to language description

Steven Franks, Professor

Interests: Slavic linguistics, syntactic theory and analysis

Thomas Grano, Assistant Professor

Interests: syntax, semantics, syntax-semantics interface, cross-linguistic variation; tense, aspect, mood and modality; Mandarin syntax

Yoshihisa Kitagawa, Professor

Interests: Japanese linguistics, syntactic theory, comparative syntax

Sandra Kuebler, Professor and Director of Graduate Studies

Interests: Computational Linguistics, machine learning approaches in CL, corpus linguistics

Samuel Gyasi Obeng, Professor

Interests: African languages, sociolinguistics, pragmatics, phonetics, prosodic phonology

Alwiya Omar, Clinical Professor of African Studies and Linguistics

Interests: African languages, Kiswahili, computer-assisted language learning

Francis Tyers, Assistant Professor

Interests: Computational Linguistics, Language Technology

Barbara Vance, Associate Professor

Interests: Diachronic and synchronic syntax, French linguistics, historical linguistics

Adjunct Faculty in Linguistics

Kathleen Bardovi-Harlig, Professor, Second Language Studies

Tessa Bent, Associate Professor, Speech and Hearing Sciences  
Isabelle Darcy, Associate Professor of Second Language Studies  
Laurent Dekydtspotter, Professor, French and Italian  
Markus Dickinson, Associate Professor, Linguistics  
Cesar Felix-Brasdefer, Associate Professor, Spanish and Portuguese  
George Fowler, Associate Professor, Slavic Languages and Literatures  
Tracy Hall, Professor of Germanic Studies  
Susan Herring, Professor, Library and Information Science  
Philip LeSourd, Associate Professor, Anthropology, Second Language  
Studies  
Charles Lin, Associate Professor, East Asian Languages and Cultures  
Lawrence Moss, Professor, Mathematics  
John Paolillo, Associate Professor, School of Library and Information  
Science and Informatics  
David Pisoni, Professor, Psychology  
Kevin Rottet, Associate Professor, French and Italian  
Rex A. Sprouse, Professor, Germanic Studies, Second Language  
Studies  
David Stringer, Associate Professor, Second Language Studies  
Natsuko Tsujimura, Professor, East Asian Languages and Cultures

## Emeriti Faculty in Linguistics

Joseph Clancy Clements, Professor of Linguistics and Spanish

Phil Connell, Professor, Speech and Hearing Sciences

Daniel Dinnsen, Chancellor's Professor of Linguistics

Judith Gierut, Professor, Speech and Hearing Sciences

Paul Newman, Distinguished Professor of Linguistics. Adjunct

Professor of Anthropology. Director of the West African Languages  
Institute

Robert Port, Professor of Linguistics and Cognitive Science

Frances Trix, Professor of Linguistics and Anthropology

Albert Valdman, Rudy Professor of Linguistics and French and Italian

## APPENDIX

Sample linguistic and language courses in other departments that have been taken as an elective to fulfill major or minor requirements. All substitutions require advisor's approval.

ANTH L200 Language and Culture  
L320 American Indian Languages  
L400 Topical Seminar in the Ethnography of  
Communication  
CEUS R494 Uralic Linguistics  
EALC E301 Chinese Language and Culture  
ENG G302 Structure of Modern English  
G405 Studies in English Language  
FRIT F401 Structure and Development of French  
GER G448 Introduction to German Phonetics and Phonology  
G451 Introduction to German Syntax  
HISP S427 Structure of Spanish  
PHIL P320 Philosophy and Language  
PSY P438 Language and Cognition  
P441 Neuropsychology of Language  
SLST S301 Intro to Second Language Acquisition  
SOC S417 Conversation Analysis  
SPHS S302 Acoustics for Speech and Hearing Sciences  
S333 Childhood Language  
S420 Phonological Acquisition and Disorders in Children  
S436 Language Disorders in Children

Sample approved structure courses

EALC C421 Introduction to Chinese Linguistics  
J421 Introduction to Japanese Linguistics FRIT  
F402 Introduction to French Linguistics  
GER G458 Introduction to German Morphology  
HISP P425 Structure of Portuguese Language

S326 Introduction to Spanish Linguistics  
 NELC N329 Arabic Phonetics and Phonology  
 SLAV R404 Structure of Russian

Sample approved languages for the language structure requirement

AFRI	Akan (Twi)	INST	Bengali
	Bamana		Hindi
	Swahili		Sanskrit
	Wolof		Urdu
	Yoruba		
	Zulu		JSTU
CEUS	Azerbaijani	LTAM	Haitian Creole
	Dari		Maya
	Estonian		Quechua
	Finnish	NELC	Arabic
	Hungarian		Kurdish
	Kazakh		
	Mongolian		
	Pashto		SEAS
	Persian (Farsi)		Thai
	Tajik	SLAV	Georgian
	Tibetan		Macedonian
	Turkish		
	Turkmen		
Uyghur	SPHS	ASL	
Uzbek			
EALC	Chinese		
	Japanese		
	Korean		