Linguistics
the study of language:
its sounds, structure, meaning, and how we use it

Theoretical

**Phonetics:** Study of the physical properties of spoken (or signed) production and perception. Learn the International Phonetic Alphabet, understand features of a person's accent based on acoustic waveforms, and more.  
*LING 210, LING 310*

**Phonology:** Study of how sounds/signs are organized in a language into “phonemes” that distinguish meaning, as well as meaningful prosodic features like stress, tone, etc.  
*LING 210, LING 315*

**Morphology:** Study of word forms—how the smallest units of meaning, “morphemes,” combine to create words.  
*LING 220, LING 320*

**Syntax:** Study of how languages arrange words into larger structures, such as phrases and sentences.  
*LING 220, LING 325*

**Semantics:** Study of the meanings of words and how they combine to construct the meanings of sentences.  
*LING 230, LING 332*

**Pragmatics:** Study of how language is used in context and how it communicates meaning in real situations.  
*LING 230, LING 335*

**Discourse Analysis:** Analysis of how language is used and structured in spoken, written, or signed discourse.  
*ELING 362*

Applied

**Sociolinguistics:** Study of variation in language and how it interacts with social factors, such as age, gender, region, status, etc.  
*LING 452, LING 550, ELING 468, ELING 568*

**Psycholinguistics/Neurolinguistics:** Study of the cognitive processes and brain structures that underlie human language.  
*LING 445, LING 545*

**Linguistic Computing:** Use of computers to process language data and engage in “conversation” using natural language.  
*LING 240, ELING 273, LING 360, LING 361, LING 440, LING 581, Linguistic Computing minor*

**Corpus Linguistics:** Use of large bodies of language data to answer questions about language variation, change, and usage.  
*LING 240, ELING 273, LING 485, LING 585*

**Language Acquisition & Teaching:** Study of how children and adults acquire new languages and how best to teach them.  
*TESOL minor, special topics courses (see catalog)*

**Language Documentation:** Recording of endangered and/or little-known languages.  
*LING 542, LING 551*

**Historical Linguistics:** Study of language change over time.  
*LING 450, LING 558, various historical English courses*

**Forensic Linguistics:** Application of linguistics to legal contexts such as crime investigation and judicial procedure.  
*Special topics courses (see catalog)*