

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)