Department of Linguistics

Contact Information
Department of Linguistics
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PAUL ROBERGE, Chair

Introduction
Courses in the department are offered for the general student and for those who wish to receive the bachelor of arts with a major in linguistics. Courses in linguistics are intended to open up systematic perspectives on the nature of human language by means of detailed studies of language structure, language change and language acquisition, the sound system of language, and the syntactic/semantic system of language. The major is designed to provide a fundamental understanding of modern linguistics for the student seeking a general education in the liberal arts as well as for the student preparing for graduate study.

Advising
All majors and minors have a primary academic advisor in Steele Building. Students are strongly encouraged to meet regularly with their advisor and review their Tar Heel Tracker each semester. The department’s director of undergraduate studies works with current and prospective majors and minors by appointment. Departmental academic advising is particularly important for those majors who are considering going on to graduate school or who are considering the dual B.A.–M.A. program.

Graduate School and Career Opportunities
The Department of Linguistics offers an M.A. program with opportunities for specialization in a number of subareas. Detailed information is available from the department Web site. Additionally, more than 100 colleges and universities offer linguistics programs, including several dozen that are considered major programs nationally. Faculty members are pleased to advise students regarding programs best suited to their needs and interests.

In general, the linguistics major is good preparation for a number of career paths because it develops problem solving, the ability to find patterns in complicated data, and writing and argumentation skills. Law and journalism schools and other professional schools are becoming increasingly aware that students with a major in linguistics have strengths in these important areas. United States citizens with a background in linguistics also may find jobs with United States government agencies.

Some students choose to continue specializing in linguistics teaching or research. For this, they typically need to obtain a graduate degree in linguistics. Other possible careers for linguistics majors that have a close connection to language and linguistics include language teaching, speech pathology/speech and hearing science, language and information technologies (including speech synthesis and recognition, text-content analysis, and machine translation), information and library science, or editing and publishing; some careers in these areas may require a graduate degree.

Major

Minor
- Linguistics Minor (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/linguistics-minor)

Graduate Programs
- M.A. in Linguistics (http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/linguistics)

Professors
Randall Hendrick, Paul Roberge.

Associate Professors

Affiliated Faculty
Jennifer Arnold (Psychology and Neuroscience), Uffe Bergeton (Asian Studies), Lucia Binotti (Romance Studies), Connie Eble (English and Comparative Literature), Bruno Estigarribia (Romance Studies), Benjamin Frey (American Studies), Nina Furry (Romance Studies), Peter C. Gordon (Psychology and Neuroscience), Larry D. King (Romance Studies), William G. Lycan (Philosophy), Patrick O’Neill (English and Comparative Literature), Dean Pettit (Philosophy), Patricia E. Sawin (American Studies).

Subjects in this department include: Linguistics (LING) (p. 1) and Yucatec Maya (MAYA) (p. 6)

LING—Linguistics
Undergraduate-level Courses
LING 50. First-Year Seminar: Language in the U.S.A.. 3 Credits.
The linguistic landscape of the United States in historical and contemporary perspective: American English dialects, language maintenance and shift among Native American and immigrant groups, language politics and policy.
Gen Ed: SS.
Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 89. First-Year Seminar: Special Topics. 3 Credits.
Special topics course. Content will vary each semester.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit; may be repeated in the same term for different topics; 6 total credits. 2 total completions.
Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 89H. First-Year Seminar: Special Topics. 3 Credits.
Special topics course. Content will vary each semester.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit; may be repeated in the same term for different topics; 6 total credits. 2 total completions.
Grading status: Letter grade.
LING 101. Introduction to Language. 3 Credits.
Introduction to the formal analysis of human language, including
sounds, words, sentences, and language meaning, plus child language
acquisition, language change over time, social attitudes toward language,
and similarities and differences among languages. Other topics may
include writing systems, animal communication, and language analysis
by computers.
Gen Ed: SS.
Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 101H. Introduction to Language. 3 Credits.
Introduction to the formal analysis of human language, including
sounds, words, sentences, and language meaning, plus child language
acquisition, language change over time, social attitudes toward language,
and similarities and differences among languages. Other topics may
include writing systems, animal communication, and language analysis
by computers.
Gen Ed: PH.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: PHIL 145.

LING 145. Language and Communication. 3 Credits.
An examination of the differences between natural human languages
and other communication systems. Includes a philosophical inquiry into how
languages relate to the world and the mind.
Gen Ed: PH.
Grading status: Letter grade

LING 145H. Language and Communication. 3 Credits.
An examination of the differences between natural human languages
and other communication systems. Includes a philosophical inquiry into how
languages relate to the world and the mind.
Gen Ed: PH.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: PHIL 145H.

LING 200. Phonology. 3 Credits.
Description and analysis of sound patterns from languages around
the world. Introduction to formal phonological models, written
argumentation, and hypothesis testing. Students may not receive credit
for both LING 200 and LING 523.
Requisites: Prerequisite, LING 101.
Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 201. Syntax. 3 Credits.
Introduction to the goals and methods of transformational analysis,
using English primarily, but examining how these techniques can be used
to describe syntactic processes in other languages. Students may not receive credit
for both LING 201 and LING 530.
Requisites: Prerequisite, LING 101.
Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 202. Linguistic Variation and Language Change. 3 Credits.
Introduction to the analysis and description of language change,
relationships among languages, and types of linguistic structure.
Students may not receive credit for both LING 202 and LING 525.
Requisites: Prerequisite, LING 101.
Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 203. Language Acquisition and Development. 3 Credits.
Provides an introduction to first-language acquisition, focusing on
the acquisition of phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics, as
well as on the social context of language acquisition and issues of
atypical language development. Students may not receive credit for both
LING 203 and LING 528.
Requisites: Prerequisite, LING 101.
Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 222. Language and Communication. 3 Credits.
An examination of the differences between natural human languages and
other communication systems. Includes a philosophical inquiry into how
languages relate to the world and the mind.
Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 290. Special Topics in Linguistics. 3 Credits.
In-depth treatment of a selected issue or topic in linguistics. Topic will vary with the instructor. Course may be taken more than once when the topic varies.
Requisites: Prerequisite, LING 101.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit; may be repeated in the same term for different topics; 9 total credits. 3 total completions.
Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 302. Language and Power. 3 Credits.
This course provides an overview of language and power studies. Issues: sexist and sex-neutral language; languages of subcultures defined by gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity; hate speech; "politically correct" language.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ANTH 302, WMST 302.

LING 303. Native Languages of the Americas. 3 Credits.
This course is an introduction to languages indigenous to the Americas.
The course touches on the linguistic structure and classification of
Native American languages as well as on social issues.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ANTH 303.

LING 304. Introduction to Discourse. 3 Credits.
Focuses on the use of linguistic forms to express communicative intentions. How language is used for the purposes of persuasion, manipulation, irony, humor, poetry, propaganda, and attitudes.
Requisites: Prerequisite, LING 101.
Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 305. Race against Time: Language Revitalization. 3 Credits.
Students are introduced to the causes and contexts of language endangerment and the complex process of language revitalization. Topics to be covered include assessment of endangerment level, language and thought, language attitudes, bilingual education, and language planning. We will also consider a number of case studies of endangered languages.
Requisites: Prerequisite, LING 101.
Gen Ed: BN, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 306. Language and Nationalism. 3 Credits.
This course focuses on language, identity, and nationalism in
contemporary societies, with special emphasis on Europe, Africa, Asia, and
the United States.
Gen Ed: CI, GL.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: SLAV 306.
LING 333. Human Language and Animal Communication Systems. 3 Credits.
Comparative study of human language alongside selected non-human communication systems. Anatomy, acoustics, combinatorial structure, innateness and acquisition, evolution. Sizable lab and field component.
Gen Ed: SS, QI.
Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 335. Structure of African American English. 3 Credits.
This course treats the structural properties of African American English. Students will learn to use sentence data to test hypotheses about language structure by investigating the syntax and semantics of African American English.
Requisites: Prerequisite, LING 101.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: AAAD 335.

LING 367. Phonetics and Phonology. 3 Credits.
Introduction to the description of sound systems with a focus on Spanish. Includes the study of the historical development of Spanish and its areal and social variation in Spain, Latin America, and the United States.
Requisites: Prerequisite, SPAN 300 or 326.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: SPAN 376.

LING 377. Grammatical Structure of Spanish. 3 Credits.
Introduction to the linguistic study of meaning, grammatical form, and dialectal and sociolinguistic variation, with a particular focus on modern Spanish and the languages of Spain and Latin America.
Requisites: Prerequisite, SPAN 300 or 326, and 376.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: SPAN 377.

LING 383. Linguistic Structuralism: Sources and Influences. 3 Credits.
Linguistic structuralism as a background for modern theories of language.
Grading status: Letter grade.

Advanced Undergraduate and Graduate-level Courses

LING 400. Introduction to General Linguistics. 3 Credits.
An introduction to the scientific study of language. The nature of language structure. How languages are alike and how they differ.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ANTH 400.

LING 401. Language and Computers. 3 Credits.
Uses simple linguistic problems to introduce students to the use of programming languages especially suited to analyze and process natural language on the computer. No prior programming knowledge is presupposed.
Requisites: Prerequisite, LING 101.
Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 409. Cognitive Linguistics. 3 Credits.
Development of and present state of research in cognitive linguistics. Readings discuss various language phenomena and are drawn from linguistics, psychology, philosophy, artificial intelligence, and literary analysis of metaphor.
Gen Ed: SS, CI.
Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 410. Philosophy of Language. 3 Credits.
At least two courses in philosophy other than PHIL 155, including PHIL 345, strongly recommended. A study of important contemporary contributions in philosophy of language. Topics include meaning, reference, and truth.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: PHIL 445, LING 445.

LING 422. Research Methods in Phonetics and Laboratory Phonology. 3 Credits.
Focuses on the practical skills required to carry out basic experiments in speech production or perception. Includes training in a general-purpose programming language (such as Perl) for automating repetitive tasks, experiment-control software, audio stimulus manufacture and editing, palatography, aerodynamic measurements, and other laboratory techniques relevant to student interests.
Requisites: Prerequisite, LING 200, 520, 523, or SPHS 540.
Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 428. Bilingualism and Second-Language Acquisition. 3 Credits.
This course covers theoretical issues in childhood simultaneous bilingualism, and child and adult second-language acquisition, under both naturalistic and classroom learning circumstances.
Requisites: Prerequisite, LING 101.
Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 444. Origin and Evolution of Human Language. 3 Credits.
Recommended preparation, at least one higher-level core course in linguistics. Surveys current answers to such questions as, When and how did language first appear? What do other animal communication systems share with language? Do restricted linguistic systems (e.g., pidgins) preserve "fossils" of early human language?
Requisites: Prerequisite, LING 101.
Gen Ed: HS, WB.
Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 445. Philosophy of Language. 3 Credits.
At least two courses in philosophy other than PHIL 155, including PHIL 345, strongly recommended. A study of important contemporary contributions in philosophy of language. Topics include meaning, reference, and truth.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: PHIL 445, LING 410.

LING 455. Symbolic Logic. 3 Credits.
Introduction for graduates and advanced undergraduates.
Gen Ed: QR.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: PHIL 455.

LING 484. Discourse and Dialogue in Ethnographic Research. 3 Credits.
Study of cultural variation in styles of speaking applied to collection of ethnographic data. Talk as responsive social action and its role in the constitution of ethnic and gender identities.
Gen Ed: SS, CI, US.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ANTH 484, FOLK 484.

LING 490. Advanced Topics in Linguistics. 3 Credits.
Directed readings on linguistic topics not covered in specific courses.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit; may be repeated in the same term for different topics; 9 total credits. 3 total completions.
Grading status: Letter grade.
LING 496. Independent Study in Linguistics. 1-3 Credits.
Permission of the director of undergraduate studies. LING 101 and additional coursework in linguistics strongly recommended. An intensive mentored project; topic to be determined in a learning contract between student and instructor.

Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit; may be repeated in the same term for different topics; 12 total credits. 4 total completions.

Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 520. Linguistic Phonetics. 3 Credits.
Introduction to the general principles of linguistic phonetics; anatomy of vocal tract, physiology of speech production, universal phonetic theory. Practice in the recognition and transcription of speech sounds.

Grading status: Letter grade

Same as: ANTH 520.

LING 522. Experimental Phonetics and Laboratory Phonology. 3 Credits.
This course relates linguistic theory to experimental findings. Students design and carry out experiments to test theoretical issues of current theoretical importance.

Requisites: Prerequisites, LING 520, and 200 or 523.

Grading status: Letter grade

LING 523. Phonological Theory I. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor for undergraduates. Introduction to the principles of modern generative phonology. Methods and theory of phonological analysis. Students may not receive credit for both LING 200 and LING 523.

Requisites: Prerequisite, LING 520, or SPHS 530 or 540.

Grading status: Letter grade

LING 524. Phonological Theory II. 3 Credits.
Intermediate phonological theory and analysis.

Requisites: Prerequisite, LING 200 or 523.

Grading status: Letter grade

LING 525. Introduction to Historical and Comparative Linguistics. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor for undergraduates. Theories and methods of historical and comparative linguistics, with emphasis upon the Indo-European family. Students may not receive credit for both LING 202 and LING 525.

Grading status: Letter grade

LING 526. Second-Language Phonetics and Phonology. 3 Credits.
Production, perception, and phonological patterns and processes in second-language learning and use. Effects of first-language transfer and universal linguistic factors. Seminar-style class based on primary literature.

Requisites: Prerequisite, LING 101.

Gen Ed: SS.

Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 527. Morphology. 3 Credits.
Cross-linguistic investigation of internal word structure: inflection and derivation, word formation rules versus affixation, autosegmental morphology, morpholexical and morphophonemic rules, and the interaction of morphology with phonology and syntax.

Requisites: Prerequisite, LING 101 or 400.

Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 528. Language Acquisition I. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor for undergraduates. One course in phonology or syntax recommended. Topics include segmentation problems, acquisition of phonology, morphology and syntax, lexical acquisition, and language development in blind and deaf children and in bilinguals. Students may not receive credit for both LING 203 and LING 528.

Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 529. Language Acquisition II. 3 Credits.
This course focuses on the development of syntax in first-language acquisition in children. Topics will include parameter setting, null subjects, root infinitives, aspect, A-movement, binding theory, and control.

Requisites: Prerequisites, LING 203 or 528, and LING 201 or 530.

Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 530. Syntactic Theory I. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor for undergraduates. Methods and theory of grammatical analysis within the transformational generative framework. Special emphasis on analyzing syntactic and semantic structures of English. Students may not receive credit for both LING 201 and LING 530.

Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 533. Syntactic Theory II. 3 Credits.
Methods and theory of grammatical analysis, with special reference to transformational grammar.

Requisites: Prerequisite, LING 530.

Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 537. Semantic Theory I. 3 Credits.
Semantics as a part of linguistic theory: co- and disjoint reference among nominals, "crossover" phenomena, quantifier scope, lexical semantics, Montague grammar and compositional semantics, and explanatory universals in semantic theory.

Requisites: Prerequisite, LING 101 or 400.

Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 538. Semantic Theory II. 3 Credits.
A continuation of LING 537 (Semantic Theory I), this course prepares the student to read the formal semantic literature and to do original research in the field.

Requisites: Prerequisite, LING 537.

Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 539. Language of Time. 3 Credits.
The representation of time and temporal relations in natural languages. Cross-linguistic study of tense and aspect distinctions, modality, temporal adverbials, temporal anaphora, and sequences of tenses.

Requisites: Prerequisite, LING 101 or 400.

Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 540. Mathematical Linguistics. 3 Credits.
Introduction to topics in logic, set theory, and modern algebra with emphasis on linguistic application. Automata theory and the formal theory of grammar with special reference to transformational grammars. No previous mathematics assumed.

Requisites: Prerequisite, LING 101.

Gen Ed: QI.

Grading status: Letter grade.
LING 541. Sociolinguistics. 3 Credits.
Introduction to the study of language in relation to society; variation as it correlates with socioeconomic status, region, gender; the social motivation of change; language and equality; language maintenance, planning, shift.
Requisites: Prerequisite, LING 101 or 400.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ANTH 541.

LING 542.Pidgins and Creoles. 3 Credits.
Examination of the social contexts of language contact and their linguistic outcomes, with particular emphasis on the formation of pidgins and creoles. The course investigates the structural properties of these new contact languages and evaluates the conflicting theories that explain their genesis.
Requisites: Prerequisite, LING 101 or 400.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ANTH 542.

LING 543. Language in Politics. 3 Credits.
Examines language as a political issue in the 19th and 20th centuries. Emphasis placed on American and British politics but attention to one other national context as well.
Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 545. Language and Mind: Linguistics and the Brain. 3 Credits.
The course treats the relationship among linguistics, artificial intelligence, neurobiology, cognitive psychology, and the philosophies of mind, language, and science.
Requisites: Prerequisite, ENGL 313, or LING 101 or 400, or PHIL 145; permission of the instructor for students lacking the prerequisite.
Gen Ed: PH.
Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 547. Language Deficits and Cognition. 3 Credits.
Survey of the linguistic properties associated with aphasia, autism, Williams syndrome, dyslexia, and schizophrenia. Emphasis on the implications of these conditions for theories of mind.
Requisites: Prerequisite, LING 101 or 400.
Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 550. Introduction to Indo-European: Phonology. 3 Credits.
A survey of the phonological systems of the major Indo-European languages and their development from Proto-Indo-European.
Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 551. Introduction to Indo-European: Morphology. 3 Credits.
Introduction to the major morphological categories in the Indo-European languages and their development from the proto-language.
Requisites: Prerequisite, LING 550.
Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 558. Ancient Mayan Hieroglyphs. 3 Credits.
This course is an introduction to the ancient scripts of pre-Columbian Mexico and Central America. It focuses on the following scripts: Mayan, Epi-Olmec, Zapotec, and Mixtec.
Gen Ed: HS.
Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 560. Mesoamerican Languages and Linguistics. 3 Credits.
Surveys the basic characteristics that unify Mesoamerica as a cultural and linguistic area (e.g. sound systems, word order, color systems, diffused vocabulary, etc.), the basic sources of cultural and linguistic information available (e.g. ancient hieroglyphs, colonial manuscripts, contemporary documents, linguistic fieldwork), and the consequences of ancient and modern cross-cultural interaction.
Gen Ed: BN.
Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 561. Native Languages of the Americas. 3 Credits.
This course explores the phonological and morphological structure of selected Amerindian languages indigenous to the Americas. Emphasis is on the linguistic analysis of original as well as published primary data.
Requisites: Prerequisite, LING 101 or 400.
Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 562. Structure of Russian. 3 Credits.
Examines Russian from the perspective of linguistic analysis. How do sounds, words, and sentences pattern in Russian? How do these compare with patterns in other languages? Also considers the influence of evidence from Russian on the development of linguistic theory.
Requisites: Prerequisite, LING 101 or RUSS 102; permission of the instructor for students lacking the prerequisite.
Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 563. Structure of Japanese. 3 Credits.
Introductory linguistic description of modern Japanese. For students of linguistics with no knowledge of Japanese and students of Japanese with no knowledge of linguistics.
Requisites: Prerequisite, JAPN 102 or LING 101.
Gen Ed: SS.
Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 564. History of the French Language. 3 Credits.
The phonology, morphology, and syntax of French are traced from the Latin foundation to the present. Lectures, readings, discussions, and textual analysis.
Requisites: Prerequisites, FREN 300, and 370, 371, or 372; permission of the instructor for students lacking the prerequisites.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: JAPN 563.

LING 565. French Phonetics and Phonology. 3 Credits.
The study of sounds as system in modern standard French. Lecture, discussion, laboratory practice in practical phonetics according to individual needs.
Requisites: Prerequisite, FREN 300; permission of the instructor for students lacking the prerequisite.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: FREN 564.

LING 566. Structure of Modern French. 3 Credits.
Introduction to phonology, morphology, and syntax of modern standard French. Application of modern linguistic theory to the teaching of French.
Requisites: Prerequisites, FREN 300, and 370, 371, or 372; permission of the instructor for students lacking the prerequisites.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: FREN 566.
LING 573. Linguistic Field Methods I. 3 Credits.
Analysis and description of a language unknown to the class from data solicited from a native-speaker consultant.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ANTH 793.

LING 574. Linguistic Field Methods II. 3 Credits.
Continuation of LING 573.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ANTH 794.

LING 583. History and Philosophy of Linguistics. 3 Credits.
Linguistic theories from classical times to the present with special emphasis on the origins of contemporary theories.
Requisites: Prerequisite, LING 101.
Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 613. Modern English Grammar. 3 Credits.
A study of current English structure and usage using a traditional approach modified by appropriate contributions from structural and generative grammar, with some attention to the application of linguistics to literary analysis.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: ENGL 613.

LING 678. Cultural and Linguistic History of the Spanish Language. 3 Credits.
The formation of the Spanish language and its cultures from Latin origins. Special attention to expansion of Spanish in the Americas and the situation of Spanish today.
Requisites: Prerequisite, SPAN 300 or 326.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: SPAN 678.

LING 691H. Senior Honors Thesis. 3 Credits.
See the program for honors in the College of Arts and Sciences and the department honors advisor.
Gen Ed: EE-Mentored Research.
Grading status: Letter grade.

LING 692H. Senior Honors Thesis. 3 Credits.
See the program for honors in the College of Arts and Sciences and the department honors advisor.
Gen Ed: EE-Mentored Research.
Grading status: Letter grade.

Yucatec Maya (MAYA)
Advanced Undergraduate and Graduate-level Courses

MAYA 401. Introduction to Yucatec Maya. 3 Credits.
Introduction to basic grammar and vocabulary, as well as cultural context and literary genres.
Grading status: Letter grade.