

LINGUISTICS (LNGN)

LNGN 110 Language of Food (3 credits)

This course explores the intersection of language and food (or speaking and eating) by investigating what we can learn about language by studying "the language of food." The course introduces fundamental aspects of language and linguistics through an exploration of topics related to food: food terms, food metaphors, the language and structure of menus and recipes, the language of wine, the language of food advertising and labeling, and language practices related to food and eating (e.g., saying grace, making toasts, sharing recipes, etc.). The course examines how people talk about food, how people use food to talk about themselves and about others, and how "food talk" conveys a range of social and cultural meanings. Cognitive aspects of the language of food and taste as well as cross-linguistic similarities and differences will be considered. Satisfies Social Science Perspectives GenEd requirement; satisfies SEEDS Interactive Communication student learning outcome in alignment with Diversity and Intercultural Competency value.

LNGN 120 Language and Computers (3 credits)

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of how computers are used to represent, process, and organize textual and spoken information. It allows students to gain an effective understanding of how the computer works and where problems arise with the involvement of natural language. The course covers the central analytical concepts and provides students with tips on how to integrate this knowledge into their working practice. Satisfies SEEDS Quantitative Reasoning student learning outcome in alignment with Educated Citizenry value.

LNGN 130 Speech Processing (4 credits)

Students will apply laboratory methods to investigate the basic concepts of linguistics, psychology and physics that underlie our current knowledge of speech production and perception. The course also covers speech digitization, speech recognition and speech synthesis. Satisfies SEEDS Scientific Reasoning student learning outcome in alignment with Educated Citizenry value.

LNGN 210 Introduction to General Linguistics (3 credits)

The nature and structure of language; the basic techniques for analyzing linguistic structures; phonological, morphological, syntactic and semantic structure of languages, language and dialects; language change; the comparative method in linguistics; human and animal communication; differences between first and second language learning. Satisfies Social Science Perspective GenEd requirement; satisfies SEEDS Scientific Reasoning student learning outcome in alignment with Diversity and Intercultural Competency value.

LNGN 220 Structure of American English (3 credits)

The phonology, morphology, syntax of American English, geographical and social dialects; traditional, structural and transformational approaches to grammar.

LNGN 230 Language in Society (3 credits)

Correlations between language varieties, their functions in particular settings, and the characteristics of their speakers. Black English. The role of second languages within a society: Pidgin, Creole, Lingua Franca, Diglossia, etc. Satisfies SEEDS Analyzing Cultures and Societies student learning outcome in alignment with Diversity and Intercultural Competency value.

LNGN 240 Languages of the World (3 credits)

A survey of the languages of the world from the dual perspectives of their genealogical classification and their typological (or structural) characteristics. It is intended for both majors and non-majors, and presupposes no previous linguistic training. Satisfies SEEDS Analyzing Cultures and Societies student learning outcome in alignment with Diversity and Intercultural Competency value.

LNGN 245 Language and Culture (3 credits)

A study of language in its cultural context. Relationship of linguistic to non-linguistic variables: ethnosemantics, linguistic relativity principle, componential analysis. Satisfies SEEDS Analyzing Cultures and Societies student learning outcome in alignment with Diversity and Intercultural Competency value.

LNGN 250 Language of Propaganda (3 credits)

This course is a multidisciplinary approach to the study of the use of language to manipulate and influence opinions via advertising, innuendo, jargon, emotive language, etc. Satisfies SEEDS Political and Civic Life student learning outcome in alignment with Educated Citizenry value.

LNGN 255 Language and Gender (3 credits)

A sociolinguistic study of the interaction of language with sex and gender. Course includes a survey of the literature on language and gender plus practical experience in collecting and analyzing linguistic data. Satisfies SEEDS Analyzing Cultures and Societies student learning outcome in alignment with Social Justice and Equity value. Meets World Cultures Requirement.

LNGN 260 Dialectology (3 credits)

Principles of dialect study; application to American dialects. The origin and development of American dialects in historical, literary, regional, social and urban perspectives.

LNGN 280 Bilingualism (3 credits)

Compound and coordinate bilingualism; attitudes, motivation, etc.; functions of languages in multilingual settings; problems of newly-independent, multilingual nations in establishing national and standardized languages; analysis of bilingual speech; problems of educating minority groups in this country whose native language is not English.

LNGN 284 History of the English Language (3 credits)

English from its Indo-European origins up to and including the eighteenth-century grammarians. The Germanic strains; old, middle and modern English.

LNGN 288 Introduction to Cognitive Science (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): ANTH 100 or CSIT 111 or LNGN 210 or PHIL 100 or PSYC 101. An introduction to the multidisciplinary field of cognitive science. Topics include: the mind-body problem, thought as computation and the computer model of the mind, the role of representation in mental activity. Emphasis will be upon the methodological approaches found in artificial intelligence, cognitive psychology, cognitive anthropology, cognitive neuroscience, linguistics, and philosophy. Mutually Exclusive with CSIT 288, PHIL 288, and PSYC 288.

LNGN 290 Language of the Law (3 credits)

The course explores the interface between language and our legal system. Students study the legal language up to the present day. Topics to be covered include, among others, the impact of (il)literacy on the law, the linguistic ramifications of governing bilingual societies, the functions of written laws and legal language, and the social psychological impact of language use in modern-day litigation. Mutually Exclusive with LAWS 290.

LNGN 300 Syntax (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): LNGN 210 or departmental approval. The study of sentence structure and the theories designed to describe it. Emphasis on structural grammar, the development of Generative Grammar and contemporary theoretical methods for describing sentence structure. Data will be taken from a number of different languages. Meets the Graduation Writing Requirement for majors in Linguistics.

LNGN 301 Semantics (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): LNGN 300. The systematic and objective study of meaning in language. Topics include: referential meaning, semantic fields, componential analysis, synonymy, polysemy, hyponymy, and sequential meaning. Data will be taken from a number of different languages.

LNGN 302 Pragmatics (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): LNGN 300. The study of pragmatics, an area of linguistics that examines language as situated speech and studies how context affects the interpretation of meaning.

LNGN 304 Principles of Discourse Analysis (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): LNGN 210. This course introduces students to discourse analysis, the subfield of linguistics that analyzes naturally occurring connected speech and written texts and describes the nature of socially-situated language. Central issues in the study of discourse will be examined, including the relationship between linguistic form and function, the relationship between text and context, and the question of "textuality," that is, how a randomly ordered set of sentences is distinguished from a coherent text. Various approaches to discourse will be discussed including speech act theory, interactional sociolinguistics, conversation analysis, and critical discourse analysis.

LNGN 310 Morphology (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): LNGN 210. Morphology is the study of the structure of words. Students will learn to analyze words by working with data from many languages, and they will study the kinds of morphological systems that exist in the languages of the world.

LNGN 320 Quantitative Linguistics (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): LNGN 210 or departmental approval. Language is a complex yet systematic natural phenomenon. Linguists seek to uncover the underlying systems of language using the tools of mathematics: we count, measure or model various aspects of linguistic behavior in order to test hypotheses and discover patterns about how language works. This hands-on course will guide students through the most common quantitative methods in a range of linguistic subfields, using R or other statistical software packages.

LNGN 325 Principles of Second Language Learning (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): LNGN 210. Restriction(s): Open to Linguistics majors or admission into Teacher Education program. Theories of second language acquisition; error analysis; individual learner differences; the roles of input, interaction, and formal instruction in language acquisition.

LNGN 330 Scripting Tools for Text Analysis (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): LNGN 210. The course provides an introduction to text analysis by computer with a primary emphasis on building software to perform analyses. The course will concentrate on scripting tools available in the Linux operating system and in Python. The course emphasizes the specific applications of computing to issues in linguistics and computational linguistics using these tools and combinations of the tools in short scripts.

LNGN 331 Phonetics (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): LNGN 210 or departmental approval. Restriction(s): Cognitive Science majors. A comprehensive introduction to phonetics, the study of the production of speech sounds and their acoustic characteristics. Students will learn to identify, classify, and transcribe sounds from a variety of languages. While intended primarily for Linguistics majors, this course will also be of interest to prospective language teachers and to majors in Speech, in Psychology, and in Communication Sciences and Disorders.

LNGN 332 Phonology (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): LNGN 331 or departmental approval. Phonology studies how languages make use of a particular subset of all the possible speech sounds in a systematic way to produce meaningful units like words and sentences. The objectives of this course will be to give students experience in analyzing phonological data from a wide variety of languages and to survey current theories of phonology.

LNGN 340 Linguistic Annotation (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): LNGN 210 or departmental approval. Linguistic annotation of natural language is the practice of adding interpretative linguistic information to a corpus. Linguistic annotation of natural language corpora "adds value" to the corpus. It allows to manually or automatically extract linguistic examples to evaluate a theoretical hypothesis, help formalize and study linguistic phenomena. It is also the backbone of supervised methods for statistical natural language processing. This course introduces the students to the major aspects of linguistic annotation, such as creation/evaluation of annotation schemes, methods for automatic and manual annotation, use and evaluation of annotation software and frameworks, representation of linguistic data and annotations, evaluation of manual and automatically-produced annotations.

LNGN 350 Linguistics of American Sign Language and Other Signed Languages (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): LNGN 210. This course takes a linguistic approach to signed languages and examines how linguistic analysis from phonetics and phonology to syntax and semantics applies to signed languages. The course also addresses acquisition, psycholinguistic, and sociolinguistic aspects of sign languages. Focus is on American Sign Language, the sign language of the Deaf in the United States, but other signed languages are also studied. Knowledge of American Sign Language is not required.

LNGN 351 Gesture, Sign, and Speech: The Multi-Modality of Communication (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): LNGN 210. Humans communicate using language, but they also communicate using gesture. This course examines these spontaneous movements of the hands and body and how they contribute to human communication. Topics include form-meaning patterns in gesture (e.g., pointing vs. iconic gestures), how gesture helps in language learning, and the role of gesture in thinking. Students will learn about gestural communication that accompanies both signed and spoken languages and how gesture is different from signed languages.

LNGN 352 Depiction in American Sign Language (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): AMSL 201. This course is a study of depiction, which is an integral, grammatical part of ASL. Emphasis will be on mastering visual and kinetic skills related to American Sign Language for the application of depiction in topics such as the use of classifiers, constructed action, constructed dialogue, surrogates, spatialization, and use of space in signing ASL. Advanced skills development will be provided through visual communication techniques, visual discrimination, visual imagery, and memory exercises. There are also exercises for developing kinetic movements and use of space. The spatialization and its relationship to the signer's perspective will be developed through exercises.

LNGN 370 Comparative and Historical Linguistics (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): LNGN 210 or LNGN 284. Similarities and differences among languages and language families at one point in time and as these develop in time; reconstructing the common ancestor of related languages and determining general laws of linguistic change.

LNGN 380 Corpus Linguistics (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): LNGN 210 or departmental approval. This course is an introduction to the use of corpora (electronic texts) in the study of language. Students are introduced to the field of corpus linguistics, learn how to utilize existing corpora, acquire the basic computational skills and quantitative methods necessary in carrying out a corpus investigation, find out how corpora are influencing recent trends in linguistic research, and have opportunities to apply corpus-based methods in their own work.

LNGN 403 Methods and Material of TESL (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): LNGN 325. The theory and practice of ESL instruction covering the major methodologies, planning lessons, testing language skills, selecting and developing materials and related topics.

LNGN 405 Field Experience in Teaching English as a Second Language (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): LNGN 325. Opportunity to teach English as a second language will be arranged for each student in the program.

LNGN 420 Language and the Mind (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): LNGN 210 or PSYC 288 or LNGN 288 or PHIL 288 or CSIT 288. An introduction to the major theoretical and methodological principles of Noam Chomsky's theory of Universal Grammar and what they tell us about structure of the human mind.

LNGN 430 Field Methods (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): LNGN 210 or departmental approval. Collecting linguistic data from an informant; human factors in field work; qualifications of the informant; elicitation techniques.

LNGN 445 Natural Language Processing (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): LNGN 300 or departmental approval. Computational approaches to the problem of processing, understanding and generating natural language text and speech, including speech processing, morphological and phonological analysis, syntactic parsing, semantic interpretation, discourse meaning, and the role of pragmatics and world knowledge. The course will examine both rule-based and data-driven techniques.

LNGN 450 Special Topics in Linguistics (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): LNGN 210 or departmental approval. Study of special problems and topics in linguistics. Topics announced each semester. May be repeated once for a maximum of 6 credits as long as the topic is different.

LNGN 460 Special Topics in the Structure of a Selected Language (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): Departmental approval. An exploration of a single topic or a small set of topics related to a specific language. Selections of the topic(s) and language will depend on the interests of the students and the instructor, and on the availability of relevant material. The topics will be of general relevance to linguistics, and might relate to phonological, morphological, syntactic, semantic, sociolinguistic, historical, or other issues. May be repeated once for a maximum of 6 credits as long as the topic is different.

LNGN 470 Research Experience in Linguistics (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): At least one 300-level LNGN course. The course will focus on conducting research in linguistics, with students receiving hands-on research training in a laboratory setting. Throughout the course, we will cover topics such as research ethics, methodological approaches, diversity in linguistic research, information literacy in linguistics, and related career paths. Our goal is to train undergraduate researchers, while also highlighting the ways in which we can use linguistics tools as researchers in order to better understand the nature of human language. Students will be assigned to one of three research teams, each led by a faculty member with a different area of expertise. Students will work in small groups and be involved in all aspects of the research process - developing the ability to ask research questions, utilizing cutting-edge research tools in language science (e.g., related to speech, language, and corpus linguistics), analyzing language data, and preparing scientific presentations.

LNGN 478 Independent Study (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): Departmental approval. This course is designed (1) to allow students to explore areas of linguistics that are not covered in the normal course offerings of the department; (2) to permit an in-depth analysis of a given subject beyond the scope of a regular semester course; or (3) to provide advanced students with the possibility of research in areas of linguistics that are of special interest to them. May be repeated once for a maximum of 6 credits.

LNGN 488 Seminar in Cognitive Science (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): LNGN 300 or CSIT 288 or LNGN 288 or PHIL 288 or PSYC 288. Seminar discussion of foundation works and contemporary research articles in Cognitive Science. With the instructor's guidance and supervision, each student will define an area of Cognitive Science for comprehensive in-depth review of research and write a literature review. Professional issues in Cognitive Science are discussed. Mutually Exclusive with PSYC 488.

LNGN 490 Project in Computational Linguistics (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): LNGN445; AMAT110; CSIT213. Restriction(s): For students in the BS in Computational Linguistics program. This capstone course is the culmination of the BS in Computational Linguistics program, where students in teams or individually, design and execute a comprehensive project addressing real-world challenges in areas such as natural language processing (NLP), machine translation, or speech technology. Students apply their knowledge and skills to develop, implement, and evaluate computational solutions. The course emphasizes project management, teamwork, and effective communication, culminating in a final deliverable, a detailed report, and a formal presentation to faculty and peers. Students will also consider the ethical implications of their solutions, focusing on responsible AI practices and ensuring fairness, privacy, and transparency in their models. This course prepares students for careers or advanced study in the field.