Linguistics (Tri-Co)
2013-2014

Linguistics is the scientific study of language, the medium which allows us to communicate and share our ideas with others. As a discipline, linguistics examines the structural components of sound, form and meaning, and the precise interplay between them. Modern linguistic inquiry stresses analytical and argumentation skills, which will prepare students for future pursuits in any field where such skills are essential. Linguistics is also relevant to other disciplines, such as Psychology, Philosophy, Mathematics, Computer Science, Sociology and Anthropology. (Some of our students have double majored with one of them.)

The primary objectives of the linguistics major are to introduce students to the field of linguistics proper through a series of foundation courses in linguistics theory and methodology; to provide training in the application of theoretical and methodological tools to the analysis of linguistic data, particularly in forming and testing hypotheses, and arriving at conclusions supported by the data and arguments; and to offer an array of interdisciplinary courses that allow students to explore other related fields, such as Computational Linguistics, Neuroscience, Psychology, Philosophy, Anthropology, etc., that best suit their interests.

Major Requirements

The Linguistics Department offers two majors:

- Linguistics
- Linguistics and Language (Ling&Lang)

Students can also minor in Linguistics.

Students may learn more about the major and minor requirements at the following websites:

http://www.haverford.edu/linguistics/

Courses Appropriate for First-year Students:

In addition to the 100-level courses mentioned below, some Linguistics courses are especially designed for first-year students. There is a new seminar with a linguistics theme that is offered at Swarthmore College next year: LING 003 What Gay Sounds like: Linguistics of LGBTQ Communities. Please note that these seminars are subject to strict enrollment constraints. As such, students are advised to contact the instructors early to inform them of their interests.

Below are brief descriptions of the 100-level course offerings. Students interested in registering for a class but are uncertain of how to choose are encouraged to come to the Academic Tea and discuss their interests with a faculty member. While the topics covered in each class below vary somewhat from semester to semester, all courses introduce students to foundational issues in linguistic theory and methodology.

Linguistics 101, “Introduction to Linguistics”: Introduction to the study and analysis of human language, including sound systems, lexical systems, the formation of phrases and sentences, and meaning, both in modern and ancient languages and with respect to how languages change over
time. Other topics that may be covered include first-language acquisition, sign languages, poetic metrics, the relation between language and the brain, and sociological effects on language.

**Linguistics 113A, “Introduction to Syntax”:** This course provides an introduction to the investigation of sentence structures in human language. Students are led to discover for themselves the insights into this field that linguists have gained in the past 50 years. The class develops an increasingly complex theory starting with some basic assumptions about language and then seeing where the assumptions lead. In the process, students not only come to a clearer understanding of how grammar works, they also develop and refine skills of analysis, writing, and argumentation. The course focuses mainly on English, since everybody in class speaks it. Occasionally, other languages are considered to get a sense of the ways in which human languages are similar to each other and how they are different.

**Linguistics 114B, “Introduction to Semantics”:** This course is an introduction to semantics, the study of meaning in human language. The course explores semantic issues that arise from the lexicon, sentence structure, and discourse. In addition to the semantic structure of natural language, the pragmatic factors that affect the interpretation of language are considered. This is a participation-intensive course. In the process, students will not only learn the basic semantic theory but will also develop skills in observing linguistic patterns and analyzing these patterns in order to come to some generalizations on their own.

**Linguistics 115B, “Phonetics and Phonology”:** This course investigates the sound patterns found in human languages. Phonetics is the study of these patterns from a physical and perceptual perspective while phonology is the study of sound patterns from a cognitive perspective. Activities in the class will expose students to the methodologies used by both perspectives (articulatory description and acoustic analysis for phonetics and formal theoretical models for phonology) and show the necessity and utility of both approaches in understanding the nature of sound patterns in human language.

In what follows, we present a three-part description of the requirements that are pertinent to the Linguistics major, the Linguistics and Languages major, and the Linguistics minor.

**Part I: (Pertinent to the two majors: Linguistics, Linguistics & Languages, and the Linguistics minor)**

A. Mandatory Foundation Courses (one credit each, all suitable for freshmen. Can be taken in any order. Will serve as prerequisites for upper level courses):

- LING H113 or LING S050 Introduction to Syntax
- LING H114 or LING S040 Introduction to Semantics
- LING H115 Phonetics and Phonology

B. Synthesis Courses (choose one):

- LING H215 Structure of Colonial Valley Zapotec
- LING H282 Structure of Chinese
- LING S060 Structure of Navajo
- LING S062 Structure of American Sign Language
- LING S064 Structure of Tuvan

C. Elective Courses (choose two):
LING 101 Introduction to Linguistics (suitable for freshmen)
LING/PSYC H238 Psychology of Language
LING/ENGL H213 Inventing [the] English
LING/PSYC H238 The Psychology of Language
LING/PHIL H253 Analytic Philosophy of Language
LING/PHIL H260 Historical Introduction to Logic
LING/ANTH B281 Language in the Social Context
LING/CMSC B325 Computational Linguistics
LING/SPAN H365 The Politics of Language in the Spanish-Speaking World
LING/EAST H382 Topics in Chinese Syntax and Semantics

Part II (Pertinent to the two majors: Linguistics, Linguistics & Languages)
All Linguistics and Linguistics & Languages majors write a one-semester thesis in the fall semester of their senior year. During this semester, students identify a topic, learn about research methodology, and develop the skills to research and write a Linguistics article.

Part III (Pertinent to the Linguistics & Languages major)
The Linguistics & Languages major must complete 3 credits of serious language study in two distinct languages, for a total of 6 additional credits. The languages can be modern or ancient and the courses must be at the intermediate/upper division levels approved by the major advisor.

Summary of the Requirements for the majors and the minor:
1. The Linguistics minor consists of 6 credits of course work (Part I).
2. The Linguistics major consists of 8 credits of course work (Part I and Part II).
3. The Linguistics & Languages major consists of 12 credits of course work. (Part I, Part II, and Part III).
4. The major (either one) officially begins with the declaration of the major in the spring semester of the sophomore year. Students must fill out the major declaration form and submit it to the Registrar’s Office, and also fill out the departmental Linguistics Major Plan, available on the department’s website and submit it to the chair of the Linguistics Department.

Study Abroad
Students considering study abroad all or part of their junior year should plan accordingly. Such students might contact the chair of the Linguistics department in their freshman or sophomore year to outline their curriculum.

If you have questions, please contact:

Shizhe Huang
Associate Professor of Chinese and Linguistics
(With C.V. Starr Professorship in Asian Studies)
Co-Chair, Linguistics Department
Shuang@haverford.edu