The Linguistics Department offers two majors:
- Linguistics
- Linguistics and Language (Ling&Lang)

For those incoming students who have strong language background or are interested in learning multiple languages, it might be useful to know that more and more students have decided to major in Linguistics, and minor in one or two languages, instead of pursuing Linguistics and Language as a major. But the latter major is still open to all.

**Courses Appropriate for First-year Students:**

There are **four** semester-long courses that are intro-level; none has a prerequisite. First-year students can take any one of them in their first year at college.

LING101: Introduction to Linguistics:
- Fall: at Bryn Mawr
- Spring: at Haverford
  (Students have the option of taking LING101 either in the fall or in the spring)

  This course provides an overview of the fundamental subfields in Linguistics such as syntax, semantics, phonetics, phonology, morphology, sociolinguistics, etc. It is a survey course and counts as an elective credit for the major or minor. Many students decide to take this course first before taking the other three intro-level courses, although it is not a prerequisite course for them.

LING113A: Introduction to Syntax:

This course is offered in the fall. The highlight of this course is that we do NOT use a textbook and there is minimum reading. Almost all of the work is based on observing patterns in language (mostly English, with some other languages thrown in), making generalizations, and testing hypotheses. So everyone is required to participate actively in class and there is homework assignment twice a week on average that requires students to analyze familiar (discussed in class) and unfamiliar data, and defend their analyses with linguistic evidence. This course is writing attentive.

LING114: Introduction to Semantics

Study of meaning. Offered in the spring.

LING115: Phonetics and Phonology

Study of sounds and sound structures. Offered in the spring
Two suggested paths for first-year students (either option is viable depending on the backgrounds and preferences of the students):

I. Take Introduction to Linguistics in the fall, and in the spring, take either Phonetics and Phonology or Introduction to Semantics (or both, or they might consider Syntax at Swarthmore)

II. Take Introduction to Syntax in the fall, and in the spring, take either Phonetics and Phonology or Introduction to Semantics (or both)

Students who take Introduction to Linguistics in the spring can follow Option II in their sophomore year.

Brief descriptions of the four 100-level courses

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 is a hands-on investigation of sentence structures in human language. This is a participation intensive course. Collectively, the class will develop an increasingly complex syntactic theory starting with some basic theoretical assumptions and testing where the assumptions lead. In the process, students will learn to observe syntactic patterns, make generalizations, and test hypotheses.

Linguistics 114B, “Introduction to Semantics”: This course is an introduction to 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.

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

http://www.haverford.edu/linguistics/
Students interested in registering for a linguistics class but are uncertain of how to choose are encouraged to come to the Academic Tea and discuss their interests with a faculty member and/or a current linguistics major.

All Linguistics courses emphasize making sound analyses and cogent arguments while introducing students to foundational issues in linguistic theory and methodology. So we welcome all first-year students to consider our courses, which prepare them not only for the Linguistics major or minor, but also for other majors, such as Computer Science, Mathematics, Psychology, Anthropology, Sociology, Philosophy, among others. Over the past decade, many of our students have successfully completed a double major with one of the above.

If you have further questions, please contact:

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