

Linguistics Minor

Coordinators: Morin, Steele

The minor in Linguistics offers students the opportunity to study language systems structurally and functionally. Linguistics, as a discipline or nexus of disciplines, allows for multiple methodologies and approaches to investigate linguistic change, variation, and structure. As an inherently interdisciplinary field, linguistics offers students an opportunity to synthesize multiplex theories across both departmental and school boundaries. Through their systematic study of language, students will find their curricula immeasurably enriched and their professional opportunities expanded.

The curriculum reflects the debt of linguistics to the field known historically as philology, the investigation of older languages as recorded in texts, as well as the impact of post-Generative linguistic theory. As a result, the minor allows students to self-select concentrations. Students may choose to pursue electives that enrich their understanding of historical linguistics or that expand their understanding of language acquisition and psycholinguistics. Irrespective of their own concentration on a particular sub-discipline, all students will gain a grounding in contemporary linguistic theory that has direct applications in the fields of education, literature, computer science, and psychology.

Courses in Linguistic Theory will provide a foundation whereby students will understand the structure of human languages, focusing on developing tools for the description and application of phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics. They will become proficient in the IPA. They will be introduced to the physical apparatus required for language production (the vocal tract, the auditory and visual systems). Students will be exposed to dialectal variation, learning to respect and understand diversity in language use, patterns, and dialects across cultures, ethnic groups, geographic regions, and social roles. Students will become familiar with the purviews of first and second language acquisition.

Courses in the Linguistic History category provide an opportunity for students to apply their theoretical knowledge (especially in the fields of phonology, morphology, syntax, and lexis) to diachronic linguistics. Students will become familiar with the impact of cultural, economic, political, and social environments on language. Students will begin to read, analyze, and report on linguistics scholarship.

Courses in the Options category will provide a further opportunity for students to practice skills developed in the other two groups. Students will also use a number of different modes of inquiry, including, but not limited to, informant interviews and linguistic corpora analysis. Students will also learn how to engage non-native speakers (or speakers of non-standard varieties) in productive dialogue about their language use. Independent study courses on appropriate linguistic topics may be counted toward elective credit in the Linguistics minor.

Students interested in a minor in Linguistics should consult with one of the program's coordinators as early as possible to plan their program of study.

No more than one course taken toward the student's major may be counted in the Linguistics Minor.

Requirements for the Linguistics Minor

1) Students must meet or exceed the foreign language requirement for Liberal Learning.

2) 5 Courses:

- 1 Linguistic Theory
- 1 Linguistic History
- 3 Options (at least two must be at the 300 level or above)

Linguistic Theory: One course chosen from the following:

- LNG 201/Introduction to the English Language
- SPA 350/Introduction to Spanish Linguistics
- WLC 215/Introduction to Linguistics
- ANT213 Language and Culture: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology

Linguistic History: One course from the following:

- SPA 372/History of the Spanish Language
- LNG 202/Structure and History of the English Language
- WLC 321/Introduction to Historical Linguistics
- WLC 220/Introduction to Romance Linguistics

Options: Three courses (may take courses from the first two categories as well).

ANT 390/Research Course in Anthropology (when the topic is related to discourse analysis)

- DHH 303/Language Development in Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals
- JPN 370/Topics in Japanese (when the title is Introduction to Japanese Linguistics)
- LNG 391, SPA 391, or other appropriate Independent Study
- LNG 311/Contemporary English Grammar
- LNG 371/American English Dialects
- LNG 372/World Englishes
- PHL 421/Philosophy of Language
- SPA 215/Spanish Phonetics
- SPA 301/Advanced Spanish Grammar
- SPA 373/Introduction to Hispanic Bilingualism in the United States
- SPA 351 Spanish/English Translation I
- WLC271/WGS271/ANT270 Gender and Language
- WLC 390/Second Language Acquisition and Related Methodologies
- WLC 371/Topics in Linguistics in English