

Spring 2026; Department of Linguistics, University of Pittsburgh

LING 2990/3990 Independent Study (1 Credit)

A Guided Study: Python Programming for Linguists

```
>>> chom = 'Colorless green ideas sleep furiously'  
>>> for word in chom.split():  
    print(word, 'is', len(word), 'characters long.')  
  
Colorless is 9 characters long.  
green is 5 characters long.  
ideas is 5 characters long.  
sleep is 5 characters long.  
furiously is 9 characters long.  
>>>
```

Calling all linguistics grad students! Have you been wanting to **learn Python** but couldn't quite fit CS 012 ("Intro to Programming for Humanities") in your schedule? This is your chance to learn together in a friendly group setting, alongside your linguist peers and faculty.

This **1-credit Independent Study** course will be run as a "guided self-study" based off of Coursera's "[Programming for Everybody](#)" online curricula:

- [Getting Started with Python](#)
- [Python Data Structures](#)
- [Using Python to Access Web Data](#)

Every week, students will study a couple of Coursera lessons on their own. Then, we will get together for a review session, where we help each other with muddy points and apply the newly learned Python skills to language-specific problems that Na-Rae has curated. After this course, you will have acquired Python programming basics and be ready to perform such essential tasks as processing a text into word and sentence lists, extract word frequency counts, and produce key textual statistics – things that all linguists should know how to do!

This course also acts as a **substitute** for the **CS 12 prerequisite to LING 2330 “Introduction to Computational Linguistics”**, which is coming up in the fall. Priorities will be given to ling grads preparing to take LING 2330.

If you're interested, send an email to Na-Rae (naraehan@pitt.edu) for a permission number.

Instructor: Na-Rae Han, naraehan@pitt.edu

Time commitment: 3-4 hours/week for self-study
plus a weekly review meeting (time and location TBD)

Grade: S/NC (Satisfactory upon completing all Coursera assignments and one final text-processing project)