

Linguistics Courses: Summer 2024

No records found

Linguistics Courses: Fall 2024

LING235501

Writing Systems of the World

Geissler, Christopher

Fall 2024

This course surveys the range of ways that different speech communities have materialized their language in writing: what, if anything, do they have in common? How different can writing systems get from each other? How have speakers of different languages invented means of capturing the subtle properties of their languages on paper (or papyrus, stone, clay, as tactile dots (as in Braille) etc.)? Can language X be written in the orthography of language Y? What are the cognitive and social consequences of creating a writing system for a language that previously was not written down? There are no prerequisites for the course, and early linguistics majors and minors are welcome to enroll in it as a Topics course.

Credits: 3

Room and Schedule: Gasson Hall 303 MWF 12:00 Noon-12:50PM

Satisfies Core Requirement: None

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

Cross-listed with: None

Frequency: Periodically

Student Level: Undergraduate

Comments: None

Status: Offered

LING310101

General Linguistics

Geissler, Christopher

Fall 2024

An introduction to linguistics the scientific study of human language and contemporary linguistic theory. Linguists use mathematical systems (often called formal systems) to develop precise theories that help us understand the rich cognitive processes that support our use of language to communicate, to conduct internal monologues, and much more. The course focuses on the major subfields within linguistics: phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics: how do linguists create and manipulate representations of language phenomena, and how do they analyze linguistic data? Our primary data will be from English, but we will also employ data from other languages. No previous exposure to the field is presupposed.

Credits: 3

Room and Schedule: Lyons Hall 202 MWF 10:00AM-10:50AM

Satisfies Core Requirement: None

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

Cross-listed with: ENGL3527

Frequency: Every Fall

Student Level: Both

Comments: None

Status: Offered

LING310401

Formalism and Functionalism in Linguistics

Thomas, Margaret

Fall 2024

Analysis of two competing orientations in linguistic theory since 1900: formalism (emphasizing systematicity, autonomy, abstraction: American structuralism, varieties of generativism); versus functionalism (prioritizing the role communication imposes on language: Prague School, cognitive linguistics). Extensions into applied linguistics. Readings, lectures, discussion.

Credits: 3

Room and Schedule: Lyons Hall 315 TuTh 10:30AM-11:45AM

Satisfies Core Requirement: None

Prerequisites: LING3101/ENGL3527 General Linguistics and LING3102/ENGL3392 Syntax and Semantics

Corequisites: None

Cross-listed with: None

Frequency: Biannually in the Fall

Student Level: Both

Comments: None

Status: Offered

LING325301

Introduction to Comparative Slavic Linguistics

Woolhiser, Curt F

Fall 2024

An introduction to the history and linguistic typology of the Slavic languages. We will begin with a brief survey of the reconstructed Common Slavic proto-language and its relationship to the other branches of the Indo-European language family. We will examine the disintegration of Late Common Slavic into three main subgroups: East, South, and West Slavic. Our survey of the modern Slavic languages will focus on the most important similarities and differences with regard to their writing, sound, nominal and verbal systems. Using a variety of modern Slavic languages as examples, we will also address topics of current interest to linguists worldwide: language, ethnic identity, and political borders; language ideology and standardization; the role of language contact in linguistic evolution, and language endangerment and language revitalization.

Credits: 3

Room and Schedule: Gasson Hall 308 MWF 11:00AM-11:50AM

Satisfies Core Requirement: None

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

Cross-listed with: SLAV2053

Frequency: Periodically

Student Level: Both

Comments: None

Status: Offered

LING336101

Psycholinguistics

Thomas, Margaret

Fall 2024

An exploration, from a linguistic perspective, of some classic issues at the interface of language and mind. Topics include the production, perception, and processing of speech; the organization of language in the human brain; the psychological reality of grammatical models; animal communication; the acquisition of language by both children and by adults; and the innateness hypothesis.

Credits: 3

Room and Schedule: Lyons Hall 202 TuTh 01:30PM-02:45PM

Satisfies Core Requirement: None

Prerequisites: Some background in linguistics or psychology recommended.

Corequisites: None

Cross-listed with: PSYC3320

Frequency: Biannually in the Fall

Student Level: Both

Comments: None

Status: Offered

LING433001

Foreign Language Pedagogy

Javel, Andrea M

Fall 2024

Fulfills Massachusetts licensure requirement methods in foreign language education For anyone considering the possibility of teaching a foreign language. Introduces students to techniques of second language teaching at any level. Students learn how to evaluate language proficiency, organize a communication course, review language-teaching materials, and incorporate audiovisual and electronic media in the classroom.

Credits: 3

Room and Schedule: Stokes Hall 203S M 04:30PM-06:50PM

Satisfies Core Requirement: None

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: EDUC3152 and EDUC3132

Cross-listed with: RLRL5597, EDUC6303

Frequency: Every Fall

Student Level: Both

Comments: None

Status: Offered

LING439001**Advanced Tutorial: Linguistics****Geissler, Christopher****Fall 2024**

A course of directed study on topics in linguistics intended solely for students who have exhausted present course offerings or are doing thesis work on advanced topics. The precise subject matter is determined by arrangement and need.

Credits: 3**Room and Schedule:** BY ARRANGEMENT**Satisfies Core Requirement:** None**Prerequisites:** Permission of Department**Corequisites:** None**Cross-listed with:** None**Frequency:** Every Fall, Every Spring**Student Level:** Undergraduate**Comments:** None**Status:** Offered

LING439002**Advanced Tutorial: Linguistics****Thomas, Margaret****Fall 2024**

A course of directed study on topics in linguistics intended solely for students who have exhausted present course offerings or are doing thesis work on advanced topics. The precise subject matter is determined by arrangement and need.

Credits: 3**Room and Schedule:** BY ARRANGEMENT**Satisfies Core Requirement:** None**Prerequisites:** Permission of Department**Corequisites:** None**Cross-listed with:** None**Frequency:** Every Fall, Every Spring**Student Level:** Undergraduate**Comments:** None**Status:** Offered

Linguistics Courses: Spring 2025

LING237901

Language and Ethnicity

Thomas, Margaret

Spring 2025

An examination of how we use language to regulate power relations among social groups and of how individuals define personal identity through speech. Case studies include: the linguistic representation of social class membership, dialect geography, Native Americans and U.S. language policy, the Ebonics controversy, and arguments for and against maintaining public language standards. Emphasis on the status of language and ethnicity in the United States, viewed in cross-cultural perspective.

Credits: 3

Room and Schedule: Lyons Hall 202 TuTh 01:30PM-02:45PM

Satisfies Core Requirement: Cultural Diversity

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

Cross-listed with: ENGL2123,SOCY2379

Frequency: Biannually

Student Level: Undergraduate

Comments: None

Status: Offered

LING310201

Syntax and Semantics

Foley, Claire A

Spring 2025

An introduction to the concepts and operations of modern generative grammar and related models, as well as linguistic theories of meaning.

Credits: 3

Room and Schedule: Lyons Hall 315 TuTh 03:00PM-04:15PM

Satisfies Core Requirement: None

Prerequisites: LING3101 or equivalent.

Corequisites: None

Cross-listed with: ENGL3392

Frequency: Every Spring

Student Level: Both

Comments: None

Status: Offered

LING332501

Historical Linguistics

Geissler, Christopher

Spring 2025

The phenomenon of language change and of languages, dialects, and linguistic affinities as examined through the methods of comparative linguistics and internal reconstruction.

Credits: 3

Room and Schedule: Higgins Hall 275 MWF 10:00AM-10:50AM

Satisfies Core Requirement: None

Prerequisites: LING3101/ENGL3527 or equivalent, and familiarity with an inflected language.

Corequisites: None

Cross-listed with: ENGL3528

Frequency: Every Spring

Student Level: Both

Comments: None

Status: Offered

LING332901

The Linguistic Structure of Tibetan

Geissler, Christopher

Spring 2025

How does a language develop-and lose-tone? When are two dialects different enough to be considered distinct languages? What happens when a clause becomes a noun? How can a sentence cite its sources? In this course, students will conduct hands-on analysis of the Tibetan language to answer these questions. Tibetan is a Sino-Tibetan language spoken by around six million people in China, Nepal, India, Bhutan, and Pakistan, as well as diaspora communities worldwide. As a result of its association with the Buddhist and Bn religions, it is historically significant across Central Asia and remains a liturgical language in Mongolia and parts of Russia. Students will examine the phonology, morphology, and syntax of Tibetan, along with its relationship with other languages. Some topics well examine in depth include evidentiality, the ergative/absolutive case system, clausal nominalization, and the interaction between tonal and laryngeal phonology. Along the way, we will look at the historical divergence of Tibetan varieties, the broader history of the Sino-Tibetan family, and the mutual influence of Tibetan varieties on each other and with other languages.

Credits: 3

Room and Schedule: Stokes Hall 261S MWF 12:00 Noon-12:50PM

Satisfies Core Requirement: None

Prerequisites: LING3101/ENGL3527 and LING3102/ENGL3392 or LING3103/ENGL2127 or LING4337

Corequisites: None

Cross-listed with: None

Frequency: Periodically

Student Level: Both

Comments: None

Status: Offered

LING335601

Classics in Linguistics

Thomas, Margaret

Spring 2025

A seminar on the history of linguistics, organized chronologically from ancient India to the present day. Our emphasis is on the development of the language sciences in cultures with historical roots in Europe, but there is some treatment of language study in non-Western societies. Close readings of primary and secondary sources. The course presupposes exposure to the major subfields, analytic tools, and conceptual vocabulary of the modern discipline.

Credits: 3

Room and Schedule: Gasson Hall 210 TuTh 10:30AM-11:45AM

Satisfies Core Requirement: None

Prerequisites: A course in General Linguistics and at least one additional Linguistics elective.

Corequisites: None

Cross-listed with: None

Frequency: Periodically

Student Level: Both

Comments: None

Status: Offered

LING433701

Phonetics and Phonology

Geissler, Christopher

Spring 2025

This course offers a comprehensive introduction to the phonetics and phonology of human languages. Phonetics is a field of study that examines the production (articulatory) and perception (acoustic) of sounds across various languages. In comparison, phonology is concerned with understanding how these sounds are classified, differentiated, and arranged into more extensive structures that conform to language-specific patterns.

Credits: 3

Room and Schedule: Stokes Hall 203S MWF 03:00PM-03:50PM

Satisfies Core Requirement: None

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

Cross-listed with: None

Frequency: Periodically

Student Level: Both

Comments: None

Status: Offered

LING439001

Advanced Tutorial: Linguistics

Thomas, Margaret

Spring 2025

A course of directed study on topics in linguistics intended solely for students who have exhausted present course offerings or are doing thesis work on advanced topics. The precise subject matter is determined by arrangement and need.

Credits: 3

Room and Schedule: By Arrangement

Satisfies Core Requirement: None

Prerequisites: Permission of Department

Corequisites: None

Cross-listed with: None

Frequency: Every Fall, Every Spring

Student Level: Undergraduate

Comments: None

Status: Offered

LING439002

Advanced Tutorial: Linguistics

Dept, Dept

Spring 2025

A course of directed study on topics in linguistics intended solely for students who have exhausted present course offerings or are doing thesis work on advanced topics. The precise subject matter is determined by arrangement and need.

Credits: 3

Room and Schedule: By Arrangement

Satisfies Core Requirement: None

Prerequisites: Permission of Department

Corequisites: None

Cross-listed with: None

Frequency: Every Fall, Every Spring

Student Level: Undergraduate

Comments: None

Status: Offered

LING439101

AB Comprehensive: Linguistics

Thomas, Margaret

Spring 2025

Required for Honors candidates in Linguistics Individually-designed independent research under faculty supervision. Taken in Fall or Spring of the senior year.

Credits: 1

Room and Schedule: BY ARRANGEMENT

Satisfies Core Requirement: None

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

Cross-listed with: None

Frequency: Every Fall, Every Spring

Student Level: Undergraduate

Comments: None

Status: Offered
