
Linguistics

(undergraduate)

Linguistics—the scientific study of language—is inherently interdisciplinary. With respect to the administrative and curricular divisions of Harpur College at Binghamton, the field of linguistics is in fact fully interdivisional. The subject matter of linguistics includes topics from all three divisions: Humanities, Social Sciences and Science and Mathematics.

The minor program in linguistics provides a foundation in the principles of linguistic theory and method, as well as a wide variety of cross-disciplinary and subdisciplinary offerings.

Although the Linguistics Program is authorized to award a major, staffing constraints have forced the program to deactivate the major. For this reason, the requirements for the major in linguistics do not appear here.

Linguistics as Preparation for Graduate and Professional Studies

Undergraduate study in linguistics serves as an excellent preparation for graduate and professional study in many fields, including law, anthropology, education and counseling, as well as linguistics. Students planning to pursue graduate or professional study in any of these areas are strongly advised to keep these plans in mind as they select courses. Students with an interest in graduate work in linguistics, for example, are well advised to study at least two languages other than English, one a language of scholarship and the other a non-Western language. Students considering professional training in applied and clinical areas such as language teaching, speech/language pathology and audiology, deaf education or counseling are urged to consult appropriate preprofessional information sources early in their undergraduate career, preferably not later than the beginning of the sophomore year.

Linguistics Minor

The linguistics minor is interdivisional. This means that students who declare two minors can count the linguistics minor as not being in the same division as their other minor (which is necessary for students whose major and one minor are in a single division).

Six courses, distributed as follows, are required for the linguistics minor:

1. LING 114 and 118.
2. Four other courses in linguistics, at least two of which must be at or above the 300 level.

All courses presented in fulfillment of the minimum requirements for the linguistics minor must be taken for a letter grade (no Pass/Fail), and the grade received must be a C– or better in order to count toward these requirements. The overall average in courses presented in fulfillment of minimum requirements must be a C or better.

Distribution Requirements

As an interdivisional program, the linguistics program offers courses applicable toward all three of the divisions recognized in the various distribution requirements at Binghamton University. The divisional placement of each linguistics course is indicated in the course descriptions that appear below; it is also reflected in the second digit of each course number in accordance with the following scheme:

X00–X09	Nondivisional courses (do not count toward distribution requirements)
X10–X19	Humanities or social sciences
X20–X39	Humanities
X40–X59	Social sciences
X60–X69	Social sciences or science and mathematics
X70–X79	Science and mathematics
X80–X99	Nondivisional courses (do not count toward distribution requirements)

COURSE OFFERINGS

Note: Unless otherwise noted, all courses carry 4 credits and are offered every other year.

LING 118 (also ANTH 118). INTRODUCTION TO LINGUISTIC STRUCTURES every year

Basic methods and concepts of linguistic analysis, including phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics, with special attention to cross-linguistic comparison. (LING 118 counts toward divisional distribution requirements as either humanities or social sciences.)

LING 131 (also CLAS 111). WORD ORIGINS

The derivation of English vocabulary from Latin and Greek bases, prefixes and suffixes. (LING 131 counts toward divisional distribution requirements as humanities.)

LING 132 (also CLAS 121). SCIENTIFIC AND MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY

Principles and methods of analyzing English words of Greek and Latin derivation. Word formation. Modification of root concepts by formative additions. Word structure and vocabulary building, emphasizing scientific and medical terms. (LING 132 counts toward divisional distribution requirements as humanities.)

LING 197. INDEPENDENT STUDY

every year, variable credit

Individual research under direct supervision of faculty member. Prerequisites: determined by instructor. (May not be counted toward divisional distribution requirements.)

LING 214 (also WOMN 233). LANGUAGE, SEX AND GENDER

Theoretical and empirical aspects of relationship between language and the sexes. Sexism in linguistic structures, sex- and gender-determined patterns of language use. Societal and psychological implications of sex registers. Special attention to the causes and effects of cross-cultural differences in the relationship between language and gender. (LING 214 counts toward divisional distribution requirements as either humanities or social sciences.)

LING 218. STRUCTURE OF LANGUAGE X

every year, variable credit

Survey of structure of languages for purposes of typological, historical or other scientific analysis. Particular language or languages announced in advance (and included in course title). May be repeated for credit as title varies. Prerequisites: determined by instructor. (LING 218 does not count toward the Harpur College foreign language requirement. LING 218 counts toward divisional distribution requirements as either humanities or social sciences.)

LING 236 (also ENG 311). STRUCTURE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

every year

Linguistic description of English: descriptive and generative phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics. (LING 236 counts toward divisional distribution requirements as humanities.)

LING 239. INTRODUCTORY TOPICS IN LINGUISTICS: HUMANITIES

Particular themes and problems announced in advance (and reflected in course title when course is offered). Examples are language and thought, languages of the world, writing systems. May be repeated for credit as topic varies. Prerequisites: determined by instructor. (May be counted toward divisional distribution requirements as humanities.)

LING 249. INTRODUCTORY TOPICS IN LINGUISTICS: SOCIAL SCIENCES

Particular themes and problems announced in advance (and reflected in course title when course is offered). Examples are language and culture, sociology of bilingualism, ethnography of speaking. May be repeated for credit as topic varies. Prerequisites: determined by instructor. (May be counted toward divisional distribution requirements as social sciences.)

LING 279. INTRODUCTORY TOPICS IN LINGUISTICS: SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

Particular themes and problems announced in advance (and reflected in course title when course is offered). Examples are language and hallucination, language acquisition, psychology of reading. May be repeated for credit as topic varies. Prerequisites: determined by instructor. (LING 279 counts toward divisional distribution requirements as science and mathematics.)

LING 297. INDEPENDENT STUDY

every year, variable credit

Individual research under direct supervision of faculty member. Prerequisites: determined by instructor. (May not be counted toward divisional distribution requirements.)

LING 312. PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY

Principles and mechanisms of speech production and perception. Practice in phonological analysis and theory. Special attention to cross-linguistic differences in sound systems. Prerequisite: LING 118 or ANTH 118. (LING 312 counts toward divisional distribution requirements as either humanities or social sciences.)

LING 314. MORPHOLOGY AND SYNTAX

Issues and problems in morphological and syntactic theory. Universal, typological and other comparative analytic aspects of morphosyntax. Prerequisite: LING 118 or ANTH 118. (LING 314 counts toward divisional distribution requirements as either humanities or social sciences.)

LING 316. SEMANTICS AND PRAGMATICS

Lexical, phrasal and discourse-functional semantics. Descriptive and theoretical aspects of study of meaning and language use. Prerequisite: LING 118 or ANTH 118. (LING 316 counts toward divisional distribution requirements as either humanities or social sciences.)

LING 334. TEACHING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Introduction to methods in teaching English as a second language. Fundamentals of language structure, problems in instruction, resources for dealing with these problems. Prerequisite: LING 118 or ANTH 118. (LING 334 counts toward divisional distribution requirements as humanities.)

LING 339. TOPICS IN LINGUISTICS: HUMANITIES

Particular themes and problems announced in advance (and reflected in course title when course is offered). May be repeated for credit as topic varies. Prerequisites: determined by instructor. (LING 339 counts toward divisional distribution requirements as humanities.)

LING 349. TOPICS IN LINGUISTICS: SOCIAL SCIENCES

Particular themes and problems announced in advance (and reflected in course title when course is offered). May be repeated for credit as topic varies. Prerequisites: determined by instructor. (LING 349 counts toward divisional distribution requirements as social sciences.)

LING 378. SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

Psycholinguistic research and theory relevant to acquisition of second language. Pilot experimentation in applied psycholinguistics. Role of contrastive analysis. History and theory of language teaching. Prerequisite: LING 118, ANTH 118 or four college semesters of second language instruction (or equivalent). (LING 378 counts toward divisional distribution requirements as science and mathematics.)

LING 379. TOPICS IN LINGUISTICS: SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

Particular themes and problems announced in advance (and reflected in course title when course is offered.) May be repeated for credit as topic varies. Prerequisites: determined by instructor. (LING 379 counts toward divisional distribution requirements as science and mathematics.)

LING 397. INDEPENDENT STUDY

every year, variable credit

Individual research under direct supervision of faculty member. Prerequisites: determined by instructor. (May not be counted toward divisional distribution requirements.)

LING 427 (also PHIL 427). TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE

Detailed examination of topics in philosophy of language and symbolism, meaning, reference, truth, interpretation, etc. Prerequisites: determined by instructor. (LING 427 counts toward divisional distribution requirements as humanities.)

LING 434 (also CLAS 434). HISTORICAL LINGUISTICS

Language change, historical relationships between languages, techniques of reconstruction of protolanguages. Genetic, areal and typological comparison. Universals and particulars of language structure and change. Prerequisites: LING 118 or ANTH 118; and LING 312. (LING 434 counts toward divisional distribution requirements as humanities.)

LING 439. ADVANCED TOPICS IN LINGUISTICS: HUMANITIES

Particular themes and problems announced in advance (and reflected in course title when course is offered). May be repeated for credit as topic varies. Prerequisites: determined by instructor. (LING 439 counts toward divisional distribution requirements as humanities.)

LING 442 (also ANTH 442, SOC 442). SOCIOLINGUISTICS

Language in social setting. Regional and social dialects. Bilingualism, pidginization and creolization of languages. Styles and registers. Conversational analysis. Techniques of socio-linguistic fieldwork. Prerequisite: LING 312. (LING 442 counts toward divisional distribution requirements as social sciences.)

LING 449. ADVANCED TOPICS IN LINGUISTICS: SOCIAL SCIENCES

Particular themes and problems announced in advance (and reflected in course title when course is offered). May be repeated for credit as topic varies. Prerequisites: determined by instructor. (LING 449 counts toward divisional distribution requirements as social sciences.)

LING 466 (also ANTH 466, PSYC 406). PSYCHOLINGUISTICS

Theoretical issues, research methods and substantive findings in study of language perception, production and acquisition in cross-linguistic perspective. Models of language performance and of its emergence in children in

various cultural and linguistic circumstances. Prerequisites: junior or senior standing and appropriate background in linguistics, psychology or linguistic philosophy (consult instructor or linguistics major adviser). (LING 466 counts toward divisional distribution requirements as either social sciences or science and mathematics.)

LING 474. NEUROLINGUISTICS

Language and the brain. Basic aspects of structure and function of human nervous system in relation to speech and language. Critical review of theory and methods in neuropsychology of language, focusing on such topics as ontogenetic development, normal functioning and pathological breakdown of language, with special attention to similarities and differences. Prerequisites: junior or senior standing and appropriate background in linguistics, psychology, or human biology (consult instructor or linguistics major adviser). (LING 474 counts toward divisional distribution requirements as science and mathematics.)

LING 479. ADVANCED TOPICS IN LINGUISTICS: SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

Particular themes and problems announced in advance (and reflected in course title when course is offered). May be repeated for credit as topic varies. Prerequisites: determined by instructor. (LING 479 counts toward divisional distribution requirements as science and mathematics.)

LING 491. PRACTICUM IN TEACHING INTRODUCTORY LINGUISTICS

variable credit

Directed study by means of teaching a particular course in linguistics. Various assignments closely supervised by instructor, including development of syllabi and other course materials; construction and reading of examinations; lecturing and/or discussion leadership (e.g., undergraduate teaching assistantship). May be repeated for total of eight credits, but no more than four credits for assisting in a specific course. Credit may not be earned in conjunction with course in which student is concurrently enrolled. Prerequisites: consent of instructor and program director. Pass/Fail only. (May not be counted toward divisional distribution requirements.)

LING 497. INDEPENDENT STUDY

every year, variable credit

Individual research under direct supervision of faculty member. Prerequisites: determined by instructor. (May not be counted toward divisional distribution requirements.)