

# LINGUISTICS (LING)

Linguistics is the study of one of the most important characteristics of human beings—language. It cuts across the boundaries between the sciences and the humanities. The program is an excellent liberal arts major or preprofessional major for education, law, medicine, clergy and others. It is a particularly appropriate major for students who want to teach English as a second language. Dual majors with a foreign language, international affairs, business administration and the like are quite feasible.

Students interested in the major or the minor should consult with the program coordinator or with any professor who teaches linguistics courses. To declare a major in linguistics, a student must meet with the linguistics coordinator to design a course of study.

<https://cola.unh.edu/linguistics>

## Programs

- [Linguistics Major \(B.A.\)](#)
- [Linguistics Minor](#)
- [TESOL Minor](#)

## Courses

### Linguistics (LING)

#### LING 405 - Introduction to Linguistics

**Credits:** 4

Overview of the study of language: universal properties of human language, Chomsky's innateness hypothesis, language acquisition in children, dialects and language variation, language change. Includes an introduction to modern grammar (phonology, syntax, and semantics) and to scientific linguistic methodology.

**Attributes:** Social Science (Discovery); Inquiry (Discovery)

**Equivalent(s):** ENGL 505, ENGL 505H, LING 405H, LING 505, LING 505H

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

#### LING 603 - Phonetics

**Credits:** 4

This course introduces students to the study of the physical properties of speech sounds, including the transcription of English and other languages using the International Phonetics Alphabet, basic anatomy and physiology of the vocal tract, and the acoustic properties of vowels and consonants. Additional topics to be covered include phonetic variation and change, and the perception of speech sounds.

**Prerequisite(s):** LING 405 with a minimum grade of D- or ENGL 405 with a minimum grade of D-.

**Equivalent(s):** ENGL 603

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

#### LING 604 - Phonology

**Credits:** 4

This course introduces students to the study of phonology, or the mental organization of speech sounds. Topics covered include phonological typology, the concept of phonemes and mental representations of sounds, distinctive features and rule-based phonology, and a basic introduction to Optimality Theory.

**Prerequisite(s):** LING 405 with a minimum grade of D- or ENGL 405 with a minimum grade of D-.

**Equivalent(s):** ENGL 604

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

#### LING 605 - Intermediate Linguistic Analysis

**Credits:** 4

Analysis and problem solving in phonology, morphology, and syntax using data from many languages. Emphasis is both practical (learning how to describe grammar and sound system of a language) and theoretical (understanding languages' behavior).

**Prerequisite(s):** LING 405 with a minimum grade of D- or ENGL 405 with a minimum grade of D-.

**Equivalent(s):** ENGL 605

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

#### LING 606 - Languages of the World

**Credits:** 4

A survey of the languages of the world from genetic, areal, and typological perspectives. Students learn about the geographic and demographic distribution of language families and language isolates, as well as about structural characteristics of languages, language families and language areas. Additional topics include language endangerment and the question of linguistic universals. Students work collaboratively on a project investigating a particular language family, giving in class presentations and writing up a final project report. Some prior knowledge of phonetics, phonology, morphology, and syntax is necessary.

**Prerequisite(s):** ENGL 405 with a minimum grade of D- or LING 405 with a minimum grade of D- or ENGL 605 with a minimum grade of D- or LING 605 with a minimum grade of D-.

**Equivalent(s):** ENGL 606

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

#### LING 607 - Syntax

**Credits:** 4

In this course, students explore the knowledge of sentence structure in an attempt to build a basic theoretical model of grammar. Students look at what we know when we know how to form phrases, sentences, and various grammatical constructions. In addition, students take an in-depth look at relationships between different elements within sentences and how best to formally account for these things. The course approaches all of this from a Chomskian/Generativist perspective in particular, although other frameworks will be discussed.

**Prerequisite(s):** LING 405 with a minimum grade of D- or ENGL 405 with a minimum grade of D-.

**Equivalent(s):** ENGL 607

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

**LING 608 - Semantics****Credits:** 4

In this course we explore meaning in language in-depth and from many different angles. First we discuss the nature of meaning and the various levels we must describe to move towards a more complete understanding. Along the way we examine meaning in words and how these meanings are stored, related and represented both in our knowledge and in the mind/brain. From there we will spend a significant amount of time uncovering the meanings of sentences by looking at sentential meaning as a function of the sum of its parts.

**Prerequisite(s):** LING 405 with a minimum grade of D- or ENGL 405 with a minimum grade of D-.

**Equivalent(s):** ENGL 608

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

**LING 695 - Senior Honors****Credits:** 4

Open to senior LING majors who, in the opinion of the department, have demonstrated the capacity to do superior work.

**Attributes:** Honors course

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

**LING 718 - Morphology****Credits:** 4

Morphology is the study of word formation and the mental lexicon. This course explores processes of derivation, compounding and inflection that allow us to form new words. Students will become proficient in analyzing word formation processes in English and other languages, including deploying terminology used by morphologists. Students will learn and practice the conventions of "writing like a linguist".

**Attributes:** Writing Intensive Course

**Prerequisite(s):** ENGL 405 with a minimum grade of D- or LING 405 with a minimum grade of D-.

**Equivalent(s):** ENGL 718

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

**LING 719 - Sociolinguistics Survey****Credits:** 4

How language varies according to the characteristics of its speakers: age, sex, ethnicity, attitude, time, and class. Quantitative analysis methods; relationships to theoretical linguistics. Focus is on English, but some other languages are examined.

**Prerequisite(s):** ENGL 405 with a minimum grade of D- or LING 405 with a minimum grade of D- or ENGL 605 with a minimum grade of D- or LING 605 with a minimum grade of D-.

**Equivalent(s):** ENGL 719

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

**LING 728 - Language and Gender****Credits:** 4

This course will explore a variety of topics around the theme of language and gender, including the relationship between gender, language and power; the linguistic marking of gender; how people use language to construct and perform their gender; how gender intersects with other facets of identity, including sexuality and race and ethnicity.

**Attributes:** Writing Intensive Course

**Prerequisite(s):** ENGL 405 with a minimum grade of D- or LING 405 with a minimum grade of D- or WS 401 with a minimum grade of D- or WS 405 with a minimum grade of D-.

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

**LING 779 - Linguistic Field Methods****Credits:** 4

Study of a non-Indo-European language by eliciting examples from an informant, rather than written descriptions of the language. Students learn how to work out the grammar of a language from raw data. (Not offered every semester).

**Attributes:** Writing Intensive Course

**Prerequisite(s):** ENGL 405 with a minimum grade of D- or LING 405 with a minimum grade of D- or ENGL 605 with a minimum grade of D- or LING 605 with a minimum grade of D-.

**Equivalent(s):** ENGL 779

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

**LING 790 - Special Topics in Linguistics Theory****Credits:** 4

Advanced course on a topic chosen by the instructor. Inquire at the English department office for a full course description each time the course is offered. Topics such as word formation, dialectology, linguistic theory, and language acquisition, history of linguistics, language and culture, cross-disciplinary studies relating to linguistics. Barring duplication of subject, may be repeated for credit.

**Attributes:** Writing Intensive Course

**Repeat Rule:** May be repeated up to unlimited times.

**Equivalent(s):** ENGL 790

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

**LING 793 - Phonetics and Phonology****Credits:** 4

Sound system of English and of other languages viewed from the standpoint of modern linguistic theory, including the following topics: the acoustic and articulatory properties of speech sounds, the phonemic repertoires of particular languages, phonological derivations, and prosodic phenomena such as stress and intonation.

**Prerequisite(s):** ENGL 405 with a minimum grade of D- or LING 405 with a minimum grade of D- or ENGL 605 with a minimum grade of D- or LING 605 with a minimum grade of D-.

**Equivalent(s):** ENGL 793

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

**LING 794 - Syntax****Credits:** 4

Relationship of grammar and meaning viewed from the standpoint of modern linguistic theory. Emphasis on the syntax and semantics of English, with special attention to the construction of arguments for or against particular analyses.

**Attributes:** Writing Intensive Course

**Prerequisite(s):** ENGL 405 with a minimum grade of D- or LING 405 with a minimum grade of D- or ENGL 605 with a minimum grade of D- or LING 605 with a minimum grade of D-.

**Equivalent(s):** ENGL 794

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

**LING 795 - Independent Study****Credits:** 1-4

A) Synchronic Linguistics, B) Diachronic Linguistics, C) Linguistic Theory. For students showing a special aptitude for linguistics who desire to pursue a line of inquiry for which no appropriate course is offered. All requests must be forwarded by the faculty sponsor to the director of the Inter-departmental Linguistics Committee.

**Grade Mode:** Letter Grading

## Faculty

Linguistics Department Faculty