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# Linguistics

In the College of Arts and Letters

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**<http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/dept/linguist/index.html>**

## Faculty

Emeritus: Bar-Lev, Donahue, Elgin, Frey, Johns, Seright,  
Underhill, Webb

Chair: Kaplan

Professors: Choi, Gawron, Higurashi, Kaplan, Robinson

Associate Professors: Csomay, Kitajima, Malouf, Osman,  
Poole, Samraj, Wu, Zhang

Assistant Professor: Keating

## Offered by the Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages

Master of Arts degree in linguistics.

Major in linguistics with the B.A. degree in liberal arts and sciences.

Minor in linguistics.

Certificate in computational linguistics.

Certificate in teaching English as a second or foreign language  
(TESL/TEFL), basic and advanced.

## The Major

Linguistics is the scientific study of language. The structure of a wide variety of languages is looked at, not to learn these languages, but to learn about them in order to understand the universal properties of human language.

The linguistics program offers coursework in all areas of linguistic analysis: the core areas of phonology, syntax, semantics, and historical linguistics; and interdisciplinary areas such as applied linguistics, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, bilingualism, computational linguistics, and the linguistics of certain languages and language families.

Linguistics majors must complete a minor in another field approved by the adviser in linguistics. Recommended fields include anthropology, communication, ethnic studies, a foreign language, history, journalism and media studies, literature, philosophy, psychology, public affairs, sociology, and speech, language, and hearing sciences.

In addition to the major and minor programs, the Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages offers two basic certificate programs. The Basic Certificate in Computational Linguistics prepares students for employment as computational linguists in commercial and government settings. The Basic Certificate in Teaching English as a Second or Foreign Language (TESL/TEFL) prepares students to teach English as a second language in adult and private schools and to teach English in foreign countries.

Employment opportunities for linguistics majors exist in the teaching of English as a second language to immigrant and refugee population groups in various locales throughout the southwestern United States. In addition, many students are interested in teaching English in Latin America, the Far East, or other areas outside the United States and continental Europe. Linguistics training can also be used as a valuable skill in conjunction with a California teaching credential in another field. Government work is another alternative, where such divisions as the State Department and the foreign service hire trained linguists. Researchers are needed at institutes working in the fields of animal communication, computer science development, disorders of communication, or advanced research in linguistics theory. By combining a linguistics major with courses in accounting, business administration, or related fields, there are jobs available with multinational corporations, particularly those which emphasize trade among the Pacific rim nations. Linguists are also hired in such fields as computer science, advertising, communication media, public relations, and curriculum development.

With a master's or doctoral degree, linguistics majors may find teaching positions at community colleges or universities.

## Advising

All College of Arts and Letters majors are urged to consult with their department adviser as soon as possible; they are required to meet with their department adviser within the first two semesters after declaration or change of major.

## Major Academic Plans (MAPs)

Visit <http://www.sdsu.edu/mymap> for the recommended courses needed to fulfill your major requirements. The MAPs Web site was created to help students navigate the course requirements for their majors and to identify which General Education course will also fulfill a major preparation course requirement.

## Linguistics Major

### With the B.A. Degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences (Major Code: 15051)

All candidates for a degree in liberal arts and sciences must complete the graduation requirements listed in the section of this catalog on "Graduation Requirements." No more than 48 units in linguistics courses can apply to the degree.

Students majoring in linguistics must complete a minor in another field approved by the departmental adviser in linguistics. Recommended fields include anthropology, communication, ethnic studies, a foreign language, history, journalism and media studies, literature, philosophy, psychology, public affairs, sociology, and speech, language, and hearing sciences.

#### Preparation for the Major. Linguistics 101. (3 units)

Students should note that a number of the upper division required and recommended courses listed below have lower division prerequisites, but these prerequisites do not constitute requirements per se for the completion of the major.

**Language Requirement.** Competency equivalent to that which is normally attained through three college semesters of a foreign language with a B (3.0) average, or the equivalent. Refer to section of catalog on "Graduation Requirements."

**Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement.** Passing the Writing Proficiency Assessment with a score of 10 or above, or Linguistics 305W or 396W, or Rhetoric and Writing Studies 305W or 500W with a grade of C (2.0) or better. See "Graduation Requirements" section for a complete listing of requirements.

**Major.** A minimum of 27 upper division units to include at least 21 units in linguistics (and those 21 must include Linguistics 420 or 520; 521, 522, and 525; and cannot include more than nine units from 300-level courses); with the approval of the adviser, up to six units may be selected from related fields.

## Minor in Linguistics

The minor in linguistics consists of a minimum of 15 units, 12 of which must be upper division and at least 12 of which must be linguistics courses selected under the guidance and with the approval of the adviser. Linguistics 101 or 420 or 520 is required. Linguistics 100, 200, and 305W may not be applied to the minor. No more than three units may be applied to the minor from Anthropology 410, Chinese 352, Communication 465, Philosophy 531, Spanish 448.

Courses in the minor may not be counted toward the major, but may be used to satisfy preparation for the major and general education requirements, if applicable. A minimum of six upper division units must be completed in residence at San Diego State University.

## Basic Certificate in Computational Linguistics

The Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages offers a basic Certificate in Computational Linguistics. The certificate requires 12 units to include:

*Introductory Linguistics:* Linguistics 420 or 520;  
*Scripting and Linguistic Databases (corpora):* Linguistics 571;  
*Introduction to Computational Linguistics:* Linguistics 581;  
*Mathematical Tools:* Linguistics 570 or 582.

Students must obtain a "C" or better in each of the certificate courses. Under certain circumstances comparable courses taken at other institutions may count toward the certificate. Such courses must be evaluated and approved by the certificate adviser. In order to enroll, you must contact the certificate adviser in the Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages. Courses in the certificate may count toward the major in linguistics or the major in liberal studies (including the linguistics specialization) but may not count toward the minor in linguistics.

## Basic Certificate in Teaching English as a Second or Foreign Language (TESL/TEFL)

The Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages offers a basic and advanced Certificate in Teaching English as a Second or Foreign Language (TESL/TEFL). The basic certificate requires 15 units to include:

*Introductory Linguistics:* Linguistics 420 or 520;  
*Language Acquisition:* Linguistics 452 or 454, or 552;  
*ESL Teaching:* Linguistics 550;  
*Practical Issues/Computer Assisted Language Learning:*  
Linguistics 555 or 556;  
*Elective:* Linguistics 430 or 530 or 551.

Students must obtain a "C" or better in each of the certificate courses. Under certain circumstances comparable courses taken at other institutions may count toward the certificate. Such courses must be evaluated and approved by the certificate adviser. In addition, there is a 15-hour tutoring requirement. In order to enroll, you must contact the certificate adviser in the Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages. Courses in the certificate may count toward the major in linguistics or the major in liberal studies (including the linguistics specialization) but may not count toward the minor in linguistics.

Refer to the *Graduate Bulletin* for information on the advanced certificate.

## Courses (LING)

Refer to *Curricula and Courses and University Policies* sections of this catalog for explanation of the course numbering system, unit or credit hour, prerequisites, and related information.

### LOWER DIVISION COURSES

#### LING 94. Developmental Writing for International or Bilingual Students (3) Cr/NC/RP (Same course as Rhetoric and Writing Studies 94)

Intermediate written English with emphasis on problems of nonnative speakers; discussion of sentence, paragraph, and essay writing skills. Open only to ESL students who have not satisfied the SDSU Writing Competency requirement. Students attaining a score of 8 or better on the final examination earn a grade of "Cr" and satisfy the SDSU writing competency requirement. Students attaining a score of 7 or less with completion of all course requirements earn a grade of "RP." Students receiving an "RP" should re-enroll in Rhetoric and Writing Studies 94 or Linguistics 94.

#### LING 100. English Composition for International Students (3) [GE]

Prerequisite: Satisfaction of the English Placement Test and Writing Competency requirements. (See Graduation Requirements section of catalog.) **Proof of completion of prerequisite required:** Copy of EPT or competency scores (including ISEPT) or verification of exemption; proof of Cr in Rhetoric and Writing Studies 92A or 92B or 97.

Introduction to college-level written English; attention to English language/grammar needs of non-native speakers of English; grammatical and rhetorical techniques for effective writing, based in part on study of models of current American writing. Not open to students with credit in a higher-numbered composition course or Africana Studies 120 or American Indian Studies 120 or Chicana and Chicano Studies 111B or English 100 or General Studies 260A or Rhetoric and Writing Studies 100 or 101.

#### LING 101. Introduction to Language (3) [GE]

The nature of language. Sound, meaning, and grammar. Language history and change. Dialects and variation. Language acquisition. Animal communication. Language and the brain. Not open to students with credit in upper division linguistics courses, excluding Linguistics 305W.

#### LING 200. Advanced English for International Students (3) [GE]

Prerequisites: Satisfaction of the English Placement Test and Writing Competency requirements; and Linguistics 100. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Test scores or verification of exemption; copy of transcript.

Further practice in mastering conventions of standard academic writing, with emphasis on strategies for research in writing papers. Focus on language issues specific to non-native speakers of English. Not open to students with credit in Africana Studies 200, Chicana and Chicano Studies 200, English 200, General Studies 260D, or Rhetoric and Writing Studies 200.

#### LING 241. Foreign Language Experiences (1-2)

Study of one to two languages chosen by individual students, with focus on spontaneous speaking abilities and methodologies. Specially recommended for learning-disabled students and for study of languages otherwise unavailable. May be repeated with new content for maximum credit three units. Not acceptable for General Education credit.

#### LING 253. Grammar and Usage for Writers (2) (Same course as Rhetoric and Writing Studies 253)

Prerequisite: Passage of EPT or transfer writing assessment. Instruction in sentence structure with attention to integrating sentences into their logical and rhetorical contexts. Identifying and understanding source of sentence-level writing problems.

#### LING 281. Academic Reading and Writing for Second Language Learners and International Students (3) (Same course as Rhetoric and Writing Studies 281)

Prerequisite: Open only to students who qualify for Rhetoric and Writing Studies 280 and whose first language is not English.

Academic prose, emphasizing purposes, structures, and styles of academic English writing. Designed to improve students' ability to plan, draft, revise, and edit essays, as well as to read and analyze complex academic texts. Additional emphasis on grammatical features of English relevant to the second language population.

#### LING 296. Experimental Topics (1-4)

Selected topics. May be repeated with new content. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree.

#### LING 299. Special Study (1-4)

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.  
Individual study. Maximum credit six units.

LING

### UPPER DIVISION COURSES (Intended for Undergraduates)

#### LING 305W. Advanced Composition for International Students (3)

Prerequisites: Satisfies Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement for students who have completed 60 units; completed Writing Proficiency Assessment with a score of 8 or higher (or earned a C or higher in RWS 280, 281, or LING 281 if score on WPA was 7 or lower); and completed General Education requirements in Composition and Critical Thinking. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Test scores or verification of exemption; copy of transcript.

Advanced expository writing, with practice in the various associated skills (organization, research, presentation, rhetoric). The goal is to enable non-native English speakers to function completely with written English on advanced university levels. This course may not be used toward the major or minor in linguistics.

#### LING 310. English Word Origins (3)

Traces English word-origins, exposing the romance of their story, while showing how linguistic analysis can help participants to increase their mastery of English vocabulary. Guides for interpreting new or specialized terminology.

#### LING 311. Writing Systems of the World (3)

Alphabets and other writing systems around the world, from "logographic" (Sumerian, Egyptian, Mayan, Chinese, Japanese) to syllabary (Japanese, Cherokee), consonantal alphabet or abjad (Hebrew, Arabic), to alphabet (Greek, Roman, etc.). Relevance of writing to thought.

#### LING 342. Exercises in Foreign Language Learning (3)

Prerequisite: Two semesters in any foreign language.

Exercises in foreign language learning with a variety of language structures, as a way of exploring nature of foreign language learning.

#### LING 344. Language and Gender (3) [GE]

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Relationship between language and gender: language variation according to gender, discourse structure and same- and cross-sex interactions; cross-cultural research linking language and gender. Qualitative and quantitative linguistics analyses of language data.

#### LING 350. Language and Politics (3) [GE]

Linguistics devices used to persuade in politics. Differences between what is literally said and what is actually conveyed in political discourse. How political speakers and writers use grammar, sound structure, and vocabulary to persuade.

#### LING 352. Language and Advertising (3)

Linguistic devices used to persuade in advertising. Differences between what is literally said and what is actually conveyed in advertisements. How advertisers use the grammar, sound structure, and vocabulary of languages (especially English) to persuade audiences.

#### LING 353. Language and Law (3)

Legal language; reading legal cases; linguistic and legal analysis of contracts, statutes, constitutions, other "operative" texts; language crimes and forensic linguistics; language and First Amendment law; language under law (minority language, dialect rights).

#### LING 354. Language and Computers (3) [GE]

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Computers, computer programming languages, and "artificial intelligence" viewed from perspective of human language.

#### LING 396W. Writing Proficiency (1)

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor. Limited to linguistics majors. Satisfies Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement for students who have completed 60 units; completed Writing Proficiency Assessment with a score of 8 or higher (or earned a C or higher in RWS 280, 281, or LING 281 if score on WPA was 7 or lower); and completed General Education requirements in Composition and Critical Thinking. **Proof of completion of prerequisites required:** Test scores or verification of exemption; copy of transcript.

Upper division writing course taken in conjunction with any 500-numbered linguistics course. Emphasizes composition skills in research methods, essay organization, paragraphing, sentence structure, and diction, all related to the particular 500-level linguistics course chosen.

#### LING 410. History of English (3) [GE]

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.C., Humanities.

The history of English and its present day use.

#### LING 420. Linguistics and English (3) [GE]

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences required for nonmajors.

Introduction to sound and grammatical structure of language, with special attention to English. Language acquisition and variation. Of special interest to prospective teachers. Not open to students with credit in Linguistics 520.

#### LING 430. English Grammar for Prospective Teachers (3)

Prerequisites: Linguistics 101 and upper division standing.

Core grammatical concepts and facts of English grammar. Parts of speech; grammatical relations; word, sentence, discourse structure. Focus on standard written English. Of special interest to prospective secondary school teachers.

#### LING 452. Language Acquisition (3)

Prerequisite: Linguistics 420 or 520.

Principles of child language development. Sounds and grammar in speech of young children. Acquisition of reading and vocabulary. Relationship between cognitive development and language. Development of language in bilinguals. Second language acquisition.

#### LING 453. Language Issues in the Schools (3)

Prerequisite: Linguistics 420.

Linguistic minorities and dialect variation in interethnic communication. Language development from a socio-interactionist perspective. Development of discourse and literacy, and their underlying cognitive and linguistic foundations.

#### LING 454. Second Language Acquisition (3)

Prerequisite: Linguistics 101 or 420.

Basic theory and research in second language acquisition. Nature of interlanguage in second language learning. Influence of native language transfer, interaction, sociocultural factors on second language acquisition. Applications of second language research to teaching.

#### LING 457. Community-Based Language Fieldwork (1)

Two hours of activity.

Prerequisite: Concurrent registration in upper division course requiring term paper on language behavior (e.g. Linguistics 452).

Fieldwork in language use in community setting. Students observe, keep field notes, analyze language behavior (e.g. speaking, reading, writing, listening).

#### LING 460. American Indian Languages (3) [GE] (Same course as American Indian Studies 460)

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Structures of American Indian languages. Language families of North America, history, and present circumstances. Interdependence of language and culture, differences in ways of speaking. Issues of language endangerment, language death, language maintenance, and language revitalization.

#### LING 496. Experimental Topics in Linguistics (1-4)

Specialized study of a selected topic in linguistics. May be repeated with new content. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree. Maximum credit six units.

#### LING 499. Special Study (1-3)

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Individual study. Maximum credit six units.

### UPPER DIVISION COURSES (Also Acceptable for Advanced Degrees)

#### LING 505. Writing for Graduate Students (3)

Prerequisite: Conditional or classified admission to an SDSU graduate program or undergraduates with consent of instructor.

Conventions of scholarly writing appropriate for student papers, theses, or academic journal articles. Development of research questions and literature reviews as appropriate for students' disciplines. Revision of current or previous course papers according to disciplinary conventions.

**LING 520. Fundamentals of Linguistics (3)**

Prerequisite: Upper division standing.

Principles of modern linguistics, with attention to English grammar (syntax, morphology, phonology). Language change, dialects, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, language acquisition.

**LING 521. Phonology (3)**

Prerequisite: Linguistics 420 or 520.

Theoretical principles of transformational-generative phonology.

**LING 522. Syntax (3)**

Prerequisite: Linguistics 420 or 520.

Theoretical principles of transformational-generative syntax.

**LING 523. Morphology (3)**

Prerequisite: Linguistics 420 or 520.

Theoretical principles of words structure, including inflection, derivation, and compounding; organization of the lexicon; structure of inflectional paradigms; morphophonological and morphosyntactic alterations; and computational applications.

**LING 524. American Dialectology (3)**

Prerequisite: Upper division standing.

Development of American English. Regional, social, and ethnic differences in pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary. Differences in men's and women's language. Black English.

**LING 525. Semantics and Pragmatics (3)**

Prerequisite: Linguistics 420 or 520.

Advanced semantic theory; systematic analysis of the interaction of sequences of language with real world context in which they are used.

**LING 530. English Grammar (3)**

Prerequisite: Six upper division units in linguistics.

English morphology, syntax, and discourse structure, including simple and complex sentence structure; lexical categories and sub-categories; discourse functions of selected constructions. Problems and solutions in teaching English grammar.

**LING 550. Theory and Practice of English as a Second Language (3)**

Prerequisite: Linguistics 420 or 520.

The nature of language learning; evaluation of techniques and materials for the teaching of English as a second language.

**LING 551. Sociolinguistics (3)**

Prerequisite: A course in introductory linguistics.

Investigation of the correlation of social structure and linguistic behavior.

**LING 552. Psycholinguistics (3)**

Prerequisite: Linguistics 420 or 520.

Psychological and mental processes related to comprehension, production, perception, and acquisition of language in adults and children.

**LING 553. Bilingualism (3)**

Prerequisite: Linguistics 420 or 520 or Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences 300.

Bilingual societies; language choice by bilinguals; bilingual language acquisition; effects of bilingualism on language structure and use.

**LING 554. Child Language Acquisition (3)**

Prerequisite: Linguistics 420 or 520.

Theories and research methods in child language acquisition; quantitative and qualitative analyses of data at various levels of grammar (phonology, morphology, lexicon, syntax, and discourse) using language and acquisition corpora.

**LING 555. Practical Issues in Teaching English as a Second Language (3)**

Prerequisite: Credit or concurrent registration in Linguistics 550.

Practical approaches to applications of the theory of English as a Second Language (ESL) and methodology for speaking, reading, listening, writing; techniques for facilitating growth of communicative competence.

**LING 556. Computer Assisted Language Learning and Teaching (3)**

Prerequisite: Credit or concurrent registration in Linguistics 550.

Theory and practice of computer assisted language learning and language teaching. Hands-on experience with pedagogical aspects of using technology in the language classroom.

**LING 570. Mathematical Linguistics (3)**

Prerequisite: Two linguistics courses.

Mathematical tools for linguistics: set theory; basic algebraic structures such as groups, lattices, and Boolean algebras; formal language theory; propositional and 1st-order logic. Some emphasis on proofs. Applications to linguistics.

**LING 571. Computational Corpus Linguistics (3)**

Prerequisite: Two linguistics courses.

Practical introduction to computation with text corpora and introduction to Perl. Tokenizing, part-of-speech tagging, and lemmatizing (stemming) large corpora. Writing of Perl programs required.

**LING 581. Computational Linguistics (3)**

(Same course as Computer Science 581)

Prerequisites: Linguistics 570 or Mathematics 245; Linguistics 571 or Computer Science 320.

Basic concepts in computational linguistics including regular expressions, finite-state automata, finite-state transducers, weighted finite-state automata, and n-gram language models. Applications to phonology, orthography, morphology, syntax. Probabilistic models. Statistical techniques for speech recognition.

**LING 582. Computational Syntax and Semantics (3)**

Prerequisites: Linguistics 522 and 581.

Review of finite-state and context free languages; unification grammars; problems of meaning and intention in computational systems. Example applications from information retrieval, dialogue, and machine translation systems.

**LING 596. Selected Topics in Linguistics (1-3)**

Prerequisite: Upper division standing.

Advanced study of selected topics. May be repeated with new content. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree. Credit for 596 and 696 applicable to a master's degree with approval of the graduate adviser.

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**GRADUATE COURSES**  
Refer to the *Graduate Bulletin*.

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