Linguistics

In the College of Arts and Letters

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Faculty
Chair: C. Chan
Professors: Csomay, Gawron, Higurashi, Kaplan, Osman, Poole, Zhang
Associate Professors: Keating, Kitajima, Malouf, Samraj, Wu
Assistant Professors: Bigham, Hansen

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.
Minor in teaching English as a second or foreign language (TESL/TEFL).
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, socio-linguistics, 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, another field approved by the departmental adviser in linguistics.

Linguistics courses can apply to the degree.

With the B.A. Degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences

Linguistics Major

Major in linguistics with the B.A. degree in liberal arts and sciences.
Minor in linguistics.
Minor in teaching English as a second or foreign language (TESL/TEFL).
Certificate in computational linguistics.
Certificate in teaching English as a second or foreign language (TESL/TEFL), basic and advanced.

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.

Impacted Program

The linguistics major is an impacted program. To be admitted to the linguistics major, students must meet the following criteria:

a. Complete preparation for the major;
b. Complete a minimum of 60 transferable semester units;
c. Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.

To complete the major, students must fulfill the degree requirements for the major described in the catalog in effect at the time they are accepted into the premajor at SDSU (assuming continuous enrollment).

Major Academic Plans (MAPs)

Visit http://www.sdsu.edu/mymap for the recommended courses needed To fulfill your major requirements. The MAPs website 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) (SIMS Code: 114701)

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 C (2.0) average, or the equivalent. Refer to section of catalog on “Graduation Requirements.”

Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement. Passing the Writing Placement Assessment with a score of 10, or Linguistics 305W, 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 501; 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.
Linguistics Minor
(Minor Code: 15051) (SIMS Code: 114701)

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 501 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, 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.

Teaching English as a Second or Foreign Language (TESL/TEFL) Minor
(Minor Code: 15051) (SIMS Code: 114707)

The minor in teaching English as a second or foreign language consists of a minimum of 15 units to include Linguistics 420 or 501; Linguistics 430 or 530 or 551; Linguistics 452 or 454 or 552; Linguistics 555 or 556. Students must also complete 15 hours of ESL tutoring.

Courses in the minor may not be counted toward the linguistics major or the TESL/TEFL certificate, 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.

Computational Linguistics Basic Certificate
(Certificate Code: 90051) (SIMS Code: 114787)

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 501;
- **Scripting and Linguistic Databases (corpora)**: Linguistics 571;
- **Introduction to Computational Linguistics**: Linguistics 581;
- **Mathematical Tools**: Linguistics 570.

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.

Teaching English as a Second or Foreign Language (TESL/TEFL) Basic Certificate
(Certificate Code: 90035) (SIMS Code: 114786)

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 501;
- **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, the major in English, or the major in liberal studies (including the linguistics specialization) but may not count toward the minor in linguistics or the minor in Teaching English as a Second or Foreign Language (TESL/TEFL). Refer to the Graduate Bulletin for information on the advanced certificate.

Courses (LING)

Refer to Courses and Curricula 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
(Same course as Rhetoric and Writing Studies 94)

Prerequisites: A score of 146 and below on the EPT, and nonnative English speakers.

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 earning a grade of “C” may retake the test.

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 92.

Introduction to college-level written English; attention to English language/grammar needs of non-native speakers; 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 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 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 243. Invented Languages – Klingon and Beyond! (3) [GE]

Prerequisite: Rhetoric and Writing Studies 100.

Invented languages such as Klingon and Esperanto are the medium for engaging linguistic theory and diversity. The art, ideas, and goals behind invented languages will be explored using diverse current and historical sources from literature, the Internet, film, and video games.
LING 250. Directed Language Study (1-4)
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.
Directed independent study of a foreign language (excluding languages taught in other departments) with aim of acquiring a developing competency in the language. May include speaking, listening, reading, writing, and grammar. May be repeated with approval of undergraduate adviser. Maximum credit eight units.

LING 253. Grammar and Usage for Writers (3)
(Same course as Rhetoric and Writing Studies 253)
Prerequisite: Passage of EPT. 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.

UPPER DIVISION COURSES
(Intended for Undergraduates)

LING 305W. Advanced Composition for International Students (3)
Prerequisite: English Placement Test. Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement for students who have completed 60 units; completed Writing Placement Assessment with a score of 5 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 345. Queer Linguistics (3) [GE]
Language, speech, and discourse of lesbian, gay, transgender, and queer communities and people. Queer theory in linguistics and the recognition of specifically queer speakers in general linguistics theory and practice.

LING 350. Language and Politics (3) [GE]
LING 352. Language and Advertising (3)
LING 354. Language and Computers (3) [GE]
LING 356. Sociocultural Analysis of Black Languages (3)
(Same course as Africana Studies 363)
LING 358. History of English (3) [GE]
LING 420. Linguistics and English (3) [GE]
LING 430. English Grammar for Prospective Teachers (3)
Prerequisites: Linguistics 101 or 420 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) [GE]
Prerequisite: Linguistics 420.

LING 454. Second Language Acquisition (3)
Prerequisite: Linguistics 101 or 420.

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 492). 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 and Anthropology 460)

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.
LING 501. Fundamentals of Linguistics (3)  
Prerequisite: Upper division standing.  
Principles of modern linguistics, with attention to English phonetics,  
phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics; universals  
and typology. (Formerly numbered Linguistics 520.)

LING 502. Language in Mind and Society (3)  
Prerequisite: Linguistics 501. Proof of completion of prereq-  
quisite required: Copy of transcript.  
Child language acquisition, adult language production/compre-  
hension and sociolinguistics. Dialects, language variation, and  
standardization. Bilingualism and language change.

LING 503. Functions of Language (3)  
Prerequisite: Linguistics 501. Proof of completion of prereq-  
quisite required: Copy of transcript.  
Empirical methods in linguistics. Phonological structure of English  
and other languages. Functional and discourse related approaches to  
language patterns. Connections between morphosyntactic concepts  
and functional/discourse concepts to conduct text analysis.

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’ disci-  
plines. Revision of current or previous course papers according to  
disciplinary conventions.

LING 521. Phonology (3)  
Prerequisite: Linguistics 420 or 501.  
Theoretical principles of transformational-generative phonology.

LING 522. Syntax (3)  
Prerequisite: Linguistics 420 or 501.  
Theoretical principles of transformational-generative syntax.

LING 523. Morphology (3)  
Prerequisite: Linguistics 420 or 501.  
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 525. Semantics and Pragmatics (3)  
Prerequisite: Linguistics 420 or 501.  
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  
subcategories; 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 501.  
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 501.  
Psychological and mental processes related to comprehension,  
production, perception, and acquisition of language in adults and  
children.

LING 554. Child Language Acquisition (3)  
Prerequisite: Linguistics 420 or 501.  
Theories and research methods in child language acquisition;  
quantitative and qualitative analyses of data at various levels of  
graphs (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 teaching, 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: Upper division standing.  
Practical introduction to computation with text corpora and  
introduction to Python. Tokenizing, part-of-speech tagging, and  
lemmatizing (stemming) large corpora. Writing of Python programs  
required.

LING 572. Python Scripting for Social Science (3)  
Prerequisite: Upper division or graduate standing.  
Python scripting for social science data. Statements and  
expressions. Strings, lists, dictionaries, files. Python with unformatted  
data (regular expressions). Graphs and social networks. Spatial data  
and simple GIS scripts.

LING 581. Computational Linguistics (3)  
(Same course as Computer Science 581)  
Prerequisites: Linguistics 570 or Mathematics 245; Linguistics 571  
or Computer Science 220.  
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 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.

GRADUATE COURSES  
Refer to the Graduate Bulletin.