Linguistics
In the Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages
In the College of Arts and Letters

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Faculty

Ghada Osman, Ph.D., Professor of Arabic, Chair of Department
Zev Bar-Lev, Ph.D., Professor of Linguistics, Emeritus
Soonja Choi, Ph.D., Professor of Linguistics (Graduate Adviser), Emeritus
Eniko Csomay, Ph.D., Professor of Linguistics and Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Letters
Jean Mark Gawron, Ph.D., Professor of Linguistics
Yoshiko Higurashi, Ph.D., Professor of Japanese (Director, Japanese Language Program)
Jeffrey P. Kaplan, Ph.D., Professor of Linguistics
Deborah Poole, Ph.D., Professor of Linguistics
Gail L. Robinson, Ph.D., Professor of Linguistics, Emeritus
Robert Underhill, Professor of Linguistics, Emeritus
Zheng-sheng Zhang, Ph.D., Professor of Chinese
Gregory D. Keating, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Linguistics
Ryu Kitajima, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Japanese
Robert P. Malouf, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Linguistics
Betty T. R. Samraj, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Linguistics
Ruey-Jiuan Regina Wu, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages

Associateships

Graduate teaching associateships in linguistics are offered each semester to a limited number of qualified students to teach introductory linguistics and the composition courses for international students. Those interested should send a letter of application to the graduate adviser.

General Information

The Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages offers graduate study leading to the Master of Arts degree in linguistics. The interdisciplinary program provides broad educational opportunities through three specializations: 1) General Linguistics, for those planning to pursue a doctorate in theoretical areas (e.g., syntax or phonology) or for those who plan to work in a language-related field in industry or education; 2) TESOL/Applied Linguistics, for students intending to teach or design curriculum for ESL/EFL/ELD classrooms (including community college and K-12 levels) or planning to pursue a doctorate in applied linguistics; 3) Computational Linguistics, for those planning a career in business or industry in computational linguistics, or a doctorate in this area. In addition to completing coursework for one of the specializations and demonstrating proficiency in a foreign language, students are required to submit a thesis (Plan A) or pass a comprehensive examination (Plan B).

All students who complete the required program will receive a Master of Arts degree in linguistics. If requested, the department will provide a letter designating a student’s specialization for purposes of employment or application for further study. The specializations and language research interests of faculty members in this program are:

Zev Bar-Lev – ESL, discourse analysis, linguistics and computers; Hebrew, Arabic, and Russian
Soonja Choi – Psycholinguistics, first and second language acquisition, cognition and language, ESL, materials development; Korean, French
Eniko Csomay – ESL, corpus linguistics, discourse analysis, language variation, classroom discourse, research methods
Jean Mark Gawron – Computational linguistics (Parsing, pragmatic narrowing, machine translation); semantics (quantification, anaphora, comparatives, lexical semantics)
Yoshiko Higurashi – Phonology, accent and intonation, syllable structure, speech pathology, intercultural communication, Japanese language teaching
Jeffrey P. Kaplan – Syntax, semantics, pragmatics, discourse, language and law; Swahili
Gregory D. Keating – Second language acquisition, psycholinguistics (eye-tracking research), sentence processing, Spanish linguistics
Ryu Kitajima – Second language acquisition, language assessment, teaching methodologies and language pedagogy
Robert P. Malouf – Computational linguistics, statistical natural language processing, machine learning, constraint-based grammar formalisms
Deborah Poole – Classroom interaction, discourse analysis, cross-cultural interaction, ESL methods and materials
Gail L. Robinson – Second language methodology, second language and culture acquisition, psycholinguistics; Spanish
Betty T. R. Samraj – Discourse analysis, writing in the disciplines, ESL methods and materials, systemic-functional linguistics
Robert Underhill – Descriptive linguistics, phonology, syntax, discourse; Turkish, Native American languages, Southeast Asian languages
Ruey-Jiuan Regina Wu – Conversation analysis, pragmatics, and functional linguistics, with particular emphasis on Mandarin Chinese; language assessment; teaching methodologies, and language pedagogy
Zheng-sheng Zhang – Chinese language structure (semantics, pragmatics, discourse analysis, dialects); Language pedagogy. Technology for language teaching.

Admission to Graduate Study

In addition to meeting the requirements for admission to the university with classified graduate standing, as described in Part Two of this bulletin, the student must have a Bachelor of Arts degree in linguistics or a related field that would demonstrate adequate preparation for the program.

Students applying for admission should electronically submit the university application available at http://www.csumentor.edu along with the $55 application fee.

All applicants must submit admissions materials separately to SDSU Graduate Admissions and to the Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle East Languages.

Graduate Admissions

The following materials should be submitted as a complete package directly to:

Graduate Admissions
Enrollment Services
San Diego State University
San Diego, CA 92182-7416

(1) Official transcripts (in sealed envelopes) from all postsecondary institutions attended;

Note:
• Students who attended SDSU need only submit transcripts for work completed since last attendance.
• Students with international coursework must submit both the official transcript and proof of degree. If documents are in a language other than English, they must be accompanied by a certified English translation.
Students selecting the TESOL/applied linguistics specialization must complete Linguistics 652, 656, and at least six units from the following: Linguistics 650, 653, 655, and 657. An internship, Linguistics 740, is required of all students selecting this specialization who have not taught ESL previously.

Students selecting one specialization may enroll in courses from the other specialization as electives.

With the approval of the graduate adviser, a maximum of six units selected from the following courses will be accepted for graduate credit in linguistics: Anthropology 604; Computer Science 550, 560, 562, 596 (when offered with computational linguistics content), 620, 696 (when offered with computational linguistics content), Rhetoric and Writing Studies 602, Spanish 561, 770, Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences 790, 795.

In addition, with approval of the graduate adviser, a student must choose either a thesis (Plan A), or a written comprehensive examination (Plan B). Plan A students must select a committee of three faculty, two of whom are from the department, to supervise the thesis. In consultation with the graduate adviser, students select one of two options at the time of filing an official program of study.

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

(Certificate Code: 90035) (SIMS Code: 114796)

The Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages offers a Basic and an Advanced Certificate in Teaching English as a Second or Foreign Language (TESL/TEFL). The Advanced Certificate requires Linguistics 652; two courses from Linguistics 650, 653, 655, and 657; and one course from Linguistics 530, 622, 651, 654, and 795 (when offered with applied linguistics content). Students must obtain a 3.0 GPA overall in the courses for the advanced certificate. The prerequisite for the Advanced Certificate is the Basic Certificate or its equivalent. A student's entire program comprising Basic and Advanced Certificates must include at least one course from Linguistics 430, 530, and 622. 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. For information on the Basic Certificate, please see the General Catalog.

Courses Acceptable on Master's Degree Programs in Linguistics (LING)

Refer to Courses and Curricula and Regulations of the Division of Graduate Affairs sections of this bulletin for explanation of the course numbering system, unit or credit hour, prerequisites, and related information.

UPPER DIVISION COURSES

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 prerequisite required; Copy of transcript.

Child language acquisition, adult language production/comprehension and sociolinguistics. Dialects, language variation, and standardization. Bilingualism and language change.

LING 503. Functions of Language (3)

Prerequisite: Linguistics 501. Proof of completion of prerequisite required; Copy of transcript.

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 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 teaching 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 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: Upper division standing.
Practical introduction to computational 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

LING 581. Computational Linguistics (3)
(Same course as Computer Science 581)
Prerequisites: Linguistics 570 or Mathematics 245; Linguistics 571 or Computer Science 320.

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.
LING 651. Sociology of Language (3)
Prerequisite: Linguistics 551.
Public and private reasons for planned language behavior. Creoles, personal speech interaction patterns, bilingualism, cultural diversity in language use, social-theoretical background, language planning, and social uses of sexism in language.

LING 652. Second Language Acquisition (3)
Prerequisites: Linguistics 501.
Analyses of theories of second language acquisition; theoretical and empirical bases of current second language teaching methodologies.

LING 653. ESL Reading and Writing (3)
Prerequisite: Linguistics 550.
Application of discourse and reading theory to the teaching and testing of ESL reading and writing. Issues of coherence, process-product, genre studies.

LING 654. Language and Cognition (3)
Prerequisite: Linguistics 552.
Language production, comprehension, and acquisition, as these relate to human cognition.

LING 655. English for Specific Purposes and Content-Based Instruction (3)
Prerequisite: Linguistics 550.
Theory, practice, and history of these two related approaches to ESL/EFL.

LING 656. Quantitative Research Methods in Language Studies (3)
Prerequisite: Linguistics 420 or 501.
Research design and quantitative research methods for linguistic applications. Critical evaluation of published research studies; empirical research project.

LING 657. Foundations of Language Assessment (3)
Prerequisite: Linguistics 550.
Fundamental principles and goals of language assessment and language assessment research: characteristics of assessment methods; analyzing test tasks; designing test items; describing test scores; approaches to estimating reliability, validity and validation; authenticity and impact.

LING 660. History of Linguistics (3)
Prerequisite: Two courses in linguistics or equivalent background. Background and development of modern linguistic theory.

LING 696. Advanced Topics in Linguistics (1-3)
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.
Advanced study in specific areas of linguistics. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Credit for 596 and 696 applicable to a master’s degree with approval of the graduate adviser.

LING 740. Internship in English as a Second Language and Foreign Language Teaching (3) Cr/NC
Prerequisite: Linguistics 550.
Internship in teaching English as a second language and English as a foreign language, offering work experience with practicing professionals.

LING 795. Seminar in Linguistics (3)
Prerequisite: Completion of three units of 600- and 700-numbered courses in the master’s program for linguistics.
Research in linguistics, course content varying according to instructor. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master’s degree.

LING 798. Special Study (1-3) Cr/NC/RP
Prerequisite: Consent of staff; to be arranged with department chair or instructor.
Individual study. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master’s degree.

LING 799A. Thesis (3) Cr/NC/RP
Prerequisites: An officially appointed thesis committee and advancement to candidacy.
Preparation of a project or thesis for the master’s degree.

LING 799B. Thesis Extension (0) Cr/NC
Prerequisite: Prior registration in Thesis 799A with an assigned grade symbol of RP.
Registration required in any semester or term following assignment of RP in Course 799A in which the student expects to use the facilities and resources of the university; also student must be registered in the course when the completed thesis is granted final approval.

LING 799C. Comprehensive Examination Extension (0) Cr/NC
Prerequisite: Completion or concurrent enrollment in degree program courses.
Registration required of students whose only requirement is completion of the comprehensive examination for the master’s degree. Registration in 799C limited to two semesters.