

# Linguistics

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

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**<http://linguistics.sdsu.edu>**

## Faculty

Betty T. R. Samraj, Ph.D., Professor of Linguistics,  
Chair of Department  
Eniko Csomay, Ph.D., Professor of Linguistics  
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, Emeritus  
Robert P. Malouf, Ph.D., Professor of Linguistics  
Deborah Poole, Ph.D., Professor of Linguistics, Emeritus  
Ruey-Jiuan Regina Wu, Ph.D., Professor of Linguistics and  
Asian/Middle Eastern Languages  
Zheng-sheng Zhang, Ph.D., Professor of Chinese  
Gregory D. Keating, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Linguistics  
(Graduate Adviser)  
Ryu Kitajima, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Japanese  
(Japanese Language Adviser)

## 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.

## 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 two 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) applied linguistics (TESOL), 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. In addition to completing coursework for one of the specializations, 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:

**Eniko Csomay** – Classroom discourse, corpus linguistics, discourse analysis, language variation, research design and methods, and teaching English as a Second Language.

**Jean Mark Gawron** – Computational linguistics (machine translation, narrowing, parsing, pragmatic); semantics (anaphora, comparatives, lexical semantics, quantification).

**Yoshiko Higurashi** – Accent and intonation, intercultural communication, Japanese language teaching, speech pathology, syllable structure, phonology.

**Jeffrey P. Kaplan** – Discourse-functional syntax, English grammar, language and law, and pragmatics.

**Gregory D. Keating** – First, second, and heritage language acquisition, sentence processing in monolingual and bilingual speakers of Spanish and English.

**Ryu Kitajima** – Language assessment, second language acquisition, teaching methodologies and language pedagogy.

**Robert P. Malouf** – Computational linguistics, machine learning, morphology, syntax, and text analytics.

**Deborah Poole** – Classroom discourse analysis, ESL teaching methods and materials, language/literacy socialization, and literacy event connections of speech and writing.

**Betty T. R. Samraj** – Discourse analysis, English for specific purposes, ESL methods and materials, genre analysis, systemic-functional linguistics, and written academic discourse.

**Ruey-Jiuan Regina Wu** – Conversation analysis, functional linguistics, language assessment, language pedagogy, pragmatics, teaching methodologies, and teacher training.

**Zheng-sheng Zhang** – Chinese language (dialects, structure, stylistics, writing system); 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.calstate.edu/apply> 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 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.

- (2) GRE scores (<http://www.ets.org> SDSU institution code 4682). All students are required to submit GRE scores. The required minimum scores in each section are 144 (quantitative), 153 (verbal), and 4.0 (writing);

- (3) English language score, if medium of instruction was in a language other than English (<http://www.ets.org> SDSU institution code 4682). Students who have a B.A. from a university where English is not the primary medium of instruction are required to submit either TOEFL iBT or IELTS scores. The required TOEFL iBT score is 90 or higher. The required IELTS score is 7.0 or higher. Note that these scores are higher than those required by the university.

### Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages

The following admissions materials must be submitted electronically via DecisionDesk, <http://gra.sdsu.edu/decisiondesk/>.

- (1) Statement of purpose (250 words) which demonstrates an understanding of the SDSU program and which shows interest in an area of research that is within the department's score of expertise;
- (2) Names and e-mail addresses of two professors who can evaluate the applicant's academic potential for success in a rigorous M.A. program. Recommenders will receive an e-mail link to upload their letter of reference to DecisionDesk. Although we strongly encourage academic references, non-academic references (e.g., from employers) may be submitted if a significant amount of time has passed since earning the last degree.

A student who is deficient in any of the above requirements may be considered for conditional admission. A candidate may be required to complete specified courses or earn a minimum GPA within a specific time period in addition to completing the minimum 30 units required for the degree.

The fall semester graduate application (Cal State Apply online application) deadline is March 1. In order to ensure consideration, other application materials must be sent to the Office of Graduate Admissions (transcripts and test scores) and to the department (statement of purpose and recommendation letters) by April 1. Our program does not admit new students in the spring semester.

### Advancement to Candidacy

All candidates must satisfy the general requirements for advancement to candidacy as described in Part Four of this bulletin.

### Specific Requirements for the Master of Arts Degree

**(Major Code: 15051) (SIMS Code: 114701; Applied TESOL - 114705)**

In addition to meeting the requirements for classified graduate standing and the basic requirements for the Master of Arts degree, as described in Part Four of this bulletin, the student must complete a graduate program of at least 30 units of 500-, 600-, and 700-level courses to include Linguistics 503, 795, and three units from the following: Linguistics 502, 551, 552. A prerequisite to Linguistics 502, 503, 551, and 552 is completion of Linguistics 501 or equivalent. A minimum of 15 units must be from 600- or 700-level courses. Linguistics 505 does not count toward unit requirements for the Master of Arts degree in linguistics.

Students selecting the General Linguistics specialization must complete either Linguistics 621 or Linguistics 622, and six units from the following: Linguistics 610, 620, 626, 640, 654, 660, 696 (with general linguistics content).

Students selecting the applied linguistics (TESOL) 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, 793.

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)

**(SIMS Code: 114786)**

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 for Master's Degree Program 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.

#### 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.

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' 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 526. Discourse Analysis (3)**

Prerequisite: Linguistics 420 or 501.

Theories of discourse structure. Text and context. Frameworks for analyzing written and spoken discourses such as genre analysis, conversation analysis, critical discourse analysis, discourse and grammar, speech act theory, and corpus linguistics. Applications of discourse analysis such as cross-cultural misunderstanding.

**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 101, 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 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 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)

Prerequisite: Linguistics 571 or 572 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 583. Statistical Methods in Text Analysis (3)**

Prerequisites: Linguistics 571 or 572; and Statistics 550 or 551A.

Statistical methods for analysis of large texts to include Bayesian classifiers, Markov models, maximum entropy models, neural nets, and support vector machines. Data collection and annotation. Applications to annotation, relation detection, sentiment analysis, and topic modeling.

**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****LING 610. Topics in Historical Linguistics (3)**

Prerequisite: Three upper division units in linguistics, preferably Linguistics 410, 501, or 521.

Methods and principles used in historical study of language; processes of language change in phonology, syntax, and semantics; linguistics reconstruction; origin of language; language families; development of writing. Analysis of Indo-European, Old English, or Middle English. May be repeated with new content. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Maximum credit six units.

**LING 620. Advanced Formal Syntax (3)**

Prerequisite: Linguistics 522.

Advanced study of formal syntactic theory.

**LING 621. Advanced English Phonology (3)**

Prerequisite: Linguistics 521.

English phonetics, phonemics, and phonological rules. Phonological differences among American English dialects. Survey of contemporary approaches to phonology.

**LING 622. Discourse and Syntax (3)**

Prerequisite: Linguistics 503, 522, or 530.

Functional and discourse-oriented approaches to syntax and syntactic approaches to discourse.

**LING 623. Immigrant Languages (3)**

Prerequisite: Linguistics 420 or 501.

Contrastive structure of selected languages representing significant immigrant populations in San Diego; emphasis on phonological, orthographic, morphological, lexical and syntactic features.

**LING 626. Pragmatics (3)**

Prerequisites: Linguistics 525 and six additional units of linguistics courses numbered 501 or higher (excluding Linguistics 505).

Gricean and neo-Gricean approaches to pragmatics; relevance theory; reference; presupposition; speech acts; information structure.

**LING 640. Field Methods in Linguistics (3)**

Prerequisites: Linguistics 521 and credit or concurrent registration in Linguistics 622.

Principles and techniques of linguistic analysis working directly with native informants, including phonemic, grammatical, and syntactic analysis and text collection and interpretation.

**LING 650. Materials Development in Applied Linguistics (3)**

Prerequisite: Linguistics 550.

Materials development and adaptation for teaching English as a second language and foreign language.

**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)**

Prerequisite: 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.

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**Management, Management Information Systems, and Marketing**

Refer to "Business Administration" in this section of the bulletin.