

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS

COURSE CATALOG

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26



UNIVERSITY of
ROCHESTER

LING 102 Language and Social Identity

Spring, 4 credits

This course introduces how language is used and perceived to mark social characteristics of an individual or group of individuals. We will examine how social identity is constructed linguistically, which linguistic cues are used consciously to denote different social identities, and how most linguistic cues delineating social groups are below conscious awareness. Topics include prescriptive and descriptive perspectives of language, dialects, accents, language standardization, language and dialect contact, and linguistic profiling.

Prerequisites: None

LING 104 Language and Culture

Fall, 4 credits

This course investigates the relationship between language and culture at the interface of linguistics and anthropology. It examines the ways in which language reflects the perception of the world, ways of life and beliefs of its speakers, creates rituals and maintains social ties, and is used by people of different ages, genders, social classes, and ethnicities. We will discuss hypotheses that try to explain the nature of relationship between language and culture and then turn to a wide variety of topics which are relevant for both linguists and anthropologists. These include, for instance, kinship systems, language of perception (e.g. colors, spatial relations), politeness across languages and cultures, and writing systems.

Prerequisites: None

LING 107 Language and Landscape: Water is Life

Fall, Spring, 4 credits

Water is on track to be the most pressing environmental issue in the upcoming decades. But beyond its physical substance, what is water? How do we understand its value in our lives? Who controls it? This course will focus on the language and landscape of water, its geography and physical presence on the landscape, to examine how languages shape our actions, understanding and knowledge of what water is in human communities. In the course we'll examine indigenous points of view around water in the Americas and in Australia and how they embody themselves in their landscapes in relation to water. We'll examine the language of issues such as access to water, and water rights and the concept of ownership of water. We'll focus on case studies of current communities coping with the value and role of water in their communities. We'll touch on aspects of the geography of water: aquifers, rivers, water sources, and practices such as irrigation and mapping to understand the ways that languages embody us in place, using as tools linguistic concepts such place names and toponyms, spacial orientations. The goal of the seminar is to build a base for an informed understanding of how knowledge is coded in languages, and shapes concepts and environmental practices. The course will consist of readings, films and discussion, and final project.

Prerequisites: None

LING 110 Intro to Linguistic Analysis

Fall, Spring, 4 credits

This course introduces students to the study of the structure of human language. We will cover the six core areas of linguistic investigation: Phonetics (articulation, acoustics, and perception of speech sounds), Phonology (sound patterns), Morphology (internal structure of words and their organization in the mental lexicon), Syntax (internal structure of phrases and sentences), Semantics (word and sentence meaning), and Pragmatics (language use in context). The course focuses on developing skills in the areas of linguistic data analysis and interpretation of linguistic data in ways that aim to address theoretical and empirical issues in the study of language. In addition to the lecture students will need to register for a peer-led workshop.

Prerequisites: None

LING 112 Language and Persuasion

Spring, 4 credits

No description available.

Prerequisites: None

LING 160 The Playful Sentence

Fall, Spring, 4 credits

This course investigates and plays with the sentence, revealing its incredible potential to shape meaning, identity, voice, and our relationship with our readers. Drawing on work in functional linguistics (e.g., Aull, Hyland, Vande Kopple) and voice (e.g., Palacas, Young), we'll see how different sentence-level choices create different meanings and effects. Assignments will regularly involve analyzing texts chosen and written by students, playing purposefully with language, and testing the effects of different choices. To aid analysis, generative AI (eg., GPT) and our imaginations will be used to generate different versions of the "same" text; An easy-to-use corpus analysis tool (AntConc) will help reveal textual patterns across large amounts of text. Through a final project, students will investigate some aspect of the sentence in a medium and context of their choice or address an interesting theoretical question about the sentence. This course is ideal for those interested in any kind of writing, writing education, or editing. Background in linguistics or grammar is not necessary.

Prerequisites: None

LING 161 Modern English Grammar

Spring, 4 credits

This course is a comprehensive review of the grammar of Modern Standard English. The course will be of interest to those who wish to sharpen their language skills, or to know more about the workings of the English language whether for practical, cognitive or creative ends. Drawing on work in mostly pre-theoretical, descriptive linguistics this course reveals the mechanics of Standard English structure, with occasional detours into the finesse of usage across registers (dialect to slang). Students will learn to develop the ability to see patterns in grammar, as well as its structural possibilities and limits. Assignments will regularly involve reflection on form, usage and speaker judgments. Through a final project, students will investigate some aspect of an English variety available to them. Throughout, students will be working with their data samples of English to explore how speaker choices lead to particular grammatical structures or yield ungrammaticality. Background in linguistics or grammar not needed.

Prerequisites: None

LING 162 Modern African-American English

Fall, Spring, 4 credits

This course looks at the varieties of English used primarily by and among African Americans. We will first explore and discuss the linguistic features (lexicon and grammar) of African American English (AAE). We will also investigate the ways in which AAE is being utilized in popular culture. Additionally, we will look at AAVE's connection to African languages and creoles. Finally, this course will look at the issues connected to AAVE and attitudes towards this variety and its effects on teachers' expectations and students' progress; linguistic profiling and discrimination in employment and housing.

Prerequisites: None

LING 163 The Rhetorical Sentence

Fall, Spring, 4 credits

No description available.

Prerequisites: None

LING 204(W)/404 History of Linguistic Thought

Spring, 4 credits

This course looks at key ideas in linguistics, starting in Babylon and Ancient China and working towards the study of meaning in modern linguistic theory and philosophy of language. Among the topics we will look at are writing and its influence on grammatical traditions; the advent of

historical linguistics, linguistic phylogeny, and the comparative method; European structuralism; American structuralism; variation within and across languages; the rise of generative grammar; Chomsky's philosophy of linguistics, including competence and I-language; literal meaning and beyond. Students will be expected to read a selection of primary literature and participate actively in class discussion. The course will be assessed by essays (essay questions and reading lists for each essay to be provided).

Undergraduate Prerequisites:

- LING 110 with a C- or better
- LING 210, LING 210W, or LING 220 with a C- or better

Graduate Prerequisites:

- LING 410 with a B- or better
- LING 420 with a B- or better

LING 205/405 Intro to Historical Linguistics

Fall, 4 credits

This course is designed to give an introduction to the principles of linguistic variation and change, and to examine their practical application in the interdisciplinary subfields of historical linguistics and historical sociolinguistics. Topics covered include diachrony and synchrony, genetic relations, the comparative method and language classification, sound change, morphological, syntactic and semantic change, borrowing, types of language contact, areal linguistics, and linguistic variation and social stratification.

Undergraduate Prerequisites:

- LING 110 with a C- or better

LING 210(W)/410 Intro to Language Sound Systems

Fall, 4 credits

The goal of this course is to provide a background for understanding the principles that underlie the structure of sound systems in human languages. Starting with the notion phoneme, the course focuses on acoustic and articulatory phonetics, as a basis for understanding phonological processes and change in linguistic sound forms. Students will acquire skills in the production, recognition, and transcription of sounds in various languages of the world. The course will serve as a foundation for work in language documentation, sociolinguistics and sociophonetics, morphology. This course is meant for linguistics majors and non-majors alike. In addition to the lecture, students will need to register for a peer-led workshop.

Undergraduate Prerequisites:

- LING 110 with a C- or better

LING 214/414 Statistical Methods in Linguistics

Fall, 4 credits

This course provides an introduction to probability and statistics for linguistics, serving as an essential foundation for linguistics students who aim to analyze experimental and corpus linguistic data. Topics include (i) elementary probability theory; (ii) elementary descriptive and inferential statistics; (iii) elementary machine learning concepts; and (iv) fixed and mixed effects models. Concepts are explored through linguistic case studies, including the analysis of formally collected judgment data, reaction times, and acoustic measurements.

Undergraduate Prerequisites:

- LING 110 with a C- or better

LING 215/415 Languages of Africa

Fall, 4 credits

About 2,000 of the world's 7,000 languages are spoken in Africa. The diversity that characterizes these languages is exceptional, but little known to non-specialists. In this course, we will learn about the languages of Africa: the diversity of their linguistic structures (including famous features that are found nowhere else, e.g. click consonants), their history and the history of their speakers (from ca 10,000 BP to the (post-) colonial period), and their cultural contexts, among other topics. We will explore the wealth and diversity of African cultures through the lens of language. This course also incorporates a variety of other disciplines such as anthropology, sociology, history, archaeology, human genetics, as well as the arts, to bring to light the variety of institutions, norms, and social practices produced by African societies which have historically been excluded from dominant cultural narratives. The focus will be on the role played by language in these institutions, norms and practices, and their representation. This course has no prerequisites and is open to anyone with an interest in African languages or the African continent.

Prerequisites: None

LING 220/420 Intro to Syntax

Spring, 4 credits

Syntax is the system of rules that we subconsciously follow when we construct sentences. The course is designed to introduce the grammatical principles that guide the building of structures. The students will acquire and apply the tools necessary for linguistic analysis of phrases and sentences. Built on data puzzles from English and some lesser studied non-Indo-European languages, the students will gain insights into state-of-the-art syntactic theory and lingering questions.

Undergraduate Prerequisites:

- LING 110 with a C- or better

LING 224/424 Intro to Computational Linguistics

Fall, Spring, 4 credits

This course covers foundational concepts in computational linguistics and is designed for students with a strong background in formal linguistic methods but only rudimentary programming experience. Major focus is placed on the use of formal languages as a tool for understanding natural language as well as on developing students' ability to implement foundational algorithms pertaining to those formal languages. Topics include basic formal language theory, finite state phonological and morphological parsing, and syntactic parsing for context free grammars and mildly context sensitive formalisms. Students who have taken the CSC17X series should consult with the instructor prior to enrollment, since there is overlap with a subset of the technical material covered in those courses. Conversely, while it is possible to enter this course with no programming experience and do well, students new to programming may wish to take CSC161 or to attend a CIRC programming bootcamp prior to taking this course.

Undergraduate Prerequisites:

- LING 110 with a C- or better

LING 225/425 Intro to Semantic Analysis

Fall, 4 credits

section focuses on devices that motivate certain forms to take on the meanings they have. The second section of the course moves on to discuss how meanings combine to form meanings for larger units how words and phrases combine to form sentences meanings. Using logical notation, we illustrate the formal analysis of natural language meaning in terms of truth-conditions. We will discuss the basics of set theory and investigate how meanings represented in these terms correlate with the syntactic and lexical structures of sentences of natural language. Students of graduate standing or those with strong formal backgrounds may consider starting with LING 265/465 instead, for which this course is ordinarily a prerequisite.

Undergraduate Prerequisites:

- LING 110 with a C- or better

LING 226/426 Morphology

Fall, 4 credits

The course examines the structure and definition of the linguistic unit 'word' its typology and the relationship of the morphological component to other levels in the grammar. The course includes an introduction to analytical techniques with emphasis placed on an examination of data from a range of languages. The building blocks of words will be analyzed and topics such as affixation, reduplication and inflectional and derivational morphology will be covered. We will examine the

properties of words and how they fit into the larger structure of linguistic knowledge, including the relationship between words and syntactic structure (ex., phrases and sentences) and the relationship between words and phonological structure (ex., phonological rules and prosodic structure).

Undergraduate Prerequisites:

- LING 110 with a C- or better

LING 227/427 Phonetics

Spring, 4 credits

No description available.

Undergraduate Prerequisites:

- LING 110 with C- or better
- LING 210 or LING 210W with a C- or better

Graduate Prerequisites:

- LING 410 with a B- or better

LING 228/428 Lexical Semantics

Spring, 4 credits

In this course we investigate the study of word-meaning in current linguistics and cognitive science. We examine the meanings of lexical items such as verbs, nouns, adjectives, and prepositions, as well as other categories of words, including various function words and discourse particles. We examine theories of word-meaning and examine how words and vocabulary may vary between languages.

Prerequisites: None.

LING 237/437 Phonology

Fall, 4 credits

This course introduces students to the core principles and analytical tools of phonology—the study of how speech sounds are organized in human language. Through examination of diverse phonological patterns from a typologically broad set of languages, students will explore the most active and exciting areas of research in contemporary phonological theory. Moving beyond the classical rule-based and constraint-based models, we examine how phonology interfaces with phonetics, morphology, and typology, and how new methods—from experimental and computational approaches to fieldwork on under-documented languages—are transforming the field. This course may explore the following topics: Phonological opacity and how current models (Stratal OT, Harmonic Serialism, Cophonology Theory), tonal phonology and its

theoretical and empirical challenges, the phonetics-phonology interface: grounded vs. substance-free theories, laboratory phonology and the use of instrumental methods, and phonology in language documentation and revitalization, variation, gradience, and probabilistic grammars. Throughout the course, students will engage with recent research articles, participate in data-driven discussions, and develop a final research project grounded in the latest debates and methodologies in the field.

Undergraduate Prerequisites:

- LING 110 with C- or better
- LING 210 or LING 210W with a C- or better

Graduate Prerequisites:

- LING 410 with a B- or better

LING 240(W)/440 Language Variation and Change

Fall, 4 credits

This course offers an overview of the study of language variation and change. We will examine some of the ways that spoken language varies according to the social characteristics and social motivations of its speakers. Methods for quantitative analysis of linguistic variation will be introduced.

Undergraduate Prerequisites:

- LING 110 with a C- or better

LING 250/450 Data Science for Linguistics

Spring, 4 credits

This course addresses linguistic research questions through data science techniques. The course will focus on developing skills to (i) acquire and process a variety of language data, from using established corpora to capturing data in the wild, and (ii) to investigate language use, particularly syntactic and semantic phenomena, through descriptive and inferential statistical techniques. A significant part of the course will be devoted to hands-on projects and will include developing familiarity with using the programming languages Python and R to acquire and explore linguistic data. Familiarity with statistics and/or computational linguistics is advantageous, but not necessary.

Prerequisites: None.

LING 260(W)/460 Syntactic Theory I

Fall, 4 credits

In this course, you will learn about existing theories of syntactic phenomena, how to critically evaluate them, and how to make your own proposal within a given framework. This work will develop both your analytical skills and your critical thinking about theories. Topics include argument structure, case, agreement, raising and control, and constraints on movement. Additional goals of this course are: (i) to practice reading primary syntactic literature and (ii) to develop a research project in syntax.

Undergraduate Prerequisites:

- LING 110 with a C- or better
- LING 220 with a C- or better

Graduate Prerequisites:

- LING 420 with a B- or better

LING 261/461 Constraint Based Syntax

Fall, 4 credits

This syntactic theory course examines syntactic phenomena from the perspective of phrase structure and lexicalist grammar as opposed to transformational grammar. The course will examine and develop phrase structure grammar (specifically Head-driven Phrase Structure Grammar) approaches to standard syntactic problems, contrasting them where appropriate with transformational approaches. No background in non-transformational approaches will be assumed.

Undergraduate Prerequisites:

- LING 110 with a C- or better
- LING 220 with a C- or better

Graduate Prerequisites:

- LING 420 with a B- or better

LING 265(W)/465 Formal Semantics

Spring, 4 credits

This course is an in-depth introduction to the formal analysis of natural language meaning, employing techniques that have been developed in language and formal philosophy over the last century. Issues include intentionality, quantification, tense, presupposition, plurality, the analysis of discourse, and other current issues. Familiarity with syntax, logic, and/or computation are helpful.

Undergraduate Prerequisites:

- LING 225 with a C- or better

Graduate Prerequisites:

- LING 425 with a B- or better

LING 266/466 Intro to Pragmatics

Spring, 4 credits

Within theoretical linguistics, pragmatics is (broadly speaking) the study of how language users convey meaning. This course covers three general areas: (1) How meaning carried by linguistic elements (such as sentences) interacts with meaning that arises from inferences about speakers' intentions; (2) Ways of characterizing meaning, especially with respect to linguistic elements not easily handled in traditional semantic (i.e., truth-conditional) terms; (3) The role of context in determining meaning. Topics to be discussed include the relation between semantics and pragmatics, representations of context, truth-conditional and other types of meaning, presupposition; implicature and Grice's Cooperative Principle.

Prerequisites: None

LING 267/467 Topics in Semantics

Spring, 4 credits

This course covers topics at the interface of syntax and semantics.

Prerequisites: None (LING 225 is recommended but not required).

LING 268/468 Computational Semantics

Spring, 4 credits

This course is a hands-on exploration of recent advances in computational models of meaning. The first part of the course will focus on implementing traditional rule-based compositional semantics in the functional programming language Haskell. We will construct a sophisticated model of formal semantics, culminating in examining the use of monads to model types of natural language meaning phenomena. The second part of the course explores distributional semantic models and their implementation, where lexical meaning is defined in terms of lexical co-occurrence, estimating meaning from large-scale corpus resources.

Prerequisites: None

LING 270(W)/470 Preserving Diversity in Language and Culture

Fall, 4 credits

This class is addressed to anyone interested in fieldwork involving data collection of spoken language, including for instance linguists, anthropologists, or historians. Languages and cultures are currently disappearing on an unprecedented level due to the effects of globalization and

displacement of people. Minority groups are often the most affected. As languages and cultures die, we lose entire knowledge systems and communities an integral part of their identity. This class introduces you to major techniques and tools of collecting and curating language data, using it for your research purposes, and making it useful to speech communities and other scholars. We will investigate the importance of language as a social convention from an interdisciplinary perspective, including, e.g., issues in intercultural research and ethics in fieldwork. Students will design their own projects, depending on their personal interests, and receive hands-on training in audio and video recording, time-aligned annotations, data management, and archiving.

Undergraduate Prerequisites:

- LING 110 with a C- or better

LING 282/482 Deep Learning in Computational Linguistics

Fall, 4 credits

The application of neural network methods - under the name Deep Learning - has led to breakthroughs in a wide range of fields, including in building language technologies (e.g. for search, translation, text input prediction). This course will provide a hands-on introduction to the use of deep learning methods for processing natural language. Methods to be covered include static word embeddings, feed-forward networks for text, recurrent neural networks, transformers, pre-training and transfer learning, with applications including sentiment analysis, translation, generation, and testing Linguistic theory.

Undergraduate Prerequisites:

- LING 110 with a C- or better
- LING 214 with a C- or better

Graduate Prerequisites:

- LING 414 with a B- or better

LING 288/488 Topics in Sociolinguistics

Spring, 4 credits

This course will explore language contact phenomena from a variety of perspectives. We will consider the social and historical processes that have led to the emergence of different types of multilingual communities and focus on societal outcomes of multilingualism such as diglossia, language maintenance, and shift, as well as societal responses in the form of language policy and planning. Structural outcomes of language contact will also be considered, including contact languages such as pidgins and creoles, code-switching/code-mixing and contact-induced change at different levels of linguistic structure (words, sounds, sentences, and meaning).

Undergraduate Prerequisites:

- LING 110 with a C- or better

- LING 210 or LING 210W or LING 220 with a C- or better

LING 389 Senior Seminar

Spring, 4 credits

This is a hands-on class which allows you to work with a language consultant with the goal of writing a grammar sketch or a short research paper. At the end of this course, you will have acquired methods and techniques to describe a language not known to you previously. This includes recording and collection of data, data processing and analysis. The class is an opportunity to apply the knowledge of linguistic theory that you acquired during your major in linguistic research on an unfamiliar language. Another focus of this course is training in grammar writing skills. Ultimately, this course provides you with a solid basis to do fieldwork for language description and linguistic research in your own in the future.

Undergraduate Prerequisites:

- LING 110 with a C- or better
- LING 210 or LING 210W with a C- or better
- LING 220 with a C- or better
- LING 225 with a C- or better

LING 391(W) Independent Study

Fall, Spring, 4 credits

Registration for Independent Study courses needs to be completed through the instructions for online independent study registration.

LING 394 Internship

Fall, Spring, 4 credits

Registration for Independent Study courses needs to be completed through the instructions for online independent study registration.

LING 395 Independent Research

Fall, Spring, 1-4 credits

Registration for Independent Study courses needs to be completed through the instructions for online independent study registration.

LING 395H Independent Research - Honors

Fall, Spring, 1-4 credits

Registration for Independent Study courses needs to be completed through the instructions for online independent study registration.

LING 471 LDD Field Methods

Spring, 4 credits

In this field methods course, students will learn how to organize a fieldwork project by working with a native speaker from systematically preparing elicitation sessions and organizing their data to learning how to write up short sketches of their findings.

Graduate Prerequisites:

- LING 470 with a B- or better

LING 491 Master's Reading in Linguistics

Fall, Spring, 1-4 credits

Registration for Independent Study courses needs to be completed through the instructions for online independent study registration.

LING 495 Master's Research in Linguistics

Fall, Spring, 1-4 credits

Registration for Independent Study courses needs to be completed through the instructions for online independent study registration.

LING 501 Research Methods in Linguistics

Spring, 4 credits

This course is intended to help graduate students in linguistics design and plan for independent research. Topics will include developing a research question, conducting a literature review, and designing a research plan. As necessary, we will also work on “research management,” or everything that researchers need to do alongside producing intellectual content, including presentation skills (different types of presentation), data collection techniques, writing an IRB proposal, managing research timelines, securing research funds, developing necessary software skills, maintaining a presence in the field, conducting a job search, and others. A secondary goal of the course is to provide an opportunity for graduate advising. Students may bring questions or concerns for discussion.

Prerequisites: None.

LING 520 Syntactic Theory II

Spring, 4 credits

This graduate course expands upon and deepens the analyses of cross-linguistic syntactic phenomena introduced in LING 460 with the goal of learning to use and develop syntactic theory as a framework for exploring, understanding and explaining cross-linguistic as well as language-specific syntactic patterns. Participants will engage in class discussion of primary syntactic literature and develop a research project to be presented to the class and submitted at the end of the term. Topics include A vs. A-bar phenomena, constraints on A-bar movement, successive cyclicity, wh-in-situ, relative clauses, tough constructions, linearization, ATB movement and multi-dominance, control, ellipsis and binding.

Graduate Prerequisites:

- LING 460 with a B- or better

LING 526 Morphological Theory

Fall, 4 credits

No description available.

Graduate Prerequisites:

- LING 426 with a B- or better

LING 527 Prosody

Spring, 4 credits

The goal of LING 527 is to acquire a basic understanding of fundamental components of the architecture of spoken language characterized as the prosodic hierarchy. The interaction of related suprasegmental phenomena such as stress, accent, tone, meter and intonation, and the various ways they may manifest and interact with each other. Crosslinguistic work on prosody is critical because prosody in fieldwork is under documented. Different languages use these components to produce very distinct types of often mixed systems that shed light on the organization of spoken language and the grammar. The course will consist of readings of primary materials, it will include assignments, some data collection and learning measurement techniques to test ideas and theories, with a final project on an aspect of the prosody of a language.

The first third of the course will concern the Prosodic Hierarchy: what it is, what the hierarchical levels represent, how they are manifested, and the theories use to represent and investigate them. The rest of the seminar will consist of articles and readings on topics related to the study of a variety of prosodic phenomena, including mixed systems and interactions of tone w meter, and tone and accent systems and the identification of boundaries in inflectional systems. We will discuss ideas on how to collect prosodic data with and without using elicitation materials.

Graduate Prerequisites:

- LING 410 with a B- or better
- LING 427 with a B- or better
- LING 437 with a B- or better

LING 529 Seminar in Phonetics and Phonology*Fall, Spring, 4 credits*

This seminar covers advanced topics in phonetics and phonology.

Graduate Prerequisites:

- LING 410 with a B- or better
- LING 427 with a B- or better
- LING 437 with a B- or better

LING 537 Laboratory Phonology*Fall, Spring, 4 credits*

No description available.

Graduate Prerequisites:

- LING 410 with a B- or better
- LING 427 with a B- or better
- LING 437 with a B- or better

LING 560 Seminar in Syntax*Spring, 4 credits*

This seminar covers advanced topics in syntax.

Graduate Prerequisites:

- LING 460 with a B- or better

LING 589 Graduate Field Methods*Spring, 4 credits*

This is a hands-on, practical course preparing students to produce linguistic research based on data collected through elicitation. To achieve this, students will work with a speaker of an unfamiliar language and develop a research project based on the data they collect. The practical goals include: (i) obtaining familiarity with devising and refining elicitation strategies; (ii)

analyzing data from an unfamiliar language; and (iii) receiving training in writing a grammatical description with appropriate terminology.

Graduate Prerequisites:

- Two of the following with a B- or better:
 - LING 405
 - LING 410
 - LING 420
 - LING 425
 - LING 426
 - LING 440

LING 590 Supervised Teaching

Fall, Spring, 1 credit

Used to earn credit for being a Teaching Assistant.

LING 591 PhD Reading in Linguistics

Fall, Spring, 1-12 credits

Registration for Independent Study courses needs to be completed through the instructions for online independent study registration.

LING 595 PhD Research in Linguistics

Fall, Spring, 1-12 credits

Registration for Independent Study courses needs to be completed through the instructions for online independent study registration.

LING 595A PhD Research in Absentia

Fall, Spring, 1-12 credits

Registration for Independent Study courses needs to be completed through the instructions for online independent study registration. In Absentia study requires approval from the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Placeholder Courses

Fall, Spring, 0 credits

Placeholder courses help you maintain a certain status (usually full-time status, but not always). These courses cannot be taken for credit; they are simply used as a “placeholder.”

LING 895 Continuation of Master’s Enrollment

Students who are not actively working on their degree requirements (such as during a period when relevant courses are not offered) and are enrolled solely to satisfy the continuous enrollment requirement should be registered for LING 895 Continuation of Master’s Enrollment.

This registration category is considered less than half-time enrollment for all reporting purposes. It does not satisfy the government requirement for F1 and J1 students to maintain full-time status and will require students to obtain advance permission for a Reduced Course Load, if eligible.

LING 895 has a fee attached to it that must be paid by the student regardless of where they are in their program or what their funding is. This registration category does not qualify students for federal student loans or university sponsored health insurance.

Though less than half time, this status does fulfill the program requirement of continuous enrollment.

LING 897 Master’s Dissertation

Students who are completing their master’s program and are short of the required number of credits to maintain full-time status may register for LING 897 Master’s Dissertation.

Students should NOT be registering for master’s research, an independent study, supervised teaching, or any other course simply for the purpose of maintaining full-time status. Any course other than LING 897 or LING 899, should have a legitimate academic purpose.

This registration category serves to maintain full-time status for the student but does not carry an associated fee. (LING 897 doesn’t bear any credits, but it “automatically” gives a student full-time status.) It doesn’t count towards their required credits.

Students may register for LING 897 up to two times, once in the third semester, and once in the fourth semester. Under this registration category, students remain eligible for federal student loans.

LING 897A Master’s Dissertation – In Absentia

LING 897B Master’s Dissertation – Study Abroad

LING 899 Master’s Dissertation

If for any reason, a student has already used LING 897 twice, but still hasn’t completed their

degree requirements, then they must register for LING 899 Master's Dissertation, which does the same thing as LING 897 ("automatically" gives them full-time status), but LING 899 has a fee attached. If a student registers for LING 899 in their second year, the 50% master's tuition scholarship applies; however, if a student registers for LING 899 after their second year, the dissertation fee is not covered because the tuition scholarship expires. Under this registration category, students remain eligible for federal student loans.

LING 995 Continuation of Doctoral Enrollment

Students who are not actively working on their degree requirements (such as during a period when relevant courses are not offered) and are enrolled solely to satisfy the continuous enrollment requirement should be registered for LING 995 Continuation of Doctoral Enrollment.

This registration category is considered less than half-time enrollment for all reporting purposes. It does not satisfy the government requirement for F1 and J1 students to maintain full-time status and will require students to obtain advance permission for a Reduced Course Load, if eligible.

LING 995 has a fee attached to it that must be paid by the student regardless of where they are in their program or what their funding is. This registration category does not qualify students for federal student loans or university sponsored health insurance.

Though less than half time, this status does fulfill the program requirement of continuous enrollment.

LING 999 Doctoral Dissertation

Students who have completed their required 90 credits or who will reach their 90 credits with less than 9 credits left must register for LING 999 Doctoral Dissertation, which "automatically" gives them full-time status. LING 999 has a fee attached.

When LING 999 is taken within the initial five years, it is covered by the student's funding package; however, if it is taken afterwards, the associated fee will be the student's responsibility.

Under this registration category, students remain eligible for federal student loans and university sponsored health insurance.

LING 999A Doctoral Dissertation – In Absentia