

LINGUISTICS

Linguistics is the study of the intricate and elusive process of human communication. A theoretical discipline, akin to philosophy, anthropology, and cognitive psychology, its goal is the enrichment of knowledge about the nature, grammar, and history of human language.

While core areas of linguistic theory include phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics, the central focus of linguistics is the properties of grammar, a system of rules that characterize the phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics of a natural language.

CURRICULUM – *The Linguistics Major*

As a linguistics major, you will take the five course introductory sequence – *Introduction to Linguistics*, which gives you a foundation in the theory and methods of linguistics; *Historical Linguistics*, which provides an introduction to the methodology and the historical development of the discipline; *Introduction to Syntax*, in which you will study the underlying structure of language; *Introduction to Phonology*, which explores stress, syllable structure, and tone in spoken language; and *Topics in Logic*, which will introduce you to semantics.

You will choose four more courses, selecting from offerings in the computer science, linguistics, philosophy, foreign language, and psychology departments. Offerings include: *Language and Culture*, *Philosophy of Language*, *Language and*

the Law, *East Asian Linguistics*, *The English Language*, *Psycholinguistics*, and *Symbolic Logic*.

You also will need to demonstrate proficiency in at least one language, achievable in several ways. You could study two languages for a minimum of three terms each, which would give you intermediate proficiency in two languages. Or you could choose to study one language in depth, taking a minimum of five courses in the selected language. Or you could study a language for four terms and study abroad for a term in a country where that language is spoken.

The Linguistics Minor

To complete a minor in linguistics, you will take *Introduction to Linguistics* and two of the four core courses – *Historical Linguistics*, *Introduction to Syntax*, *Introduction to Phonology*, and *Topics in Logic*. Additionally, you will choose two upper-level courses from a list of related electives.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Lawrence offers an impressive number of different languages and opportunities for the study of foreign languages. You can take beginning to advanced level courses in Mandarin Chinese, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Russian, and Spanish. In addition, you can learn Czech, Cantonese Chinese, Marathi, Wolof, Swahili, and Shona on one of our off-campus programs.

There is ample opportunity to hear and speak the language outside of the classroom. The International House, where students from some 40 countries gather informally, offers you a place to practice your foreign language skills and meet people from other countries. For students who want to improve their listening skills, there are television broadcasts received daily from all over the world.

Additionally, native speakers of Chinese, French, German, Russian, and Spanish conduct conversation sessions each week in the dining halls. And most of the language

departments sponsor an immersion weekend at Björklunden, Lawrence's 405-acre estate on the shores of Lake Michigan only two hours from campus, where students spend an entire weekend speaking only the target language.

Whatever your interest in language and linguistics, you can choose off-campus study to enhance your skills in language, as all of the language departments offer study-abroad programs.

FACULTY

Jerzy Jura, assistant professor of Spanish

Jagiellonian University; University of Wisconsin-Madison, M.A., Ph.D.

Interests: contemporary Spanish literature and culture

Ruth M. Lanouette, associate professor of German
Millersville State University, B.A.;
University of Pittsburgh, M.A.;
Princeton University, Ph.D.

Interests: Germanic linguistics, forensic linguistics, language pedagogy

Terry L. Gottfried, associate professor of psychology
University of Minnesota, B.S., Ph.D.

Interests: perception of speech and singing, psychology of cognition and perception

Thomas C. Ryckman, associate professor of philosophy
University of Michigan, Flint, B.A.;
University of Massachusetts, M.S., Ph.D.

Interests: philosophy of language, philosophy of mind, philosophy of science, philosophy of art

Kuo-ming Sung, assistant professor of East Asian languages and culture

National Taiwan University, B.A.;
University of California, Los Angeles, M.A., C.Phil., Ph.D.

Interests: generative linguistics, comparative syntax, language pedagogy

Daniel J. Taylor, Hiram A. Jones Professor of Classics

Lawrence University, B.A.;
University of Washington, M.A., Ph.D.

Interests: classical linguistic theory, Greek poetry, Varro

Robert F. Williams, assistant professor of education
Purdue University, B.S.M.E., B.A.;
University of Colorado at Denver, M.A.;

University of California, San Diego, M.A., Ph.D.

Interests: cognitive linguistics, conceptual metaphor, conceptual blending, instructional discourse, gesture