For Students in LING Courses

Upcoming Linguistics Courses & Major and Minor Information

11/16/2020

Florian Schwarz
Linguistics

- Humans beings have **unique linguistic capacities**, very different from animal communication
- Studying human language provides key insights into human nature
- **Common thread:**
  - hone analytical skills while studying fundamental aspects of what makes humans what they are
  - Interface between humanities and natural and social sciences
Linguistics at Penn

- Broad range of subfields with connections to
  - humanities,
  - social sciences,
  - psychology and neuro-sciences,
  - computer science

- Faculty available to work with one-on-one + RAing opportunities

- Tune in to what’s happening: Join our departmental community Piazza: LING 000! (http://piazza.com/upenn/other/ling000)
The Linguistics Major

• Requirements
  • 4 credits required courses
  • 6 linguistics credits
  • 4 related credits
The Linguistics Major

- Required Courses: (4 credits)
  - LING 102 -- Introduction to Sociolinguistics
  - LING 230 -- Sound Structure of Language
  - LING 250 -- Introduction to Syntax
  - LING 300 -- Tutorial in Linguistics
The Linguistics Major

- Elective Linguistics Courses: (6 credits)
- Six credits in linguistics must include at least three credits at the 200-level or higher: Linguistics Course Register.
- More details at

The Linguistics Major

- Popular Double-Major Combinations
  - Cognitive Science
  - Psychology
  - Computer Science
  - Philosophy
The Linguistics Major

Form for Major/minor declarations:

To *declare a Linguistics major or minor*, fill out *this form*:

https://forms.gle/TgkG99LZcVu8dRsg9

(students outside of SAS should email the undergraduate chair, as the form is restricted to SAS accounts).
The Linguistics Minor

- Requirements:
- 6 courses in linguistics
- Can double-count towards other majors and college requirements
- Details at
  
  http://www.ling.upenn.edu/undergraduate/minor-linguistics
The ASL Minor

● Learn about language in another modality
● Both theoretical and language learning
● Details at

http://www.ling.upenn.edu/undergraduate/minor-asl
Linguistics Advising

- Undergraduate chair: Florian Schwarz
- Office hours:
  Mondays 4-5 & Tuesdays 2:30-3:30
  (or by appointment)

  Zoom: https://sasupenn.zoom.us/j/178622529

- Contact: ugrad-chair@ling.upenn.edu
Upcoming Spring Courses

- LING 001 - Intro to Linguistics offered every semester: general introduction to various subfields
- Other courses introducing to various aspects of the field, e.g.,
  - Social dimension of language
  - Structure of language(s) / aspects of grammar
  - Acquisition & Communication
  - Experimental Approaches & Methods
LING 102

- Introduction to Sociolinguistics (generally offered every spring)
  - How do social context and social identity shape language use?
  - How does sociolinguistic variation accumulate into language change over time?
  - Regional dialects, linguistic discrimination, style-shifting and code-switching

- Counts for Sector I: Society AND fulfills Quantitative Data Analysis requirement

Required for LING Major
Ling 106

- Intro to Formal Linguistics
  - Tools from discrete math to study language
  - set theory, automata theory, formal language theory, logic
  - Focus on formal syntax and semantics

- Fulfills **Formal Reasoning requirement**
Ling 108

- Talkin’ Black: Language, Power & Identity
- Exploration of diversity in American English
- Relation to identity in personal, social, and political realm
- Integrates linguistic exploration of literary forms, including black novelists such as Toni Morrison, James Baldwin, and more.
Ling 110

- History of Words
  - Generalizations about how words change
  - euphemisms, taboo words, doublets, folk etymology
  - relation to sound change, frequency etc.
LING 150

Introduction to Sentence Structure (New!)

- Introduce basic concepts of sentence structures
- Looks at different realizations across languages: English, Spanish, Latin, Biblical Hebrew, Mandarin, Navajo (plus students’ languages as possible)
- Improve writing skills and ability to learn foreign languages by making structures accessible
LING 170

- Experimental Approaches in the Study of Language (generally offered every fall)
  - Fundamentals of Experimental Design
  - Basics of statistical methods
  - Language specific issues
  - 2nd half: lab meeting-style with experimental projects by students
  - goal: class project & paper
Ling 210

- Intro to Language Change
- Principles of language change
- Methods of historical linguistics
- Regularities in change
- Broad cross-linguistic data
- Phonetics, phonology, or LING 001 required
LING 230

- Sound Structure of Language
  (generally offered every spring; but fall this year)
  - Exploring the sound dimension of language in depth
  - Phonetics & Phonology
  - articulatory phonetics
  - transcription
  - sound patterns
  - syllable structure
Ling 302

• Linguistic Field Methods
  • Explore grammar of an under-studied language with a native speaker informant
  • Jointly piece together different areas of grammar and the lexicon
  • Experience what it means to be a linguist!
Ling 455

- Experiments in the Study of Meaning
- Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics
- Experimental design
- Topics in Experimental pragmatics (pronouns, implicatures, presuppositions)
- Class project: experimental study of your own
Ling 496

- Agents and Evolution
  - Game theory and agent-based models in the study of language
  - Develop systems of modeling language change and variation
  - Semantic/pragmatic signaling, conventions, selection in language change
Why Major in Linguistics?

- [http://www.linguisticsociety.org/content/why-major-linguistics](http://www.linguisticsociety.org/content/why-major-linguistics)
- Analytical reasoning skills
- Interdisciplinary outlook (social, psychological, mathematical, computational,...)
- Various graduate school paths
- Key language skills sought after in many industries
Career Directions

- Education: teaching, assessment, testing, foreign language, English as a second language
- Tech Industry: natural language processing, speech synthesis/ recognition, artificial intelligence, user interaction
- Publishing: technical writing, editing, journalist
- Consulting, e.g., in medicine, law, advertising / branding
- And many more!

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Fall Courses

- Specific Fall 2021 offerings To Be Confirmed
- LING 103: Language Structure & Verbal Art
- LING 104: Language and the Brain
- LING 105: Intro to Cognitive Science
- LING 115: Writing Systems
- LING 175: Language, Cognition, and Culture
- LING 217: Origins and Evolution of Language
- LING 220: Phonetics I
- LING 250: Intro to Syntax
- LING 270: Language Acquisition
- LING 295: Thinking with Models
More Advanced Courses

- LING 304: Neurolinguistics
- LING 310: History of the English Language
- LING 495 Games and Signals