Linguistics

Linguistics is the study of all aspects of human language: how languages make it possible to express ideas and feelings; how and why languages are similar and different; how we develop different styles and dialects; what will be required for computers to understand and produce spoken language; and how languages are used in everyday communication as well as in formal settings. Linguists try to figure out what it is that speakers know and do by observing the structure of languages, the way children learn language, slips of the tongue, conversations, storytelling, the acoustics of sound waves and the way people’s brains react when they hear speech or read. Linguists also reconstruct prehistoric languages, and try to deduce the principles behind their evolution into the thousands of languages of the world today.

The major in linguistics is useful for careers involving cognitive science, computer science, psychology, international business, language teaching, advertising, publishing, law, technical writing and social media analytics. Double majors and minors are encouraged to take coursework on specific languages, computer science, psychology, communication, sociology, anthropology, international affairs, philosophy, education, and speech, language and hearing sciences.

The core of the major is a set of courses, taught in the Department of Linguistics, on the nature of language. In addition, the major requires language courses offered by other departments (fluent speakers of languages other than English are excepted from this requirement).

The undergraduate degree in linguistics emphasizes knowledge and awareness of:

- The fundamental architecture of language in the domains of phonetics and phonology, morphology and syntax, and semantics and pragmatics;
- The diversity of language structures and how languages change over historic time;
- The major interactions among language, culture and society, including the role of language in the promulgation of cultural values and social categories, the relationship between language and ideology, and the social functions of language variation;
- The relationship between language and cognition.

In addition, students completing the degree in linguistics are expected to acquire the ability and skills to:

- Demonstrate proficiency in a second language equivalent to the third-year university level
- Infer language structures from the analysis of data from unfamiliar languages.
- Give coherent general interpretations of common language phenomena in terms of language structure and language use.

Course code for this program is LING.

Study Abroad

Language study and some courses in the major may be completed in university or university-affiliated study abroad programs, and such study is recommended. Students interested in doing part of their major work in a study abroad program should discuss the matter with their advisor before going abroad. For information on study abroad programs, consult the Education Abroad office.

Graduation with Honors

The Honors program in linguistics offers the opportunity for highly motivated undergraduates to undertake a deeper and more individualized study of linguistics than is provided by the regular BA curriculum. Linguistics majors with an overall grade point average of 3.30 or higher are eligible to participate in the program. Honors that may be earned are cum laude (with honors), magna cum laude (with high honors), and summa cum laude (with highest honors).

Students interested in pursuing departmental honors are encouraged to consult with the departmental honors advisor by the beginning of their junior year to ensure that they will be able to meet the requirements for departmental honors before graduation.

Bachelor’s Degree

- Linguistics - Bachelor of Arts (BA) (https://catalog.colorado.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-study/linguistics/linguistics-bachelor-arts-ba/)

Minors

- Linguistics - Minor (https://catalog.colorado.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-study/linguistics/linguistics-minor/)
- Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages - Minor (https://catalog.colorado.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-study/linguistics/teaching-english-speakers-other-languages-certificate/)

Faculty

While many faculty teach both undergraduate and graduate students, some instruct students at the undergraduate level only. For more information, contact the faculty member's home department.

Bell, Alan
Professor Emeritus
Brown, Susan Windisch
Assistant Professor Adjunct; PhD, University of Colorado Boulder
Calder, Jeremy (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_159936/)
Assistant Professor; PhD, Stanford University
Cowell, James Andrew (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_107090/)
Professor; PhD, University of California, Berkeley
Farrelly, Raichle (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_166033/)
Senior Instructor; Lecturer; PhD, University of Utah
Fox, Barbara (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_106066/)
Professor; PhD, University of California, Los Angeles
Frajzyngier, Zygmunt (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_159936/)
Professor; PhD, University of Texas, Austin

Gutiérrez Lorenzo, Ambrocio (https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_168627/)
Assistant Professor; PhD, University of Texas, Austin
Courses

**English as a Second Language**

**ESLG 1130 (2) Pronunciation for International Graduate Students**
Designed for international graduate students who want to polish and refine their spoken English skills. The course emphasizes producing increasingly accurate English stress, rhythm and intonation, and vowels and consonants. Students participate in listening and speaking activities targeting specific pronunciation features, prepare recordings, and deliver short presentations related to their field. Students receive weekly individualized feedback.

**Requisites:** Restricted to International Graduate students.

**ESLG 1140 (2) Public Speaking for International Students**
Designed for international graduate students to improve oral communication skills for effective academic, professional, and social interactions. Specific attention is given to presenting, explaining and clarifying ideas, negotiating, interrupting, hedging, and responding to questions. Students deliver short formal presentations and impromptu speeches, and lead and participate in group discussions. Students improve active listening skills, non-verbal communication and English pronunciation.

**Requisites:** Restricted to International Graduate students.

**ESLG 1210 (2) Academic Writing for International Graduate Students**
Designed for international graduate students who would benefit from academic and professional writing instruction and practice. This course addresses development of paragraphs and full-length papers, reports and proposals. Focus areas include organization and style, grammar and vocabulary, and using source material effectively. Assignments are customized to students' disciplines with extensive instructor feedback to improve fluency, clarity, and accuracy in writing.

**Requisites:** Restricted to International Graduate students.

**ESLG 1222 (2) Advanced Written Composition for Foreign Students**
Continued practice in academic writing, including incorporating the ideas of others and citing sources appropriately. Extensive instructor feedback provided. Preparation, writing, and revising of a full-length academic term/research paper or work on chapters for a master's thesis or doctoral dissertation. Does not fulfill humanities or major requirements.

**Recommended:** Prerequisite ESLG 1210.

**ESLG 1410 (3) Integrated Academic English Skills for Undergraduate International Students**
Designed for international undergraduate students who want to improve oral and written English communication skills. Students build confidence and accuracy through interactive reading, writing, listening and speaking activities. Students gain insight on U.S. academic culture and conventions by giving short presentations, collaborating on team projects, and writing academic papers using source materials. Course also emphasizes organization, grammar, and vocabulary.

**Requisites:** Restricted to International Undergraduate students.

**Linguistics**

**LING 1000 (3) Language in U.S. Society**
Nontechnical exploration of the ways that language is used in America. Emphasizes language as a social institution and how values and goals of both public institutions and private groups shape and are shaped by language and its use.

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Core Curr: Contemporary Societies
Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences
Arts Sci Gen Ed: Diversity-U.S. Perspective
MAPS Course: Social Science

**LING 1010 (3) The Study of Words**
Study of English words of Latin and Greek origin, focusing on etymological meaning by analysis of component parts (prefixes, bases, suffixes) and on the ways in which words have changed and developed semantically.

**Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted:** CLAS 1010

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities
Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences
LING 1020 (3) Languages of the World
Explores the issue of human diversity by examining how languages vary around the world. Outlines historical, geographic, and typological classifications of languages across human societies, and the criteria used by linguists for grouping them into language families. Theorizes the relationship between linguistic and cognitive diversity, and considers the impact of language death on humanity. No formal training in linguistics is required.

Additional Information: Arts Sci Core Curr: Human Diversity
Arts Sci Gen Ed: Diversity-Global Perspective
Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences

LING 1200 (3) Programming for Linguistics
Presents techniques for computer programming in high level programming languages such as Python to address a range of problems with a specific focus on language processing and linguistics. The class is suitable for students with little to no prior experience in computing or programming.

Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: CSCI 1200 or INFO 1701
Recommended: Prerequisite LING 2000.
Additional Information: Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences

LING 1500 (3) Understanding Grammar
Presents fundamentals of grammar in the Western tradition. Emphasizes making concepts and uses of grammar (as exemplified in English and closely related foreign languages) understandable to the nonspecialist.

Additional Information: Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences

LING 1900 (1) Community-Based Learning Practicum: Literacy and Language Learning
Student volunteers act as mentors to literacy and language learners in the Boulder community for 1-2 hours per week. Specific meeting times will be arranged at the beginning of the semester.

Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 3.00 total credit hours.

LING 2000 (3) Introduction to Linguistics
Introduces the study of languages as structural systems. Describes principles of sound patterns, word formation, meaning, and sentence structure. Gives attention to language acquisition, psycholinguistics, language families, dialects, historical change in languages, and different language types.

Additional Information: Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences
MAPS Course: Social Science

LING 2030 (3) The Ancient Roots of Modern Medicine
Students learn the meaning and use of the Greek and Latin roots in modern medical terminology; they gain an appreciation of ancient Roman and Greek medicine history and culture in their relation to the modern practice of Western medicine and the sciences; they become familiar with common ancient bioethical principles that govern the ancient practice of medicine and the sciences and learn to appreciate how these principles inform and influence modern medicine and the sciences.

Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: AHUM 2030 and CLAS 2030
Additional Information: Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities
Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences

LING 2400 (3) Language, Gender and Sexuality
Familiarizes students with the effects of gender and sexuality on language use; discusses popular beliefs and scholarly theories about language and communication. Provides students with tools for exploring the role of language and gender.

Additional Information: GT Pathways: GT-SS3 - Soc Behav Sci/Hmn Behav, Cult, Soc Frame
Arts Sci Core Curr: Human Diversity
Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences
Arts Sci Gen Ed: Diversity-U.S. Perspective

LING 2500 (3) Race, Ethnicity, and Language
Explores the relationship between race, ethnicity, and language and how they are co-constructed. How do speakers of different racial and ethnic groups use language differently, and what are the social implications of these different language varieties? Discusses the implications of ethnolinguistic variation on racial stereotypes, education, and the law.

Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: ETHN 2500
Recommended: Prerequisite LING 1000.
Additional Information: Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences
Arts Sci Gen Ed: Diversity-U.S. Perspective

LING 3005 (3) Cognitive Science
Introduces cognitive science, drawing from psychology, philosophy, artificial intelligence, neuroscience, and linguistics. Studies the linguistic relativity hypothesis, consciousness, categorization, linguistic rules, the mind-body problem, nature versus nurture, conceptual structure and metaphor, logic/problem solving and judgment. Emphasizes the nature, implications and limitations of the computational model of mind.

Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: CSCI 3702 and PHIL 3310 and PSYC 3005 and SLHS 3003 and CSPB 3702
Recommended: Prerequisites two of the following CSCI 1300 or LING 2000 or PHIL 2440 or PSYC 2145.

Additional Information: Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities
Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Natural Sciences
Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences

LING 3100 (3) Language Sound Structures
Introduces the sounds of languages and their organization into phonological structures.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite of LING 2000 (minimum grade C-).
Additional Information: Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences

LING 3185 (3) Figurative Language
Introduces a framework for analyzing the metaphorical systems used to reason about abstract phenomena like emotion, conflict, purpose, relationships, power, causation, time, life and ideation. Explores how new word meanings develop and how meaning is grounded in embodied experience. Investigates how metaphor is distinguished from other common types of figurative language, including irony.

Requisites: Requires prerequisite of LING 2000 (minimum grade C-).
Recommended: Prerequisite or corequisite LING 3430 and junior or senior class standing.

Additional Information: Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences
LING 3200 (3) Academic Oral Communication in English
Designed for undergraduate students who speak English as an additional language, this course improves students’ oral communication skills for effective academic interactions in the classroom and within their academic discipline. Specific attention is given to presentation skills in developing, explaining and clarifying ideas and discussion skills such as interrupting, hedging, and responding to questions. Students deliver formal presentations and impromptu speeches, and lead and participate in group discussions. Students improve active listening skills, non-verbal communication and English pronunciation. This course does not count toward the Linguistics major or minor.
Recommended: this course is restricted to non-native English-speaking students.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

LING 3210 (3) English for Academic Purposes
Designed for undergraduate students for whom English is an additional language, this course develops academic English skills for university-level work. Students sharpen English accuracy through academic reading, writing, speaking, and listening practice. They learn to express ideas more clearly, both orally and in writing, while engaging critically in class discussions, and giving presentations, including on a researched topic related to their major. Students improve grammatical accuracy, develop academic vocabulary, and expand critical thinking skills and metacognitive strategies. This course does not count toward the Linguistics major or minor.
Recommended: this course is restricted to non-native English-speaking students.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade

LING 3220 (3) American Indigenous Languages in their Social and Cultural Context
A sampling of the many indigenous languages and cultures found in America. Emphasizes the United States, but also gives attention to the languages of Canada and Latin America.
Recommended: students with 57-180 credits (Juniors or Seniors).
Additional Information: Arts Sci Core Curr: Human Diversity
Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences
Arts Sci Gen Ed: Diversity-U.S. Perspective
LING 3430 (3) Semantics
Theoretical and practical study of meaning in natural language. Considers both semantic theories and semantic phenomena from diverse languages.
Requisites: Requires prerequisite LING 2000 (minimum grade C-).
Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Junior or Senior) Linguistic major or minors only.
Additional Information: Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences

LING 3545 (3) World Language Policies
Examines the economic and sociopolitical impact of choosing English vs. other languages in the U.S. Introduces the study of language policies, rights, and planning in other countries, including the worldwide use of English in social, business, and legal contexts.
Additional Information: Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences
Arts Sci Gen Ed: Diversity-Global Perspective
LING 3550 (3) Talk at Work: Language Use in Institutional Contexts
Provides an overview of language use in various workplace settings, with an emphasis on hands-on data analysis. Possible contexts include 911 emergency calls, doctor-patient consultations, news interviews, customer-service encounters, classroom discourse, and courtroom interaction. The course also discusses language-based inequalities in such contexts, as well as some of the laws and policies that govern language in the workplace.
Recommended: Prerequisite LING 1000.
Additional Information: Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences

LING 3800 (3) Special Topics in Linguistics
Intensive study of a selected area or problem in linguistics.
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 12.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Requisites: Requires prerequisite of LING 2000 (minimum grade C-).
Additional Information: Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences

LING 3832 (3) Computational Linguistics
Surveys the fundamental problems, models, and algorithms found and used in the processing of natural language. Computational linguistics is a large field and we will only be able to cover a selection of the vast range of methods employed to solve tasks involving natural language. However, arguably there exists a "core vocabulary" of techniques shared by most practitioners and researchers in the field, which we will focus on.
Requisites: Requires Prerequisite of LING 1200 or CSCI 1200 or CSCI 1300 or INFO 2201 (all minimum grade C-).
Recommended: Prerequisite or corequisite LING 2000.
Additional Information: Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences

LING 4050 (3) Japanese Sociolinguistics
Explores issues related to contemporary Japanese language and society, such as language and identity, language and ideology, and language variation and change in Japan. More specifically, we will reconsider topics such as diversity in gender language, honorifics, dialects, and use of English in Japanese society that have been unidirectionally taught in Japanese language classrooms. The course aims to provide students opportunities to incorporate critical perspectives of sociolinguistics into analyses of Japanese literature and Japanese language education.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: JPNS 4050
Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of JPNS 3110 (minimum grade C).
Grading Basis: Letter Grade
Additional Information: Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities
Arts Sci Gen Ed: Diversity-Global Perspective

LING 4100 (3) Perspectives on Language
Provides extended critical examination of a few selected issues, chosen each term for their general interest and relevance, e.g., the relation between language and thought, or human language vs. animal languages, and computer languages.
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 12.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Recommended: Prerequisite LING 2000.
Additional Information: Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences
LING 4200 (3) Introduction to Computational Corpus Linguistics
This course is an includes extensive introduction (with lab) to the use of Python programming language, UNIX corpus tools, concordance programs, syntactic treebanks, propbanks, and corpora for linguistic analysis and natural language processing. discourse and phonology research. A major focus is the development of computational skills, preparing the student for CSCI 5832 (Natural Language Processing). Previous completion of LING 1200 or CSCI 1300 highly recommended. 
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: LING 5200
Recommended: Prerequisite LING 1200.
Additional Information: Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences

LING 4220 (3) Language and Mind
Studies topics such as a speech perception, word recognition, sentence comprehension, language acquisition, bilingualism, reading and writing. Examines the role of language as a product and producer of the mind, studying interactions between language and cognition from an interdisciplinary perspective. Students will become familiar with the methods of psycholinguistics and design and conduct a psycholinguistic experiment on their own. 
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: PSYC 4220
Recommended: Prerequisites PSYC 1001 and LING 2000.
Additional Information: Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences

LING 4225 (4) Interdisciplinary Research Methods in Child Language Acquisition
Explores fundamental issues in language acquisition cross-culturally, combining methods from Linguistics, Anthropology, Psychology and Computer Science. Students will explore theoretical issue using a hands-on approach that involves acquiring skills such as designing and conducting experiments, investigating corpus data, and computational modeling. 
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: PSYC 4225
Recommended: Prerequisites PSYC 1001 and LING 2000.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade
Additional Information: Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences

LING 4420 (3) Morphology and Syntax
Introduces principles of word formation and sentence structure. Covers major morphological and syntactic structures found in the world’s languages, and methods for describing grammatical structures, and includes practice in analyzing data from a variety of languages. 
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: LING 5420
Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of LING 2000 (minimum grade C). Restricted to Linguistic (LING) majors or minors with 57-180 credits (Junior or Senior) only.
Additional Information: Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences

LING 4450 (3) Introduction to Formal Syntax
Introduces formal generative grammar, including determining constituent structure, drawing trees, writing rules, understanding the properties of the lexicon and their interaction with syntax, X-bar theory and its modifications and movement analysis. Recommend pre-req: LING 4420
Requisites: Requires prerequisite of LING 2000 (minimum grade C).
Additional Information: Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences

LING 4560 (3) Language Development
Covers the development of language in childhood and into adult life, emphasizing the role of environment and biological endowment in learning to communicate with words, sentences, and narratives. 
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: SLHS 4560 and PSYC 4560
Requisites: Restricted to Linguistics (LING) majors only.
Additional Information: Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences
LING 4632 (3) Machine Learning and Linguistics
Is an introduction to machine learning, with a focus on linguistic applications. It is oriented toward students who want to understand the basics of machine learning and apply well-known techniques to address problems related to language and linguistics. The main goal is to achieve a practical grasp of the fundamental and most successful concepts in machine learning and to be equipped with techniques to apply this knowledge in linguistic domains. The course is also intended to provide a perspective on natural language acquisition and learning, namely, insight into what types of language acquisition problems are truly difficult, and what types of learning problems can be solved by fairly straightforward pattern recognition techniques. Formerly offered as a special topics course.
Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of LING 1200 (minimum grade C).
Additional Information: Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences

LING 4640 (3) Teaching Language Skills: Focus on Social Justice
Introduces the underlying theories and classroom practices for teaching second language reading, writing, listening and speaking. The course highlights the nature of literacy and oral language development, beginning language skills (phonemic awareness, phonics, pronunciation), and meaning-focused language instruction. This unique iteration of the course, designed for CU Boulder’s Global Seminar program takes a theme-based and project-based approach, contextualizing the study of language teaching around an exploration of social justice issues that are pressing both in Armenia and globally.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade
Additional Information: Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities

LING 4650 (3) Language Teaching Materials Design
This course introduces the role of English as an international language and its impact on languages, cultures, and communities around the world. Students evaluate approaches to teaching English against the backdrop of sociopolitical and historical factors. This course utilizes a project-based approach to study language teaching in a Zapotec speech community. The project involves co-creating language teaching materials for use by Zapotec speakers in efforts to maintain and revitalize the Zapotec language among young learners.

LING 4700 (3) Conversation Analysis and Interactional Linguistics
Provides an introduction to the theories and methods of Conversation Analysis (CA) and Interactional Linguistics (IL), which aim to uncover the procedural infrastructure of language use in social interaction. The course emphasizes hands-on experience in analyzing naturally occurring interactional data. Topics may include: turn-taking, sequence and preference organization, repair, reference, epistemics, and identity.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: LING 5700
Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of LING 2000 (minimum grade C).
Grading Basis: Letter Grade
Additional Information: Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences

LING 4800 (3) Language and Culture
Principles of language structure and how language and culture interrelate, how language and language use are affected by culture and how culture may be affected by use of, or contact with, particular languages.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: ANTH 4800
Recommended: Prerequisite LING 1000 or LING 2400 or ANTH 2100.
Additional Information: Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences

LING 4830 (1-3) Honors Thesis
Required for students who elect departmental honors. Students write an honors thesis based on independent research under the direction of a faculty member.
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.
Additional Information: Arts Sciences Honors Course

LING 4900 (1-3) Independent Study
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 8.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.

LING 4910 (3) TESOL Practicum
Provides the field-based component and practical experience in English language teaching for the TESOL Certificate. Work on site includes class observations and supervised teaching in community-based programs/ESL providers. Weekly meetings provide opportunities to debrief/discuss teaching practice and connect theory, methods and practice. Supports professional development, completion of a teaching resume and portfolio and the job search process.
Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted: LING 5910
Requisites: Requires prerequisite course of LING 3630 or LING 4630 (minimum grade C).
Grading Basis: Letter Grade
Additional Information: Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences

LING 4920 (3) Speakers and the Structure of their Languages
This is a summer intensive course that introduces various areas of Linguistics (specifically phonology, morphology, and syntax) at the same time that highlights the importance of language documentation, description and revitalization. The target language for Summer 2024 is Zapotec. 50% of this course is designed so that students can get a basic knowledge of this language as a second language and be able to interact with the community of speakers.
Repeatable: Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours.