

# Linguistics (LIN)

## Major and Minor in Linguistics

### Department of Linguistics, College of Arts and Sciences

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Minors of particular interest to students majoring in Linguistics: Anthropology (ANT), Computer Science (CSE), English (EGL), Foreign Languages, International Studies (INT), Philosophy (PHI)

## Faculty

Frank Anshen, *Associate Professor, Ph.D., New York University*: Sociolinguistics.

Mark Aronoff, *Professor, Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology*: Morphology; writing systems.

John Bailyn, *Associate Professor, Ph.D., Cornell University*: Syntax, language acquisition; Slavic linguistics.

Christina Y. Bethin, *Professor, Ph.D., University of Illinois*: Slavic linguistics, phonology; Russian; Polish; and Ukrainian. Recipient of the State University Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Ellen Broselow, *Professor, Ph.D., University of Massachusetts-Amherst*: Phonology; phonetics; second language acquisition.

Barbara Brownworth, *Lecturer, D.A., Stony Brook University*: ESL; TESOL.

Marianne Catalano, *Lecturer, M.A., Stony Brook University*: ESL; TESOL.

Daniel L. Finer, *Professor, Ph.D., University of Massachusetts-Amherst*: Syntax; semantics; language acquisition.

Alice C. Harris, *Professor, Ph.D., Harvard University*: Historical linguistics; morphology; languages of the Caucasus.

Robert D. Hoberman, *Professor, Ph.D., University of Chicago*: Semitic linguistics; phonology; morphology; Arabic; Hebrew; Aramaic.

Marie Huffman, *Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles*: Phonetics; phonology.

Joy Janzen, *Lecturer, Ph.D., Northern Arizona University*: TESOL; literacy; teacher education.

Dorit Kaufman, *Professor, Ph.D., Stony Brook University*: TESOL; language attrition. Recipient of the State University Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching and the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Richard Larson, *Professor, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison*: Syntax; semantics. Recipient of the State University Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching and the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Lori D. Repetti, *Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles*: Romance linguistics; phonology; Italian dialectology.

Anne Wilding, *Lecturer, M.A., Fordham University*: TESOL; teacher education.

Ximena E. Zate, *Visiting Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Hofstra University*: TESOL; teacher education; second-language acquisition.

## Adjunct Faculty

Estimated number: 2

## Teaching Assistants

Estimated number: 12

Linguistics is the science of language. Language is at once the most diverse and the most clearly structured aspect of human behavior. It distinguishes humans from other species and much of human culture depends on it. Understanding the nature of human language is therefore a key to understanding human nature. Linguistics seeks to discover the common features of the languages of the world's peoples, to understand how languages change over time, and how language relates to other aspects of human society.

The major in Linguistics is designed to provide graduates with a set of skills and a body of knowledge. A graduate will have the skills to analyze the most important features of language: sounds, words, sentences, and conversation, using both formal and experimental methods. Students will also learn what linguists know about the languages of the world, their history and structure, and how language interacts with many facets of all cultures.

The Department also prepares its majors for provisional certification as Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages in New York State (TESOL) from kindergarten through grade 12. Candidates for TESOL certification must follow a specific track within the major that is included in the sample course sequence given below, which includes a semester of student teaching. Approximately half of Linguistics majors elect this track in the major. It is also common for Linguistics majors to have a second major, either in a language or in an adjacent field such as psychology or computer science.

Options for further education that are taken by graduates include professional school in such areas as speech pathology and law, and graduate school in linguistics,

philosophy, psychology, and computer science. A few graduates have gone on to technical positions in industry that involve speech engineering.

Instruction in uncommonly taught languages not offered elsewhere in the University is provided by the Department of Linguistics.

## Courses Offered in Linguistics

See the Course Descriptions listing in this *Bulletin* for complete information.

LIN 101-F **Human Language**

LIN 200-K Language in the United States

LIN 201-F Phonetics

LIN 211-F Syntax

LIN 250-K Languages and Cultures of Asian Americans

LIN 300 Writing in Linguistics

LIN 301 Phonology

LIN 307-K Sociolinguistics

LIN 330 Language Acquisition

LIN 340 Historical Linguistics

LIN 344 Literacy Development

LIN 345-J Writing Systems of the World

LIN 346-F Language and Meaning

LIN 355-J Language and Life in a Selected Area of the World

LIN 356-I Topics in Language and Life in Europe

LIN 370-J Intercultural Communication

LIN 375 TESOL Pedagogy: Theory and Practice

LIN 378 Content-Based Language and Literacy Development

LIN 425-427 Special Topics in Linguistics

LIN 431 The Structure of an Uncommonly Taught Language

LIN 447 Directed Readings in Linguistics

LIN 449, 450 Field Experience, Grades N-12

LIN 451 Supervised Teaching—  
English as a Second Language:  
Primary Grades N-6

LIN 452 Supervised Student Teaching  
in English as a Second Language:  
Secondary Grades 7-12

LIN 454 Managing Instruction,  
Assessment, and Resources

LIN 464 Morphology and Word  
Formation

LIN 475, 476 Undergraduate Teaching  
Practica I, II

LIN 487 Directed Research in  
Linguistics

LIN 488 Internship

LIN 495, 496 Senior Honors Projects  
in Linguistics

### Requirements for the Major in Linguistics (LIN)

The major in Linguistics leads to the Bachelor of Arts degree. All linguistics courses offered for the major must be passed with a letter grade of C or higher.

Completion of the major requires 36 credits in linguistics and one year of a foreign language in addition to the University's entry skill requirement.

1. LIN 201 Phonetics
2. LIN 211 Syntax
3. LIN 301 Phonology
4. LIN 431 The Structure of an Uncommonly Taught Language (See Note 1)
5. Seven additional linguistics courses, of which at least six must be upper division
6. Two semesters of foreign language after completing Entry Skill 3, the University's foreign language requirement. These may be either in the same language with which the entry skill was met or in one or two other languages.

7. Upper-Division Writing Requirement:

In the junior or senior year, students must successfully complete LIN 300 Writing in Linguistics, a one-credit course.

Notes:

1. A course on the structure of a language offered by a foreign language department may be substituted for LIN 431 with the permission of the

### Sample Course Sequence for the Major in Linguistics

Freshman Fall	Credits
First Year Seminar 101	1
D.E.C. A	3
LIN 101	3
D.E.C.	3
Foreign language 111	4
Total	14

Spring	Credits
First Year Seminar 102	1
D.E.C. A	3
D.E.C.	3
Foreign language 112	4
D.E.C.	3
Total	14

Sophomore Fall	Credits
LIN 307	3
LIN 201	4
LIN 345	3
Foreign language 211	3
D.E.C.	3
Total	17

Spring	Credits
LIN 330	3
LIN 301	3
Foreign language 212	3
D.E.C.	9
Total	18

Junior Fall	Credits
LIN 355	3
LIN 340	3
LIN 211	4
D.E.C.	3
Upper-Division Elective	3
Total	16

Spring	Credits
LIN 300	1
LIN 431	3
Upper-Division Elective	9
Total	16

Senior Fall	Credits
LIN 425	3
D.E.C.	3
D.E.C.	3
Upper-Division D.E.C.	3
Upper-Division Elective	3
Total	15

Spring	Credits
LIN 426	3
Upper-Division Electives	12
Total	15

1. The director of undergraduate studies in Linguistics.
2. Students majoring in Linguistics may be interested in courses offered through other departments. Please consult the director of undergraduate Studies for more information on appropriate courses.
3. Students electing TESOL may not take any courses required for certification for Pass/No Credit. Requirements for TESOL certification are detailed following the Linguistics minor and honors program listings.

### Requirements for the Minor in Linguistics (LIN)

The minor requires 20 credits.

1. LIN 201 Phonetics
2. LIN 211 Syntax

3. Four additional linguistics courses, of which at least three must be upper division.

Notes:

1. One of the courses required for the minor may be taken for Pass/No Credit.
2. Linguistics minors that are closely integrated with students' majors are strongly encouraged. The fields with which linguistics has special affinities are: anthropology, psychology, English, foreign languages, philosophy, and computer science.
3. Students must consult with the director of undergraduate studies in linguistics to enroll in the minor.

## Honors Program

Linguistics majors who have maintained a g.p.a. of 3.50 in the major are eligible to graduate with departmental honors. An additional requirement for honors is the submission of a senior thesis based on research performed during the senior year. Students must submit a written thesis proposal for approval to a sponsoring faculty member in the semester prior to the start of their senior year. Acceptance into the honors program depends on approval of the proposal by the sponsoring faculty member, the director of undergraduate studies and the department.

LIN 495 and LIN 496 will be taken as a 2 semester sequence during the senior year, for a total of six credits. Students will receive only one grade upon completion of the sequence. These courses must be taken in addition to the total credits required for the major. The student's thesis must be completed and submitted no later than three weeks prior to the end of the semester in which they are enrolled in LIN 496. The thesis will be read and evaluated by a committee consisting of the student's sponsor, one other member of the Department of Linguistics, and one faculty member from another department, as arranged by the director of undergraduate studies.

If the thesis is accepted by the committee and the student retains a 3.50 g.p.a. for all linguistics courses taken, the Department will recommend that honors be conferred.

## Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Preparation Program

The TESOL Teacher Education Program prepares undergraduates for initial certification as Pre-K-12 teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages. Students wishing to apply to the program should plan to major in Linguistics and should consult with the program director as early as possible in their academic careers to insure completion of program requirements in a timely manner.

### Requirements for Initial Certification

- A. Completion of all requirements for the major in Linguistics.
- B. A 3.00 g.p.a. in the major and a 2.75 g.p.a. overall.

- C. Two years of college-level study of a language or languages other than English. (Completion of Skill 3 Basic Foreign Language Competence satisfies the first year of this requirement.) These may be in one, two, or three languages.
- D. Linguistics and foundations courses:
  - LIN 101 **Human Language**
  - LIN 201 Phonetics
  - LIN 211 Syntax
  - LIN 301 Phonology
  - LIN 307 Introduction to Sociolinguistics
  - LIN 431 Structure of an Uncommonly Taught Language
  - Plus two additional 3 credit upper division linguistics courses
- E. Professional educational requirements:
  1. SSE 327 Human Growth and Development in the Educational Context
  2. SSE 350 Foundations of Education
  3. LIN 344 Language Acquisition and Literacy Development
  4. LIN 375 TESOL Pedagogy: Theory and Practice
  5. LIN 378 Content-based Language and Literacy Development
  6. LIN 449 Field Experience I (1 credit co-requisite of LIN 375)
  7. LIN 450 Field Experience II (1 credit co-requisite of LIN 378)
  8. LIN 451 Supervised Student Teaching in TESOL (grades P-6)
  9. LIN 452 Supervised Student Teaching in TESOL (grades 7-12)
  10. LIN 454 Managing Instruction, Assessment and Resources

### Five-Year Combined B.A./M.A. Program with Teacher Certification in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)

In addition to the regular B.A. program in Linguistics with teacher certification and the regular M.A. in TESOL, the Linguistics department offers a five-year combined B.A./M.A. degree program. Upon completion of the five-year program, graduates will hold a Bachelor's degree in Linguistics, New York State teaching certification in TESOL, and a

Master's degree in TESOL. The combined program will allow students the opportunity to complete these requirements one semester sooner than students who complete the programs sequentially. The combined program is restricted to students with an outstanding undergraduate record who are expected to excel in the graduate program.

During the first four semesters as an undergraduate, students in the combined program will pursue a normal course of study for the B.A. in Linguistics with New York State certification in TESOL. Students must apply to the five-year combined program in the second semester of the sophomore year. During the third year of study students will take two pedagogy courses and the field components associated with them at the graduate level, and will student-teach in the second semester of the fourth year. They will then enter the graduate program prepared to complete the M.A. degree in one year of full-time study.

The following are the minimum requirements for admission to the combined program:

1. A minimum GPA of 3.0 overall and 3.3 in linguistics courses;
2. The PEP admissions essay;
3. Recommendations from two linguistics faculty members;
4. Interviews with the Undergraduate Director in Linguistics and the Director of the TESOL program.