

Due to COVID-19, our department is offering a mix of in-person, blended, and online courses for Spring 2021

**LINGUISTICS
Spring 2021**

Language (Online)

LING-UA 1-001

Professor Anna Szabolcsi

**T/R, 12:30PM – 1:45PM
Recitations (Blended)**

Satisfies Introductory course requirement and the Societies and Social Science component of the College Core Curriculum

➤ This course is an introductory survey of the field of linguistics—the scientific study of language. During the semester, we will look at questions like the following: Is speaking an instinctual or a learned behavior? Why do children acquire language so much faster and easier than adults, and what are the stages of acquisition? What do the native speakers of a language know about the language's word structure, sentence structure, sentence meaning, and pronunciation? How is language processed in the brain? How and why did language evolve into such a complex system? How is language affected by social class and race? The course will approach these questions from a scientific perspective, incorporating methodologies from mathematics and logic, as well as the social sciences (such as psychology and sociology). It will provide you with the necessary background to continue your studies in linguistics at a more advanced level if you choose to. It satisfies the Introductory Course requirement for Linguistics majors and is a prerequisite for some of the other courses. Language is a CORE exemptor for CAS students; it satisfies the Societies and Social Sciences course requirement.

Language (Online Asynchronous)

LING-UA 1-005

Professor Lucas Champollion

**No set time (asynchronous)
See note below about recitations**

Satisfies Introductory course requirement and the Societies and Social Science component of the College Core Curriculum

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Note: This course will take place entirely asynchronously and online. You will interact with the instructor, your fellow students, and your classmates via Perusall, an online platform on which learning feels like being on social media. While you need to register for a recitation section for administrative purposes, there will be no lecture meetings, no recitation meetings, and no exams. Only office hours will be held synchronously, at set times and by appointment. For more information, please check <http://champollion.com/patterns> or email the instructor at champollion@nyu.edu.

Language, Power, and Identity (Online)

LING-UA 008-001/ANTH-UA 16-001

Professor Renee Blake

T/R, 3:30PM – 4:45PM

➤ Examines how speakers enact their gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, and socioeconomic class identities through everyday conversations, narratives, performances, literacy activities, and public debates. Explores how identification strategies and beliefs about language reinforce or contest normative power structures. Considers bilingual education, accent discrimination, racial slurs, census labels, standard language, code-switching, linguistic nationalism, xenophobia, censorship, and hate speech cases in different areas of the world.

Indigenous Languages of the Americas (In-person)

LING-UA 9-001

Professor Gillian Gallagher

M/W, 11:00AM - 12:15PM

➤ This course focuses on the social context of indigenous languages in North and South America, with an emphasis on language in education. The course also introduces concepts and skills from linguistics through analysis of the phonetics, phonology (i.e. 'sounds') and morphology (i.e., 'words') of indigenous American languages. The first third of the course orients students towards the structural properties of language and the basics of linguistic analysis; assessments include linguistic data analysis. The second two-thirds of the course delve into the social context of indigenous languages and their speakers; assessments include reading presentations and written responses. We will discuss the social, economic and political factors that influence language use and particularly the shift from primary use of an indigenous language to primary use of a colonial language (e.g., English or Spanish). Topics covered include bilingualism, orthography, school curriculum, language policy, and the intersection of language and human rights.

Note: This course has no pre-requisites, and is designed to appeal to students with a broad range of backgrounds and interests in language and linguistics, indigenous communities and indigenous identity, as well as education and social justice.

Phonological Analysis (Online with weekly synchronous meeting)

LING-UA 12-001

Professor Maria Gouskova

R, 11:00AM – 12:15PM

PREREQUISITE: LING-UA 11 OR Permission of the Instructor

(Recitation online)

Satisfies Phonology requirement

➤ Phonology is the study of how speech sounds pattern and contrast. How do we know that 'gdin' is not a possible English word but 'krin' is? What does it take to recognize a foreign accent? How can sound systems of languages differ, what do all languages have in common, and what are the sorts of patterns not found in any human language? To answer these questions, we will focus on such concepts as sound classes, features, phonemes, allophones, and syllable structure, and we will look at the role these concepts play in the most common phonological processes in the world's languages. The course will also include a basic introduction to the phonology of stress, tone, and intonation. Analytical skills will be honed by solving phonological problems based on data from English and many other languages.

Grammatical Analysis (Blended)

LING-UA 13-001

Professor Stephanie Harves

T/R, 2:00PM – 3:15PM

PREREQUISITE: LING-UA 1 OR LING-UA 3 OR Permission of the Instructor

Satisfies Syntax requirement

(Recitation Blended)

➤ What determines the sequencing of words in a given language? How can we explain word order variation within and across languages? Are there universal syntactic properties common to the grammar of all languages? This course presents the motivation for the modern generative approach to the scientific study of language and systematically develops a model that will account for the most basic syntactic constructions of natural language. Skills in scientific argumentation and reasoning are developed by analyzing problems in the syntax of English and a number of other languages.

Grammatical Analysis II (Blended)

LING-UA 16-001

Professor Chris Collins

M/W, 9:30AM – 10:45AM

PREREQUISITE: LING-UA 13 OR Permission of the Instructor

➤ This course is a continuation of Grammatical Analysis and offers an in depth examination of various topics in syntax. Topics vary from year to year, depending on students' interests, but may include an in depth look at argument structure alternations, Case theory, Binding theory, Wh-movement, and Island constraints, among other topics. Students will be introduced to primary literature in syntactic theory in order to further develop their critical reading and writing skills so that they may carry out an independent research project of their own.

Sex, Gender, and Language (Online)

LING-UA 21-001 / SCA-UA 712-001

Professor Louise Vasvari

M/W, 4:55PM – 6:10PM

Recitation (Online)

➤ This course will examine gender from a multidisciplinary perspective and in particular as a sociolinguistic variable in speech behavior. We will discuss how gendered linguistic practices – intersecting with race and class-linked language – both reflect and shape our identity. We will also review the variability in the linguistic expression of gender in various languages and cultures around the world, as well as within the single national context of the United States. We will also discuss the constructionist argument that anatomy need not be linguistic destiny and that language may be used to perform social identities that do not match the individual's biological characteristics. In this context, we will consider the limits and possibilities of gender self-[re]construction through language, including [re]naming strategies, and pronoun use, and coming-out stories. We will also consider the efficacy of language reform to reduce gender stereotyping and discrimination.

Language in Latin America (Online)

LING-UA 30-001/ LATC-UA 361-001

Professor Gregory Guy

T/R, 4:55PM – 6:10PM

Recitation (Online)

This course satisfies the Societies and Social Science component of the College Core Curriculum

➤ This course examines the linguistics diversity of Latin America – the region of the Americas where Spanish, Portuguese and French are the dominant languages. These languages have flourished and diversified in the Americas: the Spanish spoken in 20 countries of the New World shows dialect differences between regions and nations, and collective differences with European Spanish. Brazilian Portuguese is markedly different from its European source. This diversity is partly a result of contact with other languages currently or formerly spoken in Latin America, especially the indigenous (Native American) languages like Quechua, Guarani, and Nahuatl, and African languages like Yoruba and Kimbundu. The course examines regional and national dialect differences in Latin American Spanish and Portuguese. We also consider social diversity: the ways of speaking of different social class or ethnic backgrounds. Other languages spoken in the region are also considered, including indigenous languages, languages of immigrant groups, and contact languages and creoles, such as Haitian Creole and Papiamentu. Finally, we study the linguistic history of Latin America: how and why the languages spoken there spread, developed, changed and interacted.

Machine Learning for Language Understanding (Online Asynchronous)

LING-UA 52-001

Professor Sam Bowman

Recitation (Online)

PREREQUISITE: at least one course with a substantial Python programming component, such as **Introduction to Computer Programming (No Prior Experience) (CSCI-UA 2)** or **Introduction to Computer Programming (Limited Prior Experience) (CSCI-UA 3)**, or an advanced CSCI-UA or other programming course; **Calculus I (MATH-UA 121)** or higher, or equivalent; and background in probability theory, e.g. **Theory of Probability (MATH-UA 233)**; or permission of the instructor.

➤ Building computational models that can understand human language has long been a goal for researchers in computational linguistics and in the area of artificial intelligence called natural language processing. Many of the biggest successes in research toward this goal have relied on machine learning: a family of methods that allow computers to learn to reproduce some human behavior by example, rather than by explicit programming. This course covers widely-used machine learning methods for language understanding—with a special focus on machine learning methods based on artificial neural networks—and culminates in a substantial final project in which students write an original research paper in AI or computational linguistics. If you take this class, you'll be exposed only to a fraction of the many approaches that researchers have used to teach language to computers. However, you'll get training and practice with all the research skills that you'll need to explore the field further on your own. This includes not only the skills to design and build computational models, but also to design experiments to test those models, to write and present your results, and to read and evaluate results from the scientific literature.

Link: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1v6_OK_fsGF8Zn3VYkA0GBjQBOoRJ5jZy8mrBiqf6Ud8

Learning to Speak: The First & Second Language Acquisition of Sound (Blended)

LING-UA 54-001

Professor Lisa Davidson

T/R, 2:00PM – 3:15PM

PREREQUISITE: LING-UA 11 OR LING-UA 12 OR Permission of the Instructor

➤ This course focuses on the acquisition of sound systems by first and second language learners. In some ways, these tasks share a similar goal: both types of learners must discover the individual sounds of the languages they are exposed to, how those sounds can combine, what the words of that language are, and how native speakers use sound to convey meaning. However, there are obvious differences, as well: whereas infants have no prior language that may either help or hinder them, the adult already has language system(s) that will interact with the language they are currently acquiring. In this course, we will read primary phonetic and phonological articles on both first and second language acquisition of sound systems in order to understand how the processes are both similar and different. This class presupposes that students have already had an introduction to phonetics, phonology and/or psycholinguistics.

First Language Acquisition (Online)

LING-UA 59-001

Professor Ailis Cournane

M, 2:00PM – 3:15PM

PREREQUISITE: LING-UA 1 OR LING-UA 3

Recitation (online)

➤ This course offers an overview of the field of first language acquisition. How does one develop from a pre-linguistic newborn infant to a mature language-user with a complex grammatical system (or systems)? What are the relative roles of inborn cognitive abilities and input (i.e., the language data the child hears or sees in their environment) in determining the properties and time course of language development? First language development is a multifaceted, robust phenomenon in our species that proceeds over many years of early life and provides an ultra-rich testing ground for psychological and linguistic theories. We will focus on linguistic development from birth through to early school age, looking at monolingual, bilingual, and atypical (e.g., Autism, Specific Language Impairment) populations. In the first half of the course we will focus on development in individual linguistic domains: phonology, vocabulary, morphosyntax, semantics, and pragmatics. In the latter half of the course, we will probe deeper into theoretical approaches to language acquisition, with a focus on primary literature and active debates in the field. We will also further explore the complex learning circumstances of certain populations, like children growing up bilingual and children presenting with atypical development, continually asking what evidence the diversity of learning situations brings to bear on the theoretical debates.

Seminar: Morphosyntactic Variation (In-person)

LING-UA 102-001

Professors Laurel MacKenzie & Gary Thoms

T/R, 9:30AM – 10:45AM

PREREQUISITE: LING-UA 1 OR Permission of the Instructor

➤ In this seminar, we will study morphosyntactic variation, with a focus on varieties of English. Questions we'll investigate include: Which morphosyntactic phenomena are currently variable in the Englishes spoken today? Are any of them involved in change over time? Which linguistic and social factors shape morphosyntactic variation and change? How and why do different English-speaking communities differ in their production of morphosyntactic variation? Students will carry out their own study of morphosyntactic variation in one or more varieties of English (or some other language if appropriate resources are available), using existing corpora or data they collect themselves, and connect their findings to topics discussed in the course. To this end, students will learn basic techniques for the collection and analysis of sociolinguistic data, and will receive guidance on the research process.

Seminar: Structure of Ewe (Blended)

LING-UA 102-002/LING-GA 3320

Professor Chris Collins

T/R, 12:30PM – 1:45PM

PREREQUISITE: (for undergrads) LING-UA 11 AND LING-UA 13 OR Permission of the Instructor

➤ Ewe is a West African language spoken in Ghana, Togo and Benin. This course will be a survey of the linguistic structures of Ewe, focusing on syntax. Come and learn about all of its interesting features including tones, serial verb constructions, logophoricity, and others. Students will be given the opportunity to do hands-on linguistic fieldwork with an Ewe speaker.