

UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

NEW PROGRAM PROPOSAL FORM

FORM USE: The following is a Microsoft Word Form. You may only add input in the shaded fields. You may type, paste, copy, and delete, but you may not change the appearance of the text. To add input, place your cursor in the field and type; text fields will automatically expand as you type. You may scroll through the fields on the document using the TAB key (forward) or SHIFT-TAB key (backwards). To check a box, click on it and an 'X' will appear. For drop-down fields, click on the box, scroll through the options and click on your choice.

College: **CAH**

Department: **ENGLISH**

Title of Program: **Minor in Linguistics**

1. Which category (categories) best describes the new program in this proposal:

Newly established minor

2. Program Start Term: **2012** Print in **2012** (academic year) Undergraduate Catalog

Catalogue Description (*as it is to be printed*):

Linguistics is the scientific study of language. Language, an arbitrary, symbolic signaling system is the major cognitive ability distinguishing human beings from all other animals. As a discipline, linguistics examines the structural components of language (i.e., sound, form, and meaning), the conventions of language use and the precise interplay among them. The discipline explores questions such as “What does it mean to know a language?” “How is our linguistic competence acquired?” and “How is our linguistic competence manifest in human endeavor?”

The interdisciplinary linguistics minor anchors in two foundation courses, Introduction to Linguistics and a course in the Structure of Language (in English, French, German, Spanish or Latin). Students then explore how a linguistically informed approach to language fuels both theoretical and applied inquiry in diverse disciplines. For example, Sociology and Anthropology explore cultural and ethnic differences in communicative style and language use around the world; Computer Science might examine the syntactically and semantically well formed expressions in the artificial language of Java; Psychology explores child language acquisition, language and the brain, and the psychology of language and Philosophy explores different theories of the nature and structure of language and the role that language plays in determining what is counted as truth, knowledge, and reality.

Students will learn how to uncover assumptions about language, they will learn how to make, test and revise hypotheses, and how to construct logical arguments pertaining to the nature of language. In this way, the Linguistics Minor supports our liberal arts mission as students further deepen skills of critical thinking and analysis.

Total credit hours required by program: **15**

3. What are the objectives for this program?

- 1) **Combine two focused foundation courses with the depth offered in more specialized or advanced courses.**
- 2) **Complement work done in the student's major by offering a focus on Language and Linguistics that is otherwise unavailable. Students of any major may take the minor in Language and Linguistics but it may be of particular interest to majors in English; Philosophy and Religious Studies; Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures; Psychology; Communication Studies; Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work; and Physics, Computer Science and Engineering.**
- 3) **Provide a program that will formally document a student's concentrated study of linguistics.**

4. For whom is the new program primarily intended? **This program is intended for any student, but primarily those in English, Communication, MCLL, Religion and Philosophy, Computer Science, Psychology, Neuroscience or Sociology/Anthropology**

5. Explain why it should become part of the curriculum and how this proposal relates to the University's mission.

CNU MISSION: We are committed to providing a liberal arts education that stimulates intellectual inquiry and fosters social and civic values. CNU students acquire the qualities of mind and spirit that prepare them to lead lives with meaning and purpose. As a state university, we are committed to service that shapes the economic, civic, and cultural life of our community and Commonwealth. (<http://www.cnu.edu/about/leadership/mission/index.asp>).

HOW THE LINGUISTICS MINOR FULFILLS THE CNU MISSION:

(The following is excerpted from a statement prepared by a group of faculty who teach linguistics at liberal arts colleges throughout the nation(Swarthmore College, 2009) on the topic of how linguistics supports the mission of liberal arts colleges. This statement directly addresses how a linguistics minor fulfills CNU's mission.)

Language is the major cognitive ability that distinguishes human beings from all other animals. As such, the study of language offers crucial insight into many cognitive activities, including information organization, memory, and reasoning. Linguistics examines the structure and function of language, though the core of the discipline is often considered the following:

- **Phonetics:** the study of the inventory of articulated segments (whether sounds in a spoken language or manual manipulations in a sign language)
- **Phonology:** the study of the relationships and interactions between segments in an utterance
- **Morphology:** the study of how words/signs are made up of meaningful component parts
- **Syntax:** the study of how words/signs are put together to make phrases and sentences
- **Semantics:** the study of meaning in language, at all levels of structure

Because language touches on so many areas of human action and interaction and machine-human interaction, linguistics encourages students to pull together strands from multiple disciplines in the study of language and to bring newly gained knowledge back into those other disciplines, such as anthropology, cognitive science, computer science, education (including bilingual education and ESL), languages and literatures, philosophy, psychology, and sociology, as well as area studies and women/ethnic/gender studies. Linguistics simultaneously belongs to the social sciences, the humanities, and the natural sciences, and it is unique in that the data surround us (instant availability) and do not demand specialized equipment for their analysis: the world is a linguistics lab.

Knowledge in the core of linguistics progresses largely via argumentation, so the study of linguistics develops analytical skills, helping one to learn how to organize large masses of data into paradigms, how to uncover assumptions and test them, how to make hypotheses and to test and revise them accordingly, and how to construct logical arguments. Students often work together in a collaborative fashion on problem sets and other projects, thus learning teamwork and discovering for themselves the synergy in working constructively with others. In these ways linguistics provides strong and valuable intellectual habits and skills central to the study of the liberal arts and excellent training for a range of disciplines, including law and business.

The student who takes even a single introductory course in linguistics will be disabused of misconceptions about language that surround us every day and will be equipped to make sensible and responsible decisions about language in private and societal life. Lack of such basic knowledge can have detrimental effects on both the individual and society, for this ignorance plays a significant role in bigotries of many types, in the failure to properly educate children whose home language falls outside the mainstream, in the denying of civil rights to many who use languages outside the mainstream, and in the almost assured loss over the next couple of decades of thousands of languages around the globe and the accompanying knowledge encoded in and cultural wealth embodied in those languages. Studying linguistics makes one a better global citizen.

The student who does considerable work in linguistics will be able to find employment in many areas, including the computer industry, counseling and diplomacy and other areas where sensitivity to language is essential, documenting endangered languages, teaching languages and/or linguistics, government work such as in the Foreign Service, interpreting and/or translating, language consulting for professions such as law and medicine, language therapy such as speech therapy and rehabilitative work with accident victims and with hard-of-hearing or deaf people, lexicography, marketing work such as advertising and product-naming, the publishing industry with respect to editing and journalism and technical writing, testing agencies as in preparing and grading national exams and helping conduct and assess research on those exams, training actors on dialects and accents or being an actor who can authentically play characters who speak in a non-standard way, and on and on.

In sum, linguistics is an ideal discipline of study at a liberal arts college for the matters that it covers, for the intellectual habits it develops, for the ways in which it contributes to one's ability to be a responsible member of society, and for the practical purposes of employment.

6. What is the anticipated enrollment in the new program for the next three years? **10 students/year x 3 = 30**

7. How will the new program be staffed/administered? **existing faculty**

8. Has this program, or one closely related to it, been offered at CNU previously? If yes, is that program currently being offered?
How does the proposed program differ?

No, the program has not been previously offered at CNU.

When is the last term the old program will be offered?

9. Does the new program or the change being proposed involve the creation of new courses, deletion of existing courses, or changes to existing courses? Please briefly list all changes here and indicate how these changes affect hours required for graduation. **(For EACH new course being proposed and/or course to be deleted, please complete and attach the appropriate form.)**

Creation of new course: **Philosophy of Language**. This is approved by the Philosophy Department. Syllabus development is underway.

Re-introduction of previously existing course: **History of the English Language**. This course was previously listed in the CNU catalog in the 1980s and early 1990s..

10. Does the new program involve special equipment or costs? **No.**

Linguistics Minor

The Minor in Linguistics (15 credits)

Linguistics is the scientific study of language. Language, an arbitrary, symbolic signaling system is the major cognitive ability distinguishing human beings from all other animals. As a discipline, linguistics examines the structural components of language (i.e., sound, form, and meaning), the conventions of language use and the precise interplay among them. The discipline explores questions such as “What does it mean to know a language?” “How is our linguistic competence acquired?” and “How is our linguistic competence manifest in human endeavor?”

The interdisciplinary linguistics minor anchors in two foundation courses, *Introduction to Linguistics* and a course in the *Structure of Language* (in English, French, German, Spanish or Latin). Students then explore how a linguistically informed approach to language fuels both theoretical and applied inquiry in diverse disciplines. For example, Sociology and Anthropology explore cultural and ethnic differences in communicative style and language use around the world; Psychology explores child language acquisition, language and the brain, and the psychology of language; Computer Science might examine the syntactically and semantically well formed expressions in the artificial language of Java, and Philosophy explores different theories of the nature and structure of language and the role that language plays in determining what is counted as truth, knowledge, and reality.

Students will learn how to uncover assumptions about language, they will learn how to make, test and revise hypotheses, and how to construct logical arguments pertaining to the nature of language. In this way, the Linguistics Minor supports our liberal arts mission as students further deepen skills of critical thinking and analysis.

Appointment of the Minor Director: The Minor Director will be appointed by the Provost for a 3 year term.

Program Objectives:

1. Combine two focused foundation courses with the depth offered in more specialized or advanced courses.
2. Complement work done in the student's major by offering a focus on Linguistics that is otherwise unavailable. Students of any major may take the minor in Linguistics but it may be of particular interest to majors in English; Philosophy and Religious Studies; Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures; Fine Art and Art History; Psychology; Communication Studies; Sociology, and Anthropology and Social Work.
3. Provide a program that will formally document a student's concentrated study of linguistics.

Prerequisites or co-requisites to the minor:

English 123

English 223 (co-requisite)

Program requirements

1. ENGL 310 “Introduction to Linguistics” is required of all students in the minor.
2. Successful completion of 3 credits in the structure of language, either English or a foreign language.

Thus, students in the minor will select 1 course among the following:

- a. ENGL 430 (The Structure of English) **or**
- b. FREN 301 (Grammar and Composition) **or**
- c. GERM 301 (Grammar and Composition) **or**
- d. SPAN 301 (Grammar and Composition) **or**
- e. LATN 200 (Latin and Its Living Legacy)

3. Three program electives (3 courses = 9 credits) from the approved list from two different disciplines. (A discipline is defined by the course prefix, i.e. PHIL and RSTD are two different disciplines).
4. Certain independent studies, special topics courses, and study abroad courses focusing on linguistics topics may count toward the minor requirements as determined by the Director.
5. Students should consult the Director on matters of course selection and advising.

THE CURRICULUM IN LINGUISTICS

Course descriptions appear in appropriate sections throughout the catalog.

Required Core (2 courses as specified)

ENGL 310 Introduction to Linguistics (AIIF)
 Choose one ENGL 430 (AIIF) (Pre-req: (Engl 123, ULLC 223)
or FREN 301 (Pre-req: Fren 202 or 4 years of HS French or consent of instructor)
or GERM 301 (Pre-req: Fren 202 or 4 years of HS French or consent of instructor)
or SPAN 301, (Pre-req: Fren 202 or 4 years of HS French or consent of instructor)
or LATN 200 (Pre-req: Latn 101 and 102)
 or approved advanced independent study of the Structure of Language not currently offered at the 300 level or above (Italian, Arabic, Chinese, etc).

Electives (Choose 3)

Course Number	Course Name	Pre-requisites)
ENGL 311	Teaching English as a Second Language	(Engl 123, ULLC 223)
ENGL 312	History of the English Language	(Engl 123, ULLC 223)
SOCL/ANTH 330	Language and Culture	(Engl 123, ULLC 223)
PHIL 205	The Anatomy of Thought	(none)
PHIL 215	Philosophy and Literary Theory	(none)
PHIL 307	Current Trends in Modern Thought	(Junior Standing/consent)
PHIL 323	Philosophy of Mind & Machine Intelligence	(Junior Standing/consent)
PHIL 359	Philosophy of Language*	(Junior standing/consent)
PSYC 208	Child Development (AIII)	(none)
PSYC 316	Cognitive Psychology	(Psych 201, 202)
PSYC 428; 428L	Cognitive Development	(Psych 301/301L; 300; Math 125)
CPSC 250	Computers and Programming	(CPSC 125, 150)

Possible programs:

English Major	MCLL Major	Psych major	Any major
Engl 310	Engl 310	Engl 310	Engl 310
Engl 430	Germ/Span, etc. 301	Engl 430	Engl 430 or Latn 200
Anth 330	Anth 330	Phil 223	Anth 330
Phil 205	Phil 205	Psych 316	Psych 316
Psych 208	Phil 323	Psych 428	Phil 307

While any CNU student could elect a Linguistics Minor, we envision this program will greatly serve students already majoring in English, MCLL, Psychology, Computer Science or Sociology/Anthropology, degree programs spanning all three Colleges. For each of these degree programs, the students would already have taken lower level coursework, thus supporting this Minor. For example, a French Major would already have taken French 202 and be ready for French 301, thus fulfilling one of the two required courses in the Minor. Then, the French Major, Linguistics Minor would have a range of other elective choices either with no prerequisites, or junior standing/instructor consent as elective.

Similarly, a Psychology Major would be able to fulfill the core required courses (English 310 Introduction to Linguistics, English 430 Structure of English) with only the freshman and sophomore writing courses as pre-requisites. Then for the three electives, the student choosing the Linguistics Minor could choose one or two Psychology courses (as he/she would likely have already completed Psychology foundation work) along with one course from another department. Courses in English/Anthropology and Philosophy have either no prerequisites (beyond freshman/sophomore writing) or Junior standing/consent of instructor.

Thus, the path through the Linguistics Minor supports the majors in English, MCLL, Computer Science, Psychology and Sociology/Anthropology and is open to any CNU major across any of the three colleges.