LINGUISTICS
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The Minor Program 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., phonetics (sound), phonology, morphology (word structure), syntax (sentence structure), and semantics (meaning)], the conventions of language use (pragmatics) and the precise interplay among them. The discipline explores language in society, the nature of language variation and issues of power, prestige, and prejudice accruing to language use.

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.

Program Objectives:
1. Combine two focused foundation courses with the depth offered in more 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.

Program requirements
1. ENGL 310 "Introduction to Linguistics" is required of all students in the minor.
2. Successful completion of three credits in the structure of language, either English or a foreign language. Thus, students in the minor will select one course among the following: ENGL 430, FREN 301, GERM 301, SPAN 301 or LATN 200.
3. Three program electives (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
ENGL 430 Grammar and Composition
FREN 301 Grammar and Composition
GERM 301 Grammar and Composition
SPAN 301 Grammar and Composition
LATN 200 Latin and Its Living Legacy

Program Electives

ENGL 311   Teaching English as a Second Language
ENGL 312   History of the English Language
SOCL/ANTH 330 Language and Culture
PHIL 205   The Anatomy of Thought
PHIL 215   Philosophy and Literary Theory
PHIL 307   Current Trends in Modern Thought
PHIL 359   Philosophy of Language
PSYC 208   Child Development
PSYC 316   Cognitive Psychology
PSYC 428/L Cognitive Development /Lab
CPSC 250   Computers and Programming