

Linguistics Introductory Courses

LING 101. History of the American Languages (HSC)

This course presents a linguistic view of the history, society, and culture of the United States. It discusses the many languages and forms of language that have been used in this country over its history, including standard and nonstandard forms of English, different social and geographical dialects, African American English, creoles, Native American languages, and immigrant languages from Asia and Europe. Students examine the inherent diversity of these communicative systems both as a form of cultural enrichment and as the basis for socio-political conflict, and also investigate possible solutions to these problems through class discussion and debate. In addition, students study the universal phenomenon of language change and explore how it affects understanding of language behavior.

Students are introduced to the basic concepts of linguistics with an emphasis on sociolinguistics and the politics of language. They examine historical and contemporary political dimensions of several issues, including: the “English-Only” controversy; ideologies of standardization and nationalism; bilingualism and bilingual education; language and ethnicity; language and age; and language and gender.

LING 201. Foundations of Linguistics (HSC)

What is “language” and how do world languages differ? How do linguists investigate the basic building blocks of human languages? This course introduces students to linguistics, the scientific study of human language systems. We will examine speech sounds (the field of phonetics), the sound systems of languages (phonology), word and sentence formation (morphology and syntax), how language expresses meaning (semantics), and how context influences the interpretation of meaning (pragmatics). Additional topics include historical linguistics, language typology, sociolinguistics, and language acquisition.

This is a core course for the Linguistics major and minor, the Joint Psychology/ Linguistics major, and the Joint Spanish/Linguistics major, and should also be of interest to students of Anthropology, English, foreign languages, Sociology, Philosophy, and Psychology.

*LING 101 and LING 201 are **not sequentially ordered**. Since each course focuses on different kinds of material, you may begin with either course, or take them concurrently.*



EMORY PROGRAM IN LINGUISTICS

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