Linguistics

Language is a uniquely human capacity that enables us to communicate a limitless set of messages on any topic. While human languages can differ greatly in certain respects, all are intricate, complex, rule-governed systems. Linguistics is the scientific study of these systems, their use in communicative and other social settings, and their cognitive and neural underpinnings. The linguistics concentration at Brown gives students a background in the “core” aspects of the language system: phonetics/phonology (the study of speech sounds and their patterning), syntax (the study of combinatorics of words, phrases, and sentences), and semantics/pragmatics (the study of the meanings of words, sentences, and conversation). Beyond this, students may focus more heavily in one or more of these areas and/or explore related questions such as how children and adults learn language (language acquisition), how utterances are produced and understood in real time (psycholinguistics), or how speaking and understanding are anchored in underlying neural systems (neurolinguistics). Other areas such as historical linguistics, sociolinguistics, philosophy of language, and linguistic anthropology can also be pursued in conjunction with offerings in other departments.

Students who wish to pursue one or more aspects of Linguistics in greater depth than does the Bachelor of Arts, and to focus on some of the more technical, computational, and/or experimental areas of the field may choose to take a Bachelor of Science in Linguistics. Students will choose a focus pathway which will direct their choices. Pathways include: Language, Computation, and Information; Language, Mind, and Brain; Meaning and Logic, or one of the student’s design, with approval from the concentration advisor.

A.B. Requirements (10 courses)

Prerequisite Course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 0300</td>
<td>Introduction to Linguistics (May be waived in special instances)</td>
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</table>

Required Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1310</td>
<td>Phonology 1</td>
</tr>
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and either

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1330</td>
<td>Introduction to Syntax 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
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</table>

or

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1331</td>
<td>Linguistic Variation and Universals</td>
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AND one of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1341</td>
<td>Lexical Semantics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1342</td>
<td>Compositional Semantics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1370</td>
<td>Pragmatics</td>
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</table>

One course in Psycholinguistics to be drawn from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 0800</td>
<td>Language and the Mind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1650</td>
<td>Child Language Acquisition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1660</td>
<td>Learning Compositional Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1800</td>
<td>Language Processing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1850</td>
<td>Language Processing in Humans and Machines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1890</td>
<td>Laboratory in Psycholinguistics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

or any Topics Course in Language Acquisition or Language Processing

5 additional appropriate electives forming a thematically related set to be determined in consultation with the Concentration Advisor. At least one of these must be drawn from the list of advanced courses listed below, and we strongly recommend that at least one course be an appropriate method and a topics course. No more than 2 of these courses may be drawn from below 1000 level courses. The electives can be drawn from any of the above courses, or any of the other linguistic/language related courses in the CLPS department. Electives may also be drawn from courses in other in consultation with the Concentration Advisor; a list of courses which standardly count towards the Linguistics Concentration (provided they form part of the thematically related set) is appended below.

Advanced Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1320</td>
<td>The Production, Perception, and Analysis of Speech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1342</td>
<td>Compositional Semantics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1360</td>
<td>Introduction to Corpus Linguistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A course from the 1381 series (Topics in Phonetic &amp; Phonology)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A course from the 1383 series (Topics in Syntax and Semantics). For example:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1383D</td>
<td>Topics in Syntax and Semantics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A course from the 1385 series (Topics in Language Acquisition)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A course from the 1387 series (Topics in Neurolinguistics)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A course from the 1389 series (Topics in Language Processing)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1390</td>
<td>Linguistic Field Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1880 series (Topics in Psycholinguistics)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1890</td>
<td>Laboratory in Psycholinguistics</td>
</tr>
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Other Courses Routinely Fulfilling Linguistics Concentration Requirements (in consultation with the Concentration Advisor):

NOTE: This is NOT an exhaustive list of courses that can be applied towards the Linguistics Concentration requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 0800</td>
<td>Sound and Symbols: Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 1800</td>
<td>Sociolinguistics, Discourse and Dialogue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 0050M</td>
<td>Playing with Words: The Linguistic Principles Behind Word Games and Puzzles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1365</td>
<td>Historical Linguistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSCI 1460</td>
<td>Computational Linguistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAST 1510</td>
<td>Chinese: A History of the Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGYT 2310</td>
<td>History of the Ancient Egyptian Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLAV 1300</td>
<td>Sociolinguistics (with Case Studies on the Former USSR and Eastern Europe)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 0640</td>
<td>Logic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 1850</td>
<td>Philosophy of Language</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 10

1. It is recommended that students take CLPS 1310 and CLPS 1330 before higher level courses.

Honors (12 courses)

Candidates for Honors in Linguistics must meet all of the requirements above, write an Honors thesis, and take two additional courses. One course is normally CLPS 1980 (Directed Research in Cognitive, Linguistic, and Psychological Sciences) - intended for work on the Honors thesis. Three of the total 12 courses must be drawn from the advanced list above (the Directed Research course counts as one of the advanced courses). Refer to the CLPS Honors Program page for detailed information about the Linguistics Honors program.
Independent Study

Independent study is encouraged for the A.B. degree. Students should sign up for CLPS 1880 with a faculty advisor who is a member of the Department of Cognitive and Linguistic Sciences (CLPS). Arrangements should be made in Semester 6 for students expecting to do independent study during Semesters 7 and/or 8.

Do Foreign Language Courses Count?

Foreign language courses will generally not count towards the concentration requirements, except those that focus on the structure or history of the language. Students are, however, advised to gain familiarity with a foreign language, and are encouraged to take at least one course which deals with the structure of a language other than English.

ScB Requirements (16 courses)

Students who wish to pursue one or more aspects of Linguistics in greater depth than does the A.B., and to focus on some of the more technical, computational, and/or experimental areas of the field may choose to take an Sc.B in Linguistics. Students will choose a focus pathway which will direct their choices. Three possible pathways are described below in detail, though other pathways are possible, if approved by the concentration advisor. The core requirements are:

- One gateway course
- Four breath requirements, one each in Phonology, Syntax, Semantics or Pragmatics, and Psycholinguistics.
- Three electives in the focus area (see individual pathways below)
- Four non-linguistic focus area electives (see individual pathways below)
- Two breadth requirements that satisfy the Linguistics AB requirement. These could serve as a secondary focus area.
- One additional linguistics course, either as additional breadth or in the focus area
- One Capstone course

### Language, Computation, and Information Pathway

- **Gateway course**
  - CLPS 0300 Introduction to Linguistics
- **At least one course in phonetics / phonology, such as:**
  - CLPS 1310 Phonology
- **At least one course in syntax, such as:**
  - CLPS 1330 Introduction to Syntax
  - CLPS 1331 Linguistic Variation and Universals
- **At least one course in semantics / pragmatics, such as:**
  - CLPS 1341 Lexical Semantics
  - CLPS 1342 Compositional Semantics
  - CLPS 1370 Pragmatics
- **At least one course in psycholinguistics, such as:**
  - CLPS 0800 Language and the Mind
  - CLPS 1650 Child Language Acquisition
  - CLPS 1660 Learning Compositional Language
  - CLPS 1800 Language Processing
  - CLPS 1850 Language Processing in Humans and Machines
  - CLPS 1890 Laboratory in Psycholinguistics
- **Three electives specifically in the focus area, such as:**
  - CLPS 1360 Introduction to Corpus Linguistics
  - CLPS 1361 Information Theory in Language
  - CLPS 1800 Language Processing
  - CLPS 1850 Language Processing in Humans and Machines
  - CSCI 0220 Introduction to Discrete Structures and Probability
  - CSCI 1460 Computational Linguistics
- **Four non-linguistic focus area electives, such as:**

### Total Credits

16

### Language, Mind and Brain Pathway

- **Gateway course**
  - CLPS 0300 Introduction to Linguistics
- **At least one course in phonetics / phonology, such as:**
  - CLPS 1310 Phonology
- **At least one course in syntax, such as:**
  - CLPS 1330 Introduction to Syntax
  - CLPS 1331 Linguistic Variation and Universals
- **At least one course in semantics / pragmatics, such as:**
  - CLPS 1341 Lexical Semantics
  - CLPS 1342 Compositional Semantics
  - CLPS 1370 Pragmatics
- **At least one course in psycholinguistics, such as:**
  - CLPS 0800 Language and the Mind
  - CLPS 1650 Child Language Acquisition
  - CLPS 1660 Learning Compositional Language
  - CLPS 1800 Language Processing
  - CLPS 1850 Language Processing in Humans and Machines
  - CLPS 1890 Laboratory in Psycholinguistics
- **Three electives specifically in the focus area, such as:**
  - CLPS 0800 Language and the Mind
  - CLPS 1650 Child Language Acquisition
  - CLPS 1660 Learning Compositional Language
  - CLPS 1800 Language Processing
  - CLPS 1850 Language Processing in Humans and Machines
  - CLPS 1890 Laboratory in Psycholinguistics

### Other Courses

- CLPS 0950 Introduction to programming
- CLPS 2908 Multivariate Statistical Techniques
- APMA 1650 Statistical Inference I
- CSCI 0220 Introduction to Discrete Structures and Probability
- CSCI 1410 Artificial Intelligence
- CSCI 1420 Machine Learning
- CSCI 1951A Data Science
- PHP 1560 Statistical Programming in R
- MATH 0520 Linear Algebra

Two additional courses outside the main focus that satisfy the Linguistics AB requirement, such as:

- CLPS 1390 Linguistic Field Methods
- CLPS 1331 Linguistic Variation and Universals
- ANTH 1800 Sociolinguistics, Discourse and Dialogue
- SLAV 1300 Sociolinguistics (with Case Studies on the Former USSR and Eastern Europe)

Or many others (see Linguistics AB for examples)

- One additional class in linguistics (related or unrelated to the focus area), such as:
  - CLPS 1342 Compositional Semantics
  - CLPS 1850 Language Processing in Humans and Machines

One independent study / capstone requirement

- CLPS 1970 Directed Reading in Cognitive, Linguistic and Psychological Sciences
- CLPS 1980 Directed Research in Cognitive, Linguistic and Psychological Sciences

Total Credits

16
### Meaning and Logic Pathway

#### Gateway course
- CLPS 0300 Introduction to Linguistics

#### At least one course in phonetics / phonology, such as:
- CLPS 1310 Phonology

#### At least one course in syntax, such as:
- CLPS 1330 Introduction to Syntax
- CLPS 1331 Linguistic Variation and Universals

#### At least one course in semantics / pragmatics, such as:
- CLPS 1341 Lexical Semantics
- CLPS 1342 Compositional Semantics
- CLPS 1370 Pragmatics

#### At least one course in psycholinguistics, such as:
- CLPS 0800 Language and the Mind
- CLPS 1650 Child Language Acquisition
- CLPS 1660 Learning Compositional Language
- CLPS 1800 Language Processing
- CLPS 1850 Language Processing in Humans and Machines
- CLPS 1890 Laboratory in Psycholinguistics

#### Three electives specifically in the focus area, such as:
- CLPS 1330 Introduction to Syntax
- CLPS 1331 Linguistic Variation and Universals
- CLPS 1341 Lexical Semantics
- CLPS 1342 Compositional Semantics

### Two additional courses outside the main focus that satisfy
the Linguistics AB requirement, such as:
- CLPS 1390 Linguistic Field Methods
- CLPS 1331 Linguistic Variation and Universals
- ANTH 1800 Sociolinguistics, Discourse and Dialogue
- SLAV 1300 Sociolinguistics (with Case Studies on the Former USSR and Eastern Europe)
  
  Or many others (see Linguistics AB for examples)

#### One additional class in linguistics (related or unrelated to the focus area), such as:
- CLPS 1342 Compositional Semantics
- CLPS 1360 Introduction to Corpus Linguistics

#### One independent study / capstone requirement
- CLPS 1970 Directed Reading in Cognitive, Linguistic and Psychological Sciences
- CLPS 1980 Directed Research in Cognitive, Linguistic and Psychological Sciences

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### Total Credits: 16

### Honors (17 courses)

The Honors program requires one additional elective, which will typically be a second CLPS 1980 Directed Research course during the senior year (thus leading to a full year of Directed Reading or Directed Research).

Admission to the honors program requires a majority of A grades in the concentration. The student's work will culminate in an Honors' thesis on an approved topic (see Departmental regulations regarding Honors' theses, which can be found at [https://www.brown.edu/academics/cognitive-linguistic-psychological-sciences/honors](https://www.brown.edu/academics/cognitive-linguistic-psychological-sciences/honors)) written under the direction of one or more faculty members, and read by a committee of at least two faculty members (one of whom may be from another department).

**NOTE:** Please refer to the Cognitive, Linguistic, and Psychological Sciences undergraduate Linguistics concentration page for updates not listed here.