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 for communication in rich social settings, and their cognitive underpinnings. The linguistic 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), semantics/pragmatics (the study of the meanings of both words and larger expressions, and how they interact with communicative goals), and how language is produced, understood, and learned by children and adults (psycholinguistics). Beyond this, students may focus more heavily in one or more of these areas and/or explore related questions such as how core aspects of language do (and do not) vary, including through the use linguistic fieldwork on understudied languages, or how probabilistic tendencies and variability in language usage relate to grammar. Other areas such as historical linguistics, computational 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 may 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>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 0300</td>
<td>Introduction to Linguistics (May be waived in special instances)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Required Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1310</td>
<td>Phonology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 130</td>
<td>Introduction to Syntax</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>CLPS 1331 Linguistic Variation and Universals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND one of:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1341</td>
<td>Lexical Semantics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1342</td>
<td>Compositional Semantics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1370</td>
<td>Pragmatics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One course in Psycholinguistics to be drawn from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 0800</td>
<td>Language and the Mind</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1650</td>
<td>Child Language Acquisition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1660</td>
<td>Learning Compositional Language</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1800</td>
<td>Language Processing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1850</td>
<td>Language Processing in Humans and Machines</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1890</td>
<td>Laboratory in Psycholinguistics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR any Topics Course in Language Acquisition or Language Processing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 methods 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>Description</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1342</td>
<td>Compositional Semantics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1360</td>
<td>Introduction to Corpus Linguistics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A course from the 1381 series (Topics in Phonetic &amp; Phonology)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A course from the 1383 series (Topics in Language Acquisition)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A course from the 1385 series (Topics in Language Processing)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1390</td>
<td>Linguistic Field Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1880 series (Topics in Psycholinguistics)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1890</td>
<td>Laboratory in Psycholinguistics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</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>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 1330 or CLPS 1331 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 1980 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 additional 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:
- CLPS 0950 Introduction to programming
- CLPS 2908 Multivariate Statistical Techniques
- APMA 1650 Statistical Inference I

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 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:
- CLPS 0950 Introduction to programming
- CLPS 2908 Multivariate Statistical Techniques
- APMA 1650 Statistical Inference I

Total Credits 16

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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1420</td>
<td>Cognitive Neuropsychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1492</td>
<td>Computational Cognitive Neuroscience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1610</td>
<td>Cognitive Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1620</td>
<td>Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1900</td>
<td>Research Methods And Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEUR 0680</td>
<td>Introduction To Computational Neuroscience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEUR 1030</td>
<td>Neural Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 1800</td>
<td>Philosophy of Mind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1390</td>
<td>Linguistic Field Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1331</td>
<td>Linguistic Variation and Universals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 1800</td>
<td>Sociolinguistics, Discourse and Dialogue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLAV 1300</td>
<td>Sociolinguistics (with Case Studies on the Former USSR and Eastern Europe)</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>CLPS 1970</td>
<td>Directed Reading in Cognitive, Linguistic and Psychological Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLPS 1980</td>
<td>Directed Research in Cognitive, Linguistic and Psychological Sciences</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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
- CLPS 1370 Pragmatics
- PHIL 0990X Conditionals
- PHIL 1850 Philosophy of Language

#### Four non-linguistic focus area electives, such as:
- MATH 0750 Introduction To Higher Mathematics
- CSCI 0220 Introduction To Discrete Structures and Probability
- PHIL 0990T Paradox and Infinity
- PHIL 1360 Twentieth-Century Analytic Philosophy
- PHIL 1630 Mathematical Logic
- PHIL 1635 Advanced Deductive Logic
- PHIL 1680 Theories of Truth
- CLPS 0200 Human Cognition
- CLPS 0610 Children's Thinking: The Nature of Cognitive Development
- CLPS 0700 Social Psychology
- 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)

### 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). 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.