



MASTER OF ARTS IN LINGUISTICS (GC11) NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY LOCAL EDUCATION ~ GLOBAL APPLICATION

The MA Program in Linguistics focuses on investigating language from both theoretical and functional approaches. Our dynamic curriculum combines core studies in the structure of language (phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics) with current approaches in sociolinguistics, language acquisition, psycholinguistics, language contact, world Englishes, endangered languages, discourse analysis, and identity studies. In addition to directly applying to the teaching of linguistics, English and other languages, an MA in linguistics is a recognized asset for careers in curriculum development, publishing, product branding, speech pathology, natural language processing, translation, law, education, and other professions within social and behavioral sciences, especially those concerned with language policies and practices in multilingual settings.

Through their course work and hands-on research, students will be introduced to

- The nature and structure of language;
- The principles and methods of language analysis;
- The relationship between language and cultural, national, social, and personal identity;
- The role of language as a mediator of intercultural understanding.



Admission Requirements (Program Code: GC11)

- 2.75 or higher undergraduate GPA;
- No GRE required.
- 9 hours of foreign language study at the undergraduate level or above OR for English as a second/foreign language learners a minimum TOEFL score of 550 (paper); 79 on the Internet-based test; 213 (computer-based); OR a score of 6.5 on the IELTS.
- Submission of completed application to the Graduate College. Applications can be obtained on-line through the Grad College website at <http://www.neiu.edu/~Gradcoll/>. International students should also follow the instructions at [http://www.neiu.edu/~gradcoll/admission/apply International.html](http://www.neiu.edu/~gradcoll/admission/apply%20International.html).

Graduation Requirements

- Completion of 36 hours of course work (including Capstone or Thesis);
- Cumulative 3.0 GPA with no more than 2 grades of C;
- Successful completion of a Capstone course or Thesis.

FAQ

Q: Do I need any special background in Linguistics?

A: The MA Program in Linguistics welcomes students with the degree of BA, BS, MA, or MS in any discipline who appreciate the role of language at a local and a global level.

Q: How long will it take me to complete the program?

A: Full-time or part-time? Ask us about our 2-, 3-, and 4-year plans.

Q: I have a full-time day job. Do you offer courses in the evenings?

A: To help optimize opportunity, all our classes are offered at either 4:15pm or 7:05pm and meet once per week.

Q: What are my career options with an MA in Linguistics?

A: Linguistic knowledge and training help you achieve career goals in fields such as language teaching, computational linguistics, curriculum development, publishing, translation and interpretation, speech pathology, forensic linguistics, and language policy and revitalization.

Awards and Assistantships

Every year, there are a number of merit-based Awards and a number of assistantships made available through the Graduate College and through the College of Arts and Sciences. Awards may cover tuition for one or two classes for a given semester. Assistantships provide tuition for up to 2 classes and a monthly stipend in exchange for up to 20 hours per week of work with a faculty supervisor. The numbers of available awards and assistantships vary from year to year based on the University's budget. Graduate advisors will provide details about application deadlines. Merit Tuition Awards and Assistantship information can be found at <http://www.neiu.edu/academics/graduate-college/for-future-students/international-applicants-0>

Credit Transfer and Student-at-Large Credits

With the approval of your advisor, you may transfer up to three relevant courses (nine credits) taken in a program from another institution to count towards the MA degree. You may also take up to three courses in the Linguistics Program as a student-at-large which will count towards degree completion once you enter the MA program.

Course Requirements

Required Courses

LING-401 Fundamentals of Modern Linguistics
LING-405 Typology
LING-422 Phonology
LING-427 Morphology or LING-435 Semantics
LING-437 Generative Grammar
LING-446 Sociolinguistics
LING-450 First Language Acquisition

Electives

*Elective courses marked with an asterisk may be selected as a Capstone.

LING-427 Morphology* (if not serving as a core course)
LING-430 Structure of Language*
LING-433 Lexicology
LING-435 Semantics* (if not serving as a core course)
LING-438 Syntax*
LING-447 Origin of Language*
LING-448 Discourse Analysis*
LING-449 Anthropological Linguistics*
LING-452 Psycholinguistics*
LING-453 Language Contact*
LING-454 Language and Identity*
LING-461 Issues in Multiple Language Acquisition*
LING-462 Lexical Acquisition*
LING-471 World Englishes*
LING-472 American English—History and Growth*
LING-473 The English Language—History and Development*
LING-475 Historical and Comparative Linguistics*
LING-481 Language and Tourism*
LING-482 Stylistics*
LING-483 Field Methods in Linguistics
LING-484 Language Endangerment and Documentation
LING-488 Language and Cultures of Iran*
LING-489 Linguistics in the Professions
LING-491 Translation and Linguistic Analysis: Topics Varies*
LING-491E Translation and Linguistic Analysis: Aleut*
LING-491F Translation and Linguistic Analysis: Mandan*
LING-491N Translation and Linguistic Analysis: Biloxi*

LING-491O Translation and Linguistic Analysis: Crow*
LING-492 Seminar: Linguistics and Related Fields*
LING-493 Seminar: Linguistic Theory*
LING-494 Seminar: Historical Linguistics*
LING-5901, 5902, 5903: Thesis Seminar

Thesis and Capstone

Students may choose to complete their MA degree through either a Capstone Experience or the Thesis Seminar. Both options engage students in an assessment component that authentically addresses and evaluates their knowledge and skills in linguistics and applied linguistics. All Linguistics MA students will be required to complete the Capstone course or the Thesis with a grade of 'B' or better.

The Capstone Course

The capstone experience involves completion of a Capstone Course (see Capstone Courses listed under Electives). The Capstone Experience offers students a unique opportunity to integrate their MA linguistics education. The Capstone courses require students to exhibit a comprehensive knowledge of linguistics by demonstrating their understanding of how a minimum of two linguistic sub-areas covered in the required courses are relevant to the content of the capstone course and paper. The product of this capstone experience will be a research paper that is appropriate for conference presentation and/or publication. Students will have completed the required courses with a B average or higher and have obtained the approval of their graduate advisor before registering for a capstone course.

Thesis Option

Students will work with a committee of three Linguistics faculty members to conduct original research and to write a thesis. Students will have completed the required courses with a B average or higher, and have obtained the approval of their graduate advisor before registering for the thesis seminar.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

LING 401 Fundamentals of Modern Linguistics

Overview of language as a rule-governed system, with particular emphasis on the following subfields of linguistics: phonetics (the sounds of a language), phonology (the functioning and patterning of sounds), morphology (the analysis of word structure), syntax (the analysis of sentence structure), and semantics (the analysis of meaning). This course will also give a historical overview of the field of linguistics. Other topics may include historical linguistics, language typology, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, the brain and language, and computational linguistics.

LING 405 Typology

Typology studies the similarities and differences among human languages. We observe which categories (such as noun, verb, past) and which structures (such as questions, passive, causative) are universal, common, or rare among the world's languages and how they are crosslinguistically similar and different. We then ask why languages seem to prefer some categories and constructions over others and what that might say about the human capacity for language. Through reading, problem solving, and fieldwork, students learn about these language structures and discuss proposed explanations for why languages are the way they are. **Prereq:** graduate standing or consent of instructor

LING 422 Phonetics and Phonology

This class provides a foundation in the acoustics and articulatory properties of the sounds used in human languages, and introduces theories about the systematic variation of sounds in ordinary speech. Through reading, problem solving, and class discussion, students become familiar with basic phonetics, the analysis of sounds into features, both rule-based and constraint-based theories of sound variation, and the structures of sound at the segment, syllable, and phrase levels. **Prereq:** LING 401 or consent of instructor

LING 427 Morphology

The goal of morphology is to understand word structure and speakers' implicit knowledge of the components of words and their properties. By looking at data from many languages, students will become familiar with morphological processes such as derivation, inflection, compounding, incorporation, and cliticization, and with various proposals to account for word structure in languages. **Prereq:** LING 401 or consent of instructor

LING 430C Structure of Language: Lakhota

Lakhota is a member of the Mississippi Valley branch of the Siouan Language family. The language is an agglutinating one with many synthetic characteristics. This course will examine the structure of the Lakhota language, focusing on the phonology, morphology, and syntax of the language. This will be accomplished by reading and comparing a number of grammars and sketches as well as examining original Lakhota texts. **Prereqs:** LING 401, LING 422, LING 437

LING 433 Lexicography

Review of the problems and trends of word study in the past, especially the notions surrounding the concepts of authority and usage of language; scrutiny of the various types and sources of English vocabulary; recent linguistic insights considered in the light of their value for various kinds of handbooks. **Prereq:** LING 401

LING 435. Semantics. 3 Hours.

What is meaning? How does word meaning contribute to sentence meaning? How are sentences semantically related to each other? How do words and sentences connect to the world and our thoughts about it? This course introduces the basic principles of semantics and how they are applied to a scientific analysis of meaning in language. Topics covered include the components of word meaning, the composition of words into sentence meaning, logic and truth conditions, lexical semantics, formal semantics and the pragmatic effects of context on meaning. **Prereqs:** LING-401 minimum grade of C and LING-437 minimum grade of C.

LING 437 Introduction to Generative Grammar

This course introduces the study of sentence structure in natural language, with a goal characterizing the unconscious knowledge that speakers have for recognizing, producing, and interpreting any sentence in their language. Working with a Chomskyan generative approach, students analyze data in English and other languages to become familiar with issues such as constituent structure, argument structure and theta roles, case, movement, and empty categories. Emphasis is placed on theory building and generalizing particular solutions to what might be universals about sentence grammar. **Prereq:** LING 401 or consent of instructor

LING 438 Syntax

This advanced course builds on LING 437, reviewing basic principles of syntax and investigating them in greater detail. Students are introduced to recent literature on syntax, mostly within a generative perspective, but the strategy of the class is also to have students explore issues, analyze data, and come up with their own proposals to various problems under Minimalist assumptions. The class also emphasizes theory building and justifying many assumptions that underlie syntactic theory. Topics include clause structure, noun phrase structure, and the interface between syntax and semantics. **Prereqs:** LING 401 and LING 437, or consent of instructor

LING 440 Linguistics And Literacy

Differences between spoken and written languages; the functions of writing in a literate society; writing systems with particular reference to English orthography; current psycholinguistic research on the acquisition of written language skill; pedagogical implications of linguistic views on literacy.

Prereq: LING-401 minimum grade of C.

LING 446 Sociolinguistics

Sociolinguistics studies the relationship between language and culture. The language practices of individuals and communities correlate with social, cultural, and individual factors. This course examines variation in analyses of topics like social and regional

dialectology, interactional discourse, language and identity, ethnography of communication, and language and gender.

LING-447. The Origin Of Language. 3 Hours.

The course introduces theorizing about how, when and why language appeared in humans, by considering evidence from linguistics, anthropology, cognitive science, philosophy, primatology and evolutionary biology. The course asks four broad questions: Did language appear gradually or suddenly? Did it appear recently or millions of years ago? How was language adaptive for the individuals who had it? What conditions were necessary for language to appear? Caution: this course is NOT about historical linguistics, the study of language change through time. This course looks at how language evolved in the species.

Prereq: LING-201 minimum grade of C or LING-401 minimum grade of C or BIO-201 minimum grade of C or ANTH-212 minimum grade of C or ANTH-215 minimum grade of C.

LING 448 Discourse Analysis

Discourse analysis examines the structuring and use of language to promote social action—i.e. language produced in recognition of and response to its role in society and effects on others. Research explores spoken, written, and visual texts and sociolinguistic aspects of the relationship between languages, cultures, and individuals. Students will come to understand that identity—personal, social, national—as well as ideology—are constructed by and, in turn, serve to construct interactional discourse.

Prereqs: LING 401, LING 437, and LING 446

LING 449 Anthropological Linguistics

Combining the theory and methodology of the ethnographic analysis of culture with the theory and methodology of the sociolinguistic analysis of contextualized talk and text, this course examines the social practice of language in use. Through collection and analysis of naturally-occurring culturally-grounded data, students will identify and come to appreciate how language structures and reveals the systems that both influence and expose cultural knowledge. Students can apply their awareness to culturally-bounded events in settings such as education, corporations, families, and the world at large.

Prereqs: LING 401, LING 437, and LING 446

LING-450. First Language Acquisition. 3 Hours.

In this course we examine the stages through which a child passes towards native language mastery of the phonological, morphological, syntactic, and semantic systems. Various theories which attempt to account for the child's ability to acquire language will be considered in light of the context of monolingual and bilingual language acquisition.

Prereq: LING-401 minimum grade of C.

LING 452 Psycholinguistics

This course looks at the interface between language and the brain as it pertains to the mapping, storage and access of language. We examine current psycholinguistic models of language organization and access and discuss the implication of these approaches vis-à-vis various linguistic models and theories. **Prereq:** LING 401 or consent of instructor

LING-453. Language Contact And Multilingualism. 3 Hours.

This course examines language contact as a sociolinguistic phenomenon and articulates its impact on individuals and society. It focuses on issues such as language choice, language maintenance and language death in multilingual communities, national and individual identity, the structure, function and impact of codeswitching, and controversial issues such as bilingual language acquisition and the relationship between bilingualism and cognitive, linguistic and social development.

Prereqs: LING-401 minimum grade of C and LING-437 minimum grade of C and LING-446 minimum grade of C.

LING 454 Language and Identity

This course explores the role of language in the construction of identities and the significance of identity construction as a negotiated social action within language variation. The concept and construction of identity is investigated at the individual, community, and global levels. The focus of the course is on how these multi-leveled identities are developed and realized through the use of language. The course explores a wide range of theoretical and methodological perspectives on identity in mono- as well as multi-lingual contexts. **Prereqs:** LING 401 or consent of instructor and LING 446

LING 461 Issues in Multiple Language Acquisition

This course examines how speakers of one dialect/language learn other dialects/languages. Going beyond the traditional research on second language acquisition, this course emphasizes the theoretical issues of the acquisition of phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics in a third language. Also emphasized are the differences and similarities in learning a second dialect, which may be more difficult than second language acquisition for learners. **Prereqs:** LING 401, LING 422, and LING 437, or consent of instructor

LING 462 Lexical Acquisition

This course examines how language learners acquire/learn vocabulary. Going beyond the traditional research on second language acquisition, this course focuses solely on the theoretical issues of lexical acquisition. Though the primary emphasis is on the acquisition of vocabulary in a second or third language, first language vocabulary acquisition will also be discussed. **Prereqs:** LING-401, LING-427 or LING-435, or consent of instructor.

LING 471 World Englishes

Examination of issues involved in the development and maintenance of varieties of English throughout the world, now commonly referred to as world Englishes. Specifically, this course emphasizes the historical, political, and ideological issues of post-colonialism, globalization, nativization, standardization, hegemony, and pedagogy of native and non-native varieties of English. **Prereqs:** LING 401 and LING 446

Linguistics 472 American English—History and Growth

Phonology, morphology, syntax, lexicon of English in the United States as well as its cultural history with reference to the mother country and the New World, both in colonial and post-revolutionary times. **Prereq:** LING 401

LING 473 The English Language—History and Development

Survey of English phonology, morphology, syntax, lexicon and cultural history through Old English, Middle English, early Modern English and recent Modern English, using literary documents for the older periods, and literary as well as spoken records for the more recent times. **Prereq:** LING 401

LING 475 Historical and Comparative Linguistics

This course introduces students to the systematic comparison of languages to understand how languages change through time, and how they are thought to be related to one another and to their common ancestors. We bring together the standard aspects of linguistics – the lexicon, morphology, phonology, syntax, and semantics – and look at patterns of how each of these changes over time. The course covers the history of the comparative method from the birth of modern linguistics and integrates modern theories about dialectology and sociolinguistics, and how language variation is related to language change. **Prereqs:** LING 401 and LING 405; and one of the following: LING 422, LING 427, LING 437; or consent of instructor

LING 481 Language and Tourism

Advanced work and individual projects in language and tourism, a growing area of applied linguistics. Topics will include the sociolinguistics of tourism, social/identity construction of not only tourists but also of touristic locations, language use in tourism, discursive, visual semiotic, and ethnomethodological analyses of tourism materials.

Prereqs: LING 401 and LING 446

LING 482 Stylistics

Adopting theory and techniques of linguistic and discourse analysis, this course in stylistics focuses on the linguistic analysis of literary texts. Both in terms of their structure and their communicative functions, literary texts participate in the construction and presentation of nations, regional and social communities, and individuals. The language of literature—including word choice, sentence structure, and paralinguistic cues—functions to position characters and places. At the same time, literary texts, can be understood, in a social constructionist framework, to construct the identities of those who partake in their consumption. **Prereqs:** LING 401 and LING 448, or consent of instructor

LING 483 Field Methods in Linguistics

This course will introduce students to the goals and methods of linguistics research, including both qualitative and quantitative methodologies. Topics include the scientific method, data collection and transcription, corpus research, psycholinguistic research, field methods, argumentation, structuring of abstracts and research papers, APA vs. MLA style, conferences, ethical issues, professionalization, and interpretation of research articles. **Prereqs:** LING 401, LING 422, and LING 437, or consent of instructor

LING 484 Language Endangerment and Documentation

This course focuses on language endangerment and documentation. It will look at issues of language shift and discuss how languages become endangered and lost. We will also discuss how languages are best documented and discuss how the field's Best Practices Guide has evolved. **Prereqs:** LING 401, LING 405, and LING 422

LING 488 Languages & Cultures of Iran. 3 Hours.

The languages and culture of modern Iran are explored through academic readings, essays, autobiographies, and films as we delve into the question, Who are the Iranians? The languages and identities of this multilingual nation are explored through language variation, gender, age, class, and other social variables. Special attention is given to social and linguistic contact phenomena as we trace the history and evolution of the languages spoken in Iran and the communities who speak them. The structure and use of modern Farsi, along with its historical and social development will also be investigated.

Prerequisites: LING-401 minimum grade of C and LING-405 minimum grade of C and LING-437 minimum grade of C and LING-446 minimum grade of C.

LING 489 Linguistics and the Professions

Linguistics, defined as the scientific study of language, has both formal aims in describing the structural components of language and functional aims in applying understanding of these formal systems to addressing matters pertinent to interactional discourse, the presentation of self, and the co-construction of social and personal identity. Linguistics offers its graduates many varied opportunities for careers across numerous disciplines. This course offers students new to the field an introduction to many of those disciplines; as they continue their studies in our program, they can do so with the necessary schema for how they can apply what they learn. **Prereqs:** none

LING 491 Translation and Linguistic Analysis: Topics Varies

This course focuses on the translation of texts for a linguistic analysis of various aspects of the structure of the language in question. Students learn how to do a linguistic analysis of the target language focusing on some aspect of linguistics. The end project is a 15–20 page paper that can be presented at a professional conference. Students can focus on any area of the field of linguistics (these areas can include phonology, morphology, syntax, or discourse analysis). **Prereqs:** LING 401, LING 405, LING 422, and LING 437

LING 491E Translation and Linguistic Analysis: Aleut

This course is an exercise in linguistic analysis. Aleut is an extremely endangered language spoken in the Aleutian Islands by less than 500 speakers. Employing a critical linguistic analysis of the existent texts, students will analyze some aspect of Aleut grammar. Topics can include any aspect of phonology, morphology, syntax, or narrative discourse structure. **Prereqs:** LING 401, LING 405, LING 422, and LING 437

LING 491F Translation and Linguistic Analysis: Mandan

This course is an exercise in linguistic analysis. Mandan is an extremely endangered language comprising its own branch within the Siouan family. Employing a critical linguistic analysis of the existent texts, students will analyze some aspect of Mandan grammar. Topics can include any aspect of phonology, morphology, syntax, or narrative discourse structure. **Prereqs:** LING 401, LING 405, LING 422, and LING 437

LING 491N Translation and Linguistic Analysis: Biloxi

This course is an exercise in linguistic analysis. The Biloxi language is an extinct member of the Ohio Valley branch of the Siouan language family. Employing a critical

linguistic analysis of the existent texts, students will analyze some aspect of Biloxi grammar. Topics can include any aspect of phonology, morphology, syntax, or narrative discourse structure. **Prereqs:** LING 401, LING 405, LING 422, and LING 437

LING 5901 Thesis Seminar, 1 credit hour

Guidance of students conducting research and writing a thesis to fulfill the requirements for the Master of Arts degree in Linguistics. This course requires approval of the instructor, Department Chair and the appropriate College Dean(s). Students will have completed the required courses with a B average or higher, and have obtained the approval of their graduate advisor before registering for the thesis hours. **Prereqs:** Completion of all required courses with a GPA of 3.5 or higher and consent of advisor

LING 5902 Thesis Seminar, 2 credit hours

Guidance of students conducting research and writing a thesis to fulfill the requirements for the Master of Arts degree in Linguistics. This course requires approval of the instructor, Department Chair and the appropriate College Dean(s). Students will have completed the required courses with a B average or higher, and have obtained the approval of their graduate advisor before registering for the thesis hours. **Prereqs:** Completion of all required courses with a GPA of 3.5 or higher and consent of advisor

LING 5903 Thesis Seminar, 3 credit hours

Guidance of students conducting research and writing a thesis to fulfill the requirements for the Master of Arts degree in Linguistics. This course requires approval of the instructor, Department Chair and the appropriate College Dean(s). Students will have completed the required courses with a B average or higher, and have obtained the approval of their graduate advisor before registering for the thesis hours. **Prereqs:** Completion of all required courses with a GPA of 3.5 or higher and consent of advisor

FACULTY

Dr. Shahrzad Mahootian, Program Coordinator, Graduate Advisor Professor

Ph.D. Northwestern University

Areas of expertise and interest: Language Contact and Identity, Bilingualism, Codeswitching, Languages and Cultures of Iran, Psycholinguistics, First Language Acquisition, Syntax-Pragmatics Interface, Forensic Linguistics.

Office: LWH-2028, Phone: 773-442-5875, S-Mahootian@neiu.edu

Dr. Richard Hallett, Undergraduate Advisor Professor

Ph.D. University of South Carolina

Areas of expertise and interest: Second Language Acquisition, English as a Second Language, Sociolinguistics, World Englishes, Language and Tourism.

Office: LWH-2030, Phone: 773-442-5879, R-Hallett@neiu.edu

Dr. Judith Kaplan-Weinger, Graduate Advisor Professor

Ph.D. Georgetown University

Areas of expertise and interest: Sociolinguistics, Discourse Analysis, Narrative Analysis, Identity Studies, Anthropological Linguistics, Theories, Techniques & Assessment of TESL, Language and Tourism.

Office: LWH-2029, Phone: 773-442-5877, J-Kaplan1@neiu.edu

Dr. Lewis Gebhardt Assistant Professor

Ph.D. Northwestern University

Areas of expertise and interest: DP Syntax and Semantics, Syntax/Semantics Interface, Quantification, Reference, Theory of Grammar, Typology, Persian, Origin of Language, Morphology, Phonology, Historical Linguistics.

Office: LWH 2018, Phone: 773-442-5835, l-gebhardt@neiu.edu

Main Linguistics Office

Lech Walesa Hall, room 2027

3601 Bryn Mawr Ave.

Chicago, Illinois

Phone: 773-442-5871

neiu.edu/linguistics

Facebook: NEIULinguist

Twitter: NEIULinguist