

VII. Department of Linguistics

Assistant Professor Leitch, Chair

Assistant Professor Arsenault

Linguistics, the study of human language, is a young and vibrant discipline. On the theoretical side, understanding how language is structured and functions is part of the cognitive sciences. After all, language is hosted in the human brain and nowhere else. Linguists work between actual sounds on the one end and meaning on the other end, because it is known that language, at the very least, involves sounds that convey meaning.

Phonetics is the study of the anatomy, physiology, and physics of speech sounds; how the human vocal apparatus produces the sounds that make language possible. *Phonology* is the study of how these sounds are organized cognitively by the brain into a functioning system of consonants, vowels, tone, intonation, etc., for each language. In *Morphology*, students learn how these basic sounds are then combined to form morphemes and words. In *Syntax*, the world's languages are studied, languages that not only have different words, but very different systems of arranging words into sentences.

Beyond the differences, however, there are aspects of syntax that are common to all human languages. A major theme in modern linguistics is discovering the characteristics of this universal grammar (UG) that all humans are argued to share. While these core subject areas of phonetics, phonology, morphology, and syntax are a necessary base, linguists are also interested in psychological aspects of language use (Psycholinguistics), how language functions in society (Sociolinguistics), how language functions are distributed in the brain (Neurolinguistics), etc.

At Tyndale, the curriculum focuses on core questions of language structure, mainly from the “generative” perspective, but not uniquely. Beyond structural aspects of language, in keeping with the liberal arts tradition, the Linguistic program seeks to relate “hard” empirical science to classical concerns in the humanities about language use and meaning in Literature, Philosophy, and Theology. Linguistics is therefore of interest to future teachers, speech pathologists, psychologists, and those planning to work with unwritten or little-studied languages, or learn new languages. This training can form the basis for graduate work in academic linguistics or for a variety of vocations where knowledge of language is used and applied. Linguistics makes a wonderful dialogue partner for the companion disciplines of English Literature, Philosophy, Psychology, and Biblical Studies.

BA LINGUISTICS MAJOR (36 credit hours)

LING	101	(3)	Introduction to Linguistics I (also counts in core)
LING	102	(3)	Introduction to Linguistics II (also counts in core)
LING	201	(3)	Phonetics
LING	202	(3)	Morphology
LING	203	(3)	Phonology I
LING	204	(3)	Syntax I
LING	2__	(3)	_____
LING	301	(3)	Language and Society
LING	3__	(3)	_____
LING	3__	(3)	_____
LING	3__	(3)	_____
LING	4__	(3)	_____

LINGUISTICS MINOR (24 credit hours)

LING	101	(3)	Introduction to Linguistics I
LING	102	(3)	Introduction to Linguistics II
LING	2__	(3)	Linguistics course
LING	2__	(3)	Linguistics course
LING	2__	(3)	Linguistics course
LING	2__	(3)	Linguistics course
LING	3__	(3)	Linguistics course
LING	3__	(3)	Linguistics course