Linguistics MA Course Booklet
Fall 2022

Welcome to the Fall semester in the Linguistics Program. This booklet is intended to give you general information about the field, to tell you who's who among the departmental faculty, to outline the requirements for the MA in linguistics, and to offer brief descriptions of the courses that will be offered during the upcoming semester. For general advising or questions concerning the graduate linguistics program contact

Dr. Natalia Mazzaro, 747-7040, nmazzaro@utep.edu

Also, feel free to contact any of the other linguistics faculty members during their office hours for questions concerning courses that they teach or research interests in which they specialize.

Why Study Linguistics?

At the heart of linguistics is the study of the structure of human language. Some of the questions which linguists deal with are these:

•How does a child learn a language?

•What are the ties between language and culture?

•How do you effectively teach someone a language?

•How does a person learn more than one language? Is it a bad thing or a good thing?

•Why do languages diverge into dialects?

•How do you study the regional and social dialects of a language?

•How do languages change over time?

•How can you reconstruct earlier forms of human languages, and what do these reconstructions reveal about the history and cultures of those peoples?

•How would you write the dictionary and grammar to describe a newly-discovered language?

•What are languages in the animal world like, and how do they compare to human language?

•Can animals learn a human language?

•How are the psychological 'grammars' which are the foundations of all human languages constructed? What are their rules and how do they work to produce language?

•Why is it that some languages put verbs at the beginning of sentences, others put them in the middle, and yet others put them at the end?

•Are there universal characteristics which all human languages share?

•How does brain injury affect speech?

•How do you make a computer speak a human language?

As you can see, linguistics touches on the concerns of many other fields, including anthropology, computer science, education, English, foreign language, history, psychology, sociology, Spanish, speech pathology, and translation. However, the scientific study of human language is also of great interest in its own right. It comprises one of the major components of the general area known as **Cognitive Science**.

Linguistics and UTEP

UTEP is one of only a limited number of universities in the USA to have both undergraduate and graduate linguistics degree programs. UTEP is even more unique in having an undergraduate student body which, being largely bilingual, brings to the study of linguistics a very sophisticated language background. (Such bilingualism is relatively rare in the USA.) UTEP students are especially well-suited to the study of linguistics and related areas. Also, UTEP is situated in the heart of the largest bi-national urban area in the world. Therefore, it provides a potential goldmine of possible research topics related to language, language learning, bilingualism, and the links between language and culture.

Advanced Training in Linguistics

Training in linguistics at the graduate level provides students with a good foundation in language analysis, critical/logical thinking, factual knowledge of languages and their workings, and important perspectives on other languages and cultures. Work at the graduate level also prepares students to do research in their chosen areas of interest. Just like other fields of study such as Psychology, English, Sociology, and Anthropology, Linguistics has also been recognized as excellent preparation for Law School, and for more advanced study in other fields (Macaulay, n.d.). Having the knowledge and depth of understanding of linguistics, which the MA gives you can strongly enhance your knowledge and depth of understanding of the complementary field of study, making you even more competitive in any job market or in you applications for advanced study. In addition, UTEP offers a TESOL certification that utilizes courses which also advance the student toward completion of the Linguistics MA.

Language Acquisition & Linguistics Research (LALR) Lab

(Main Lab-LART 220; Recording Lab-LART 119)

Main Lab Director: Dr. Natalia Mazzaro nmazzaro@utep.edu, 747-7040, LART 217

Recording Lab Director: Dr. Carla Contemori, ccontemori@utep.edu, 747-5934, LART 218

The UTEP Language Acquisition and Language Research (LALR) laboratory is a departmental resource for investigation of topics in a variety of subfields of linguistics: first, second and multilingual language acquisition, language variation, corpus linguistics, bilingual language use, and experimental work related to issues in theoretical linguistics. The Lab contains computer and other equipment such as audio/video recording, experimental software, copying/printing, as well as meeting and work space. The Lab also contains archives of research materials. The Lab objectives are to facilitate and support significant research and to train students in the practice of research.

Many projects are directed by a faculty member and include teams of graduate and undergraduate students. Students have opportunities to participate in research in the lab from beginning to end, including project creation (finding a problem, thinking about the relevant questions, hypothesis creation, development of testing materials), testing (recording and interviewing children and adults using different methodologies) and analysis (transcribing and analyzing the data, writing results and project papers). They are also encouraged to create and develop their own research and thesis projects with the help of lab directors and associated faculty. All faculty and students who use the Lab receive human subjects training and certification.

Who's who in Linguistics?

A current list of Linguistics Faculty members is available at:

https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/languages-and-linguistics/academic-programs/linguistics-program/faculty.html

For information and questions about graduate programs, please email Dr. Natalia Mazzaro at nmazzaro@utep.edu.

Graduate Curricula of the Linguistics Program

There are several alternatives for students interested in graduate study in Linguistics at UTEP. UTEP offers an MA in Linguistics, either in general linguistics or with concentrations in either Applied Linguistics (English or Spanish) or Hispanic Linguistics. Students may also obtain a Graduate Certificate in TESOL, either concurrently with the MA or independently. Students interested in continued research in Linguistics may pursue the PhD in Psychology with a concentration in Bilingualism, Language, and Cognition.

The Linguistics MA Program

Students pursuing an MA in Linguistics may choose a focus on General Linguistics or a concentration in Applied Linguistics or Hispanic Linguistics. General Linguistics concerns the core structural elements of language, namely Phonetics, Phonology, Morphology, Syntax, Semantics, and Pragmatics and includes a focus on experimental aspects of the core areas. In addition to these areas and their interfaces, faculty and students in this concentration also conduct research on language acquisition and sociolinguistics. Applied linguistics puts linguistic theories into practice in areas such as, First and Second Language Acquisition, Instructed Second Language Acquisition, Psychology or Sociology. The concentration in Hispanic Linguistics explore different aspects of the Spanish language such as Spanish Phonetics and Phonology, Syntax, Morphology, Sociolinguistics, Second Language Acquisition, and Psycholinguistics.

Given our location, there are ample opportunities here to deal with a variety of topics in either Applied or Hispanic linguistics. Whether or not one chooses a concentration, the thesis and project tracks represent a further opportunity to gain valuable research skills and experience in a special area or topic of interest.

In order to enter the Linguistics MA program, you must apply to the UTEP Graduate School. Both the Graduate Catalog and the admission forms are available on the UTEP web site. They will require, in addition to the application form and a fee, your complete transcripts and GRE general test scores. Also, the department requires a statement of purpose for your studies in linguistics to be included with your application materials to the Graduate School.

Some teaching assistantships in TESOL and Spanish are available. If you so desire, we will send you a TA-ship application, which should be returned directly to us in the department.

There is on-campus housing. Also, El Paso is a large city, with quite a variety of housing arrangements available, some in the vicinity of the university.

One further note: unless you have had some solid background in core linguistics, it is best to begin the program in the fall term, since that is when our core beginning graduate courses are offered. Depending on the type of background course work, students may be required to do some 'leveling' course work to ease their introduction into the field of study.

Admission Requirements for the Linguistics MA program:

The [University catalog](http://catalog.utep.edu/grad/college-of-liberal-arts/languages-linguistics/linguistics-ma/) provides a current description of admission requirements. It is available at

http://catalog.utep.edu/grad/college-of-liberal-arts/languages-linguistics/linguistics-ma/

MA in Linguistics

36 Hours Minimum

Thesis and Non-thesis tracks and hours

There are one thesis and two non-thesis tracks. Each student must pursue one of these tracks. The thesis track requires LING 5398 and LING 5399, in addition to the requirements of 9 core hours and 21 elective hours. The thesis will be presented in an open defense. One non-thesis track involves an extended paper/project, which will be presented in an open defense. This track requires LING 5397, in addition to the requirements of 9 core hours and 24 elective hours. The second non-thesis track involves extended course work, requiring 9 core hours and 27 elective hours. Under this track, there will be a final open oral and/or written examination in the chosen primary area of study. In more detail, the requirements for each degree track, including the concentration possibilities mentioned above, are as follows:

MA degree in Linguistics:

☐ Core Courses: 9 hours

_____LING 5301 Principles of Linguistic Analysis

_____LING 5309 Generative Syntax (LING 5301)

_____LING 5320 Phonology (LING 5301)

Additional requirements for the MA with no concentration:

-a thesis (LING 5398 and LING 5399), and
-21 additional hours of graduate linguistics courses

OR
-an extended paper/project (LING 5397), and
-24 additional hours of graduate linguistics courses

OR
-examination/open presentation of an area of interest beyond individual course work, and
-27 additional hours of graduate linguistic courses

Additional requirements for the MA concentration in Applied Linguistics:

LING 5348 Second Language Acquisition

PLUS
An advanced course in or relevant to AL (as agreed by student and graduate advisor)

AND EITHER
-a thesis in AL (LING 5398 and LING 5399), and
-15 additional hours of graduate linguistics courses

OR
-an extended paper/project in AL (LING 5397), and
-18 additional hours of graduate linguistics courses.

Additional requirements for the MA concentration in Hispanic Linguistics:

LING 5348 Second Language Acquisition

PLUS
An advanced course in or relevant to HispLx (as agreed by student and graduate advisor)

AND EITHER
-a thesis in HspLX (LING 5398 and LING 5399), and
-15 additional hours of graduate linguistics courses

OR
-an extended paper/project in HspLx (LING 5397), and
-18 additional hours of graduate linguistics courses.

Graduate Certificate in TESOL

UTEP Linguistics offers a Certificate in **Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL).** This valuable credential can be earned by completing four graduate courses. The requirements for the UTEP TESOL Certificate are as follows:

Ling 5301
Ling 5308
Ling 5310

Plus one of the following:

Ling 5331
Ling 5348
Ling 5374
Ling 5388

The PhD in Psychology with a Concentration in Bilingualism, Language, and Cognition

In addition to the MA in Linguistics, students interested in continued research in Linguistics may pursue the PhD in Psychology with a concentration in Bilingualism, Language, and Cognition.

Breadth requirements for this concentration may be fulfilled by the following Linguistics graduate courses:

LING 5301   Principles of Linguistic Analysis
LING 5309   Generative Syntax
         or LING 3302 Syntax
LING 5320   Phonology
         or LING 3301 Phonology
         or LING 3307 English Phonetics and Phonology
         or LING 3311 Spanish Phonetics and Phonology
LING 5348 Second Language Acquisition
LING 5370 First Language Acquisition
LING 5388 Bilingualism
Note: Selecting undergraduate course options above requires registration for graduate credit with agreement to complete extra graduate-level course requirements

Elective requirements for this concentration may be fulfilled by the following Linguistics graduate courses:

LING 5370 Study in Language (Special Topics Course, Topics Vary)
LING 5373 Linguistic Variation
LING 5374 Language Testing

Please refer to the [UTEP Graduate Catalog under Psychology](#) for more detailed information about this program. As with the Linguistics MA program, you must apply to the UTEP Graduate School. Both the Graduate Catalog and the admission forms are available on the UTEP web site. Depending on the type of background course work, students may be required to do some 'leveling' course work, including PSYC 1303, PSYC 3201-3101, LING 3301, and LING 3302. One further note: it is best to begin the program in the fall term, since that is when our core beginning graduate courses are offered.

Those with interest in this program should contact

Prof. Wendy Francis, (915) 747-8956, wfrancis@utep.edu

Dr. Ana Schwartz, (915) 747-7365, aischwartz@utep.edu

Fast Track MA in Linguistics

The 'Fast Track' MA (FTMA) is a program which allows you to utilize 15 hours of selected MA courses toward both the undergraduate Linguistics major and the MA in Linguistics. Students must meet the following criteria to be considered for selection into the FTMA program:

•90 undergraduate hours completed with a 3.3 GPA;

•The core Linguistics BA courses, including LING 2320, LING 3301, LING 3302, and LING 4316 completed; and

•A 3.5 GPA in the undergraduate major overall.

•Three letters of recommendation

The courses which may be used for the 15 hours of dual credit include

LING 5309-Generative Syntax
LING 5310-Pedagogical Issues in English Structure LING 5319-Historical English Linguistics
LING 5320-Phonology
LING 5348-Second Language Acquisition LING 5388-Bilingualism

The admission procedure is as follows:

·Students will apply through Embark

·Approval of FT enrollment will be verified and processed with the submission of the approved FT form.

·Additional admission materials will be required at the time the student transitions from the UG to the Graduate program.

For questions or further information, contact the Graduate Advisor, Prof Natalia Mazzaro (nmazzaro@utep.edu).

General Timelines and Guidelines for All Linguistics Graduate Students

Semester of graduation: Submit DEGREE APPLICATION FORM for graduation to the Grad School before deadline published by the Graduate School.

The following are Program-specific regulations that supplement existing UTEP Graduate School policies:

For MA Students who intend to present a Thesis:

Semester 1-2: Establish (with the Graduate Advisor) a CONCENTRATION and a PRELIMINARY COURSE OF STUDY and submit it to the graduate school.

Semesters 1-2: Complete the core courses (LING 5301, 5309, and 5320).

Semester 2: Select a thesis topic and secure a three-member advisory committee to include a supervisor, an additional member of the Linguistics graduate faculty, and a member from outside the Linguistics faculty. (Refer to "Tracks for Completing the Masters Degree in Linguistics" for further details.)

Semester 3: Continue coursework; enroll in 5398 and develop the proposal and initial work on the thesis.

Semester 4: Enroll in 5399 and complete the thesis. Repeat 5399 as necessary until the thesis is deemed defensible by the supervisor and the advisory committee.

Defend thesis not less than 15 days before the thesis submission deadline as published by [the Graduate School](#).

For MA Students who intend to present an Extended Paper/Project:

Semester 1-2: Establish (with the Graduate Advisor) a CONCENTRATION and a PRELIMINARY COURSE OF STUDY and submit it to the graduate school.

Semesters 1-2: Complete the core courses (LING 5301, 5309, and 5320).

Semester 3: Continue Coursework. Early in Semester 3: Select the paper topic, secure a supervisor and a second reader, and submit a proposal. (Refer to "Tracks for Completing the Masters Degree in Linguistics" below for further details.)

Semester 4: Enroll in 5397 and complete the project in one semester under the guidance of the supervisor.

Defend the Extended Paper not less than 15 days before the degree filing deadline as published by the Graduate School.

For MA Students who intend to write the final examination

Master's examinations are administered by one member of the Graduate Faculty chosen by the student. The examination is held during the semester of the student's final enrollment in course work. The date and time are scheduled by the Graduate Faculty after consultation with the student.

The topic of the examination is chosen by the student in consultation with the Graduate Faculty, who provides the student with readings on the topic at least two weeks before the scheduled examination. The purpose of the readings is to make a final review of the topic in preparation for the examination.

On the day of the examination, the Graduate Faculty gives three essay-questions to the student. The student chooses two of the three questions and completes them in the time scheduled. The student is not allowed to consult reference material during the examination (books, internet, notes etc.).

Two faculty members evaluate the examination. Grading of the examination only includes a passed and a non-passed option. In case of disagreement between the two Graduate Faculty, a third Graduate Faculty may be invited for an additional independent evaluation.

Semester 1-2: Establish (with the Graduate Advisor) a PRELIMINARY COURSE OF STUDY and submit it to the graduate school.

Semesters 1-2: Complete the core courses (LING 5301, 5309, and 5320). Semester 3: Continue coursework.

Semester 3: Select a topic and secure a committee consisting of supervisor and second member who will oversee the examination. (refer to "Tracks for Completing the Masters Degree in Linguistics" below for further details.)

Semester 4: Continue coursework.

Semester 4: Undergo examination not less than 15 days before the degree filing deadline as published by the Graduate School.

Part-time students should fulfill requirements as follows:

Semester 1 requirements should be fulfilled within the first 9 credit hours Semester 1-2 requirements should be fulfilled within the first 18 credit hours
Semester 3 requirements should be fulfilled within the third 9 credit hours (hrs 18-27)

Semester 4 requirements should be fulfilled within the final 9 credit hours (hrs 28-36) or last semester, as appropriate.

Tracks for completing the Masters degree in Linguistics.

Upon completing 18 credit hours, students will pursue completion of the Masters Program in Linguistics under one of the following three tracks, as approved by the Linguistics Faculty/Graduate Advisor.

A.   Thesis (LING 5398, LING 5399)

B.   Paper/Project (LING 5397)

C.   Examination (by permission/decision of the Graduate Advisor)

Track A: Before beginning semester 3 (on the full-time student calendar), and before enrolling in LING 5398, the student will present a two-page thesis proposal to her/his supervising committee. If the proposal is approved, the student may continue with the thesis track. If the proposal is not approved, the student must complete the MA degree under track B or C.

Tracks B & C: There are two possibilities for the work the student will complete for credit in LING 5397 (track B):
1)   Revision and development of a paper the student wrote for a previous course--The instructor of record for LING 5397 will be normally be the instructor who taught the course in which the original paper was written
2)   Linking LING 5397 to a course (previous or concurrent) for which the student has not yet written a paper--The student will decide a topic for a paper or project report with the instructor of the course. The instructor of record for the LING 5397 will be the instructor of record of the previous or concurrent linked course.
The outcome of LING 5397 should be a paper/project report and a presentation at the end of the semester. The paper/project and presentation will be graded by a committee that will consist of the Professor teaching the course that the project or paper is linked to and the one additional committee member. If it is decided by the committee that the student has not made sufficient progress toward completion of the paper/project at the end of the semester, the professor will assign the student a grade of P and the student will be asked to take an examination (track C).

Graduate Courses for Summer 2022

LING 5319 English Historical Linguistics

The course examines how language changes over time, in terms of phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax and also its interaction with the social environment. With a focus on English, we will examine changes over time as well as the emergence of different varieties of English around the world. This course will also include a discussion of more recent changes in English (spoken and written) due to influences from the internet and social media on language use.
By the end of the course, students will be able to identify and understand the ways in which languages change over time, including phonological, morphological, and syntactic processes. They will be able to recognize characteristics of Old, Middle and Modern English (including World Englishes). They will also be able to describe more recent changes in English and contextualize the emergence of contact varieties of English.

Graduate Courses for Fall 2022

LING 5301 Principles of Linguistic Analysis

Two fundamental questions for a linguistic theory are these: (i) How are the grammars of human languages constructed/composed, and (ii) how do children

learn/acquire the grammar of a human language? A related question is this: How do linguists investigate human language grammars so as to be able to begin to answer the first two questions? This course deals with fundamental aspects of the linguistic analysis of human language grammars in the areas of phonetics/phonology, morphology, and syntax. The course is aimed at teaching students (i) basic features of the linguistic hypotheses and theories of the aforementioned areas, (ii) how to operate such hypotheses/theories so as to be able to assess their empirical value, and (iii) argumentation in the realm of linguistics--the essence of hypothesis formation and testing. Work for the course includes exercises in linguistics analysis, a mid-term exam, and a final exam.

LING 5310 Pedagogical Issues in English Structure

This course provides an overview of English grammar with a focus on how it can be presented in language classrooms and incorporated into teaching materials and lessons. Grammar topics include word order and phrase structure rules, the tense-aspect-modality system, negation, question formation, relative clauses, and other key features of the grammatical system in English. We examine the nature of interlanguage grammar development, error identification, and the role of error correction in ESL. We explore the efficacy of both explicit and implicit grammar instruction, we focus on the development of lesson plans, activities, and materials for grammar instruction, and we consider the role of technology for teaching English grammar.

LING 5370 Study in Language: Language Acquisition & Linguistics Research Lab

In this course students will be introduced to the fundamentals of research design and the basic statistical analyses commonly used in social science research. Students will obtain hands-on experience in conducting research on Second Language Acquisition (SLA) and Instructed Second Language Acquisition (ISLA) from a linguistic perspective as they collaborate on one or more research projects. Activities in this course may include project creation (finding a problem, thinking about the relevant questions, hypothesis creation), data collection (development and implementation of research protocols), data analysis (transcribing, coding, and analyzing data) and finally, writing a research paper. Specific course activities will be tailored to the needs of individual students.

LING 5374 Language Testing

This course provides an overview of approaches, methods, and techniques to assess second language proficiency. Topics include the relationship between learning, teaching, and testing; traditional and alternative testing procedures; types of language tests (e.g., standardized, placement, achievement, non-referenced, criterion-referenced); and criteria for designing, implementing, and evaluating language tests. In addition, the social, educational, and political dimensions of second/foreign language testing and assessment are explored and discussed. The overall aim is to help language instructors develop (a) an understanding of the role of testing and assessment in second/foreign language classroom, (b) the ability to critically evaluate tests and testing procedures, and (c) basic knowledge necessary to design tests for specific language objectives and proficiency levels.

LING 5388 Bilingualism   -Staff

This course surveys a range of important issues with regard to bilingualism. Bilingualism is a complex phenomenon and individual bilinguals present widely varying cases as do bilingual societies. The characterization and discussion of individual and societal bilingualism will constitute an important aspect of the course. Two important extensions of the discussion will be a) bilingualism as a special source of linguistic data and b) the implications of bilingualism for educational theory and practice. The activities of the course will include:

• The construction of individual linguistic profiles of class participants and use of this work to concretely examine cognitive, linguistic, social, and educational implications of the linguistic circumstances of individuals.
• Examination of the characteristics of El Paso as a bilingual community with comparative reference to other communities.
• Preliminary study of an oral or written text that has significance for the understanding of the nature of bilingualism as a linguistic phenomenon.
The in-class discussions will be extended through activities that are facilitated by a course Blackboard site, which will support student participation in an active community of exploration and learning

LING 5397 Extended Research Project   -Staff

This course is for students finishing their extended research projects leading to the MA in Linguistics.

LING 5398 Thesis   -Staff

This course is for students starting a masters thesis leading to the MA in Linguistics.

LING 5399 Thesis   -Staff

This course is for students finishing a masters thesis leading to the MA in Linguistics.

Undergraduate Course List:

LING 2320 Introduction to Linguistics
LING 2322 Building Vocabulary Skills in English
LING 3301 Phonological Analysis
LING 3302 Syntactic Analysis
LING 3307 English Phonetics & Phonology
LING 3308 Methods of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
LING 3309 The Structure of Spanish
LING 3311 Spanish Phonetics & Phonology
LING 3312 Pedagogical Issues in Spanish
LING 3313 English Historical Linguistics
LING 3314 The Structure of English for Language Professionals
LING 3315 History of the Spanish Language
LING 3357 Sociolinguistics LING 4306 Language Acquisition
LING/PSYCH 4316 Language & Cognition
LING 4348 Analysis of Second Language Acquisition
LING 4371 Studies in Linguistics (may be repeated when topic varies)

The [University catalog](#) provides a complete description of Linguistics courses. It is available at

http://catalog.utep.edu/undergrad/course-descriptions/ling/