The Rice Linguistics Department is the home of an active community of scholars with a wide range of interests. Broadly defined, the department adopts a functional, usage-based approach to language and linguistic theory. A number of recurrent themes emerge in faculty research and the degree programs offered: in-depth investigation of languages, coupled with the search for cross-linguistic generalization; the effects of semantics, language-in-use, sociocultural factors, and other functional influences that motivate and constrain linguistic form; grounding of theories in solid empirical data of many sorts; an interest in the relation between language and mind; and interest in discourse and social/communicative interaction more generally. These interests lead to intensive research activity in empirically well-supported theoretical and descriptive linguistics:

- cognitive/functional linguistics
- typology and language universals
- field studies in American Indian, Australian, Austronesian, African, and other languages
- sociolinguistics
- discourse studies
- phonetics and speech processing
- laboratory phonology
- language change and grammaticization

### Bachelor's Program

- Bachelor of Arts (BA) Degree with a Major in Linguistics [Link](https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/social-sciences/linguistics/linguistics-ba/)

Linguistics does not currently offer an academic program at the graduate level.

### Chair

Robert Englebretson

### Professor

Michel Achard

### Associate Professors

Robert Englebretson
Suzanne E. Kemmer
Nancy A. Niedzielski

### Professors Emeriti

James E. Copeland
Philip W. Davis
Sydney M. Lamb
Masayoshi Shibatani

### Lecturers

Jonathan Mankar
Bryce McCleary

For Rice University degree-granting programs:

To view the list of official course offerings, please see Rice’s Course Catalog [Link](https://courses.rice.edu/admweb/!SWKSCAT.cat?p_action=cata)

To view the most recent semester’s course schedule, please see Rice’s Course Schedule [Link](https://courses.rice.edu/admweb/!SWKSCAT.cat)

## Linguistics (LING)

**LING 200 - INTRODUCTION TO THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF LANGUAGE**

**Short Title:** INTRO TO STUDY OF LANGUAGE  
**Department:** Linguistics  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Lecture  
**Distribution Group:** Distribution Group II  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Lower-Level  
**Description:** Overview of the scientific study of the structure and function of language. Introduces the main fields of linguistics: phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, discourse, historical linguistics, sociolinguistics, and psycholinguistics. Highlights the interdisciplinary relationship of linguistics with anthropology, sociology, psychology, and cognitive sciences. Cross-list: ANTH 200.

**LING 205 - LANGUAGE AND SOCIETY**

**Short Title:** LANGUAGE AND SOCIETY  
**Department:** Linguistics  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Lecture  
**Distribution Group:** Distribution Group II  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Lower-Level  
**Description:** This course treats language as a social phenomenon to show how language, personal identity and institutions of social control inter-relate. The course focuses on linguistic interaction in daily life and how gender, ethnic, class, activity, and geographic variation affect language use. Cross-list: SWGS 205.
LING 216 - WORDS IN ENGLISH  
**Short Title:** WORDS IN ENGLISH  
**Department:** Linguistics  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Lecture  
**Distribution Group:** Distribution Group II  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Lower-Level  
**Description:** Introduction to the systematic study of English words. Topics include word formation, origins and history of English, etymology, new words, slang and jargon. Students will investigate words using online lexical tools and collect and describe neologisms. Understanding of word formation helps increase mastery of English vocabulary for GRE and other tests. No linguistics background required. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for LING 216 if student has credit for ENGL 215/LING 215.

LING 238 - SPECIAL TOPICS  
**Short Title:** SPECIAL TOPICS  
**Department:** Linguistics  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Internship/Practicum, Laboratory, Lecture, Seminar, Independent Study  
**Credit Hours:** 1-4  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Lower-Level  
**Description:** Topics and credit hours may vary each semester. Contact department for current semester's topic(s). Repeatable for Credit.

LING 300 - LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS  
**Short Title:** LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS  
**Department:** Linguistics  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Lecture  
**Distribution Group:** Distribution Group II  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Prerequisite(s):** (LING 200 or ANTH 200) and (ANTH 301 or LING 301)  
**Description:** A hands-on, data-oriented approach to how different languages construct words and sentences. Students will develop skills in linguistic problem solving and the foundations for pursuing grammatical description. Topics: word classes, morphology, tense-aspect-modality, clause structure, word order, grammatical relations, existentials/possessives/locatives, voice/valence, questions, negation, relative clauses, complements, causatives. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for LING 300 if student has credit for LING 500.

LING 301 - PHONETICS  
**Short Title:** PHONETICS  
**Department:** Linguistics  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Lecture  
**Distribution Group:** Distribution Group II  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Prerequisite(s):** LING 200 or ANTH 200  
**Description:** Introductory study of sound as it relates to speech and sound systems in the world's languages. Speech sounds are examined in terms of production mechanisms (articulatory phonetics), propagation mechanisms (acoustic phonetics), and perception mechanisms (auditory phonetics). Includes a basic introduction to Digital Signal Processing. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for LING 301 if student has credit for LING 501.

LING 303 - LANGUAGE AND GENDER  
**Short Title:** LANGUAGE AND GENDER  
**Department:** Linguistics  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Lecture  
**Distribution Group:** Distribution Group II  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Description:** This course examines the theoretical, cultural, and social grounding of gender and language use. We use analytical tools from linguistics, cognitive science, cultural anthropology, psychology and biology. Emphasis is placed on the historical role of gender in such research, and the debates that result as perspectives shift.

LING 305 - HISTORICAL LINGUISTICS  
**Short Title:** HISTORICAL LINGUISTICS  
**Department:** Linguistics  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Lecture  
**Distribution Group:** Distribution Group II  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Prerequisite(s):** (LING 200 or ANTH 200) and (ANTH 301 or LING 301)  
**Description:** Exploration of the nature of language change. Topics covered include sound change, syntactic and semantic change, modeling language splits, the sociolinguistics of language change, and the history of European languages. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for LING 305 if student has credit for LING 505.
LING 306 - LANGUAGE, THOUGHT, AND MIND
Short Title: LANGUAGE, THOUGHT, AND MIND
Department: Linguistics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group II
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Prerequisite(s): LING 200 or ANTH 200
Description: Study of language as a cognitive system. Linguistic data as evidence for the cognitive structures and processes that enable people to learn and use language; how linguistic structure influences concept formation and patterns of thinking. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for LING 306 if student has credit for LING 506.

LING 309 - PSYCHOLOGY OF LANGUAGE
Short Title: PSYCHOLOGY OF LANGUAGE
Department: Linguistics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group II
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Prerequisite(s): PSYC 203
Description: Study of human and other animal communication. Includes the structure of human language, word meaning and semantic memory, psychological studies of syntax, bilingualism, language and thought, and language errors and disorders. Cross-list: PSYC 309.

LING 315 - INTRODUCTION TO SEMANTICS
Short Title: INTRODUCTION TO SEMANTICS
Department: Linguistics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group II
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Prerequisite(s): LING 200 or ANTH 200
Description: Introduction to basic approaches to the study of meaning in linguistics and related fields. Includes the cognitive representation of meaning, lexical categorization, conceptual structures, metaphor/metonymy, meaning change, pragmatic inference, and the relation of language and mind. Cross-list: PSYC 315. Recommended Prerequisite(s): LING 200 or ANTH 200. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for LING 315 if student has credit for LING 515.

LING 320 - ORIGINS AND EVOLUTION OF HUMAN LANGUAGE
Short Title: ORIGIN&EVOLUTION OF HUMAN LANG
Department: Linguistics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Prerequisite(s): LING 200 or ANTH 200
Description: How did Human Language arise, and what role did language play in the evolution of our species? This course introduces the basic sources of evidence (e.g., fossil remains, comparative primatology, neonatal development) for knowledge of human linguistic prehistory, including the spread of modern humans and human language throughout the world.

LING 321 - LANGUAGE AND LAW
Short Title: LANGUAGE AND LAW
Department: Linguistics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group II
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Prerequisite(s): ANTH 200 or LING 200
Description: This course investigates how language defines, manages, and determines the outcomes of all aspects of the legal arena. Emphasis is placed on forensic linguistics, linguistic variability and its impact on the legal arena, language policy, and legal language.

LING 322 - LANGUAGE AND ETHNICITY
Short Title: LANGUAGE AND ETHNICITY
Department: Linguistics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group II
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Prerequisite(s): LING 205 or SWGS 205 or ANTH 200 or LING 200
Description: This course explores the role that ethnicity plays in various language varieties used in the U.S., and the role that language varieties play in ethnic identity. We examine this from both speech production and speech perception perspectives.
LING 325 - LANGUAGE ACQUISITION
Short Title: LANGUAGE ACQUISITION
Department: Linguistics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Prerequisite(s): PSYC 202 or PSYC 203
Description: The aim of this course is to explore language development closely through a variety of theories and research findings. Students will become familiar with different theories concerning language development, and develop an understanding of relevant issues, theoretical positions and relevant methodologies in language development using critical thinking skills. Cross-list: PSYC 325.

LING 336 - INTRO TO INDO-EUROPEAN
Short Title: INTRO TO INDO-EUROPEAN
Department: Linguistics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This course will begin with a brief survey of the Indo-European languages, followed by a detailed reconstruction of Proto-Indo-European phonology, morphology, and syntax. The second half of the course will deal with Indo-European culture, laws, society and poetics, together with a consideration of advanced topics in the individual branches. Cross-list: CLAS 336.

LING 393 - STRUCTURE OF ENGLISH
Short Title: STRUCTURE OF ENGLISH
Department: Linguistics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: An introduction to the structure of English and its nature as a cognitive and communicative system. Through critical examinations of traditional and modern theories of grammar as well as various methodologies for analyzing English data, students learn to discover and test generalizations underlying linguistic structure and its social function.

LING 397 - SPEECH AND HEARING SCIENCE
Short Title: SPEECH AND HEARING SCIENCE
Department: Linguistics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Prerequisite(s): (LING 200 or ANTH 200) and (ANTH 301 or LING 301)
Description: This course will describe the basics of speech and hearing science, including but not limited to: anatomy and physiology of speech and hearing mechanisms, neural pathways involved in speech and hearing, speech pathology and audiology, types of speech and hearing disorders, their causes, and types of therapies available for the remediation of these disorders. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for LING 397 if student has credit for LING 212.

LING 400 - LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS II
Short Title: LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS II
Department: Linguistics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Prerequisite(s): LING 300 or ANTH 300
Description: Analysis of language beyond the clausal level. Grammatical and semantic analyses using corpora and concordance queries. Recording, transcription, and analysis of natural spoken discourse. The intricate relation between meaning, grammar, and discourse (i.e. the 'usage-based model'). The socially contextualized nature of language. The complex relationship between discourse and ideology.

LING 401 - ANALYSIS OF SOUND PATTERNS
Short Title: ANALYSIS OF SOUND PATTERNS
Department: Linguistics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Prerequisite(s): ANTH 301 or LING 301
Description: Introduction to various theories of phonological knowledge. Course involves extensive work in the collection and analysis of empirical data, in both English and other languages, including corpora analysis, and acoustic and experimental analysis. Attention is paid to the way phonetic data informs phonological theory.
LING 409 - SPECIAL TOPICS  
Short Title: SPECIAL TOPICS  
Department: Linguistics  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Lecture  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level  
Prerequisite(s): LING 200 or ANTH 200  
Description: Special Topics in linguistics. Please contact the department for details on offered topics. SPRING 2020 TOPIC: RESEARCH ON BRAILLE. This semester's Special Topics course introduces students to the linguistic, cognitive, and social aspects of braille. Students will gain a basic understanding and appreciation of braille, its relevance to the reading sciences (and vice versa) and thorough grounding in the research literature. Students will also have a chance to help design experiments and studies for future research. Repeatable for Credit.

LING 411 - NEUROLINGUISTICS  
Short Title: NEUROLINGUISTICS  
Department: Linguistics  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Lecture  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level  
Prerequisite(s): LING 200 or ANTH 200  
Description: Study of language and the brain. Includes localization of speech, language, and memory functions, hemispheric dominance, pathologies of speech and language associated with brain damage, and hypotheses of the representation and operation of linguistic information in the cortex. Cross-list: NEUR 411.

LING 415 - SOCIOLINGUISTICS  
Short Title: SOCIOLINGUISTICS  
Department: Linguistics  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Lecture  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level  
Prerequisite(s): LING 301 or ANTH 301 or LING 311 or ANTH 323 or LING 501 or ANTH 501 or LING 511 or ANTH 523  
Description: This course covers contemporary sociolinguistic theory and methodologies. We examine the linguistic consequences to speakers of their group memberships such as gender, race, class and sexuality. Cross-list: SWGS 415.

LING 416 - LANGUAGE UNIVERSALS AND TYPOLOGY  
Short Title: LANGUAGE UNIVERSALS & TYPOLOGY  
Department: Linguistics  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Lecture  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level  
Prerequisite(s): LING 300 or ANTH 300 or LING 500 or ANTH 500  
Description: Investigation of what human languages have in common and a range of ways in which they can differ. Includes marking patterns in particular linguistic domains (e.g., case marking, animacy, and passives) and theoretical and methodological issues.

LING 419 - MULTILINGUALISM  
Short Title: MULTILINGUALISM  
Department: Linguistics  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Lecture  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level  
Prerequisite(s): LING 200 or ANTH 200  
Description: This course analyzes multilingualism from a variety of perspectives including cognitive linguistic and socio-cultural viewpoints. Topics to be covered include neural activation, conceptual representations of the lexicon, lexical, phonological, syntactic and pragmatic interference, code switching, cultural identity, etc.

LING 430 - COMPUTATIONAL LINGUISTICS  
Short Title: COMPUTATIONAL LINGUISTICS  
Department: Linguistics  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Lecture  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level  
Prerequisite(s): ANTH 200 or LING 200  
Description: This course offers a hands-on introduction to Computational Linguistics and Natural Language Processing, an interdisciplinary field that uses computers to analyze, model, or produce human language. We will learn to process, search, and analyze texts, including tokenization, using regular expressions, and assessing the sentiment and topic of documents. We will study computational methods for processing the structure and compositional semantics of speech, such as part-of-speech tagging, syntactic parsing, information extraction, and understanding meaning. We will also cover more advanced applied topics such as dialogue engineering, machine translation, and automatic speech recognition. While the course does not require a formal background in programming, some familiarity with Python may be helpful.
LING 477 - SPECIAL TOPICS
Short Title: SPECIAL TOPICS
Department: Linguistics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Internship/Practicum, Seminar, Lecture, Laboratory
Credit Hours: 1-4
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Topics and credit hours may vary each semester. Contact department for current semester’s topic(s). Repeatable for Credit.

Description and Code Legend
Note: Internally, the university uses the following descriptions, codes, and abbreviations for this academic program. The following is a quick reference:

Course Catalog/Schedule
• Course offerings/subject code: LING

Department Description and Code
• Linguistics: LING

Undergraduate Degree Description and Code
• Bachelor of Arts degree: BA

Undergraduate Major Description and Code
• Major in Linguistics: LING

CIP Code and Description
1
• LING Major/Program: CIP Code/Title: 16.0102 - Linguistics

1 Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) 2020 Codes and Descriptions from the National Center for Education Statistics: https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/

LING 480 - INDEPENDENT STUDY
Short Title: INDEPENDENT STUDY
Department: Linguistics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Independent Study
Credit Hours: 1-6
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Repeatable for Credit.

LING 481 - UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH
Short Title: UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH
Department: Linguistics
Grade Mode: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory
Course Type: Research
Credit Hours: 1-6
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Repeatable for Credit.

LING 482 - HONORS PROJECT
Short Title: HONORS PROJECT
Department: Linguistics
Grade Mode: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory
Course Type: Research
Credit Hours: 1-4
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Independent directed research toward preparation of an undergraduate honors project or thesis. Instructor Permission Required. Repeatable for Credit.

LING 489 - RESEARCH SEMINAR
Short Title: RESEARCH SEMINAR
Department: Linguistics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Prerequisite(s): (LING 300 or ANTH 300) and (LING 301 or ANTH 301) and LING 400 and LING 401
Description: A topics research course with different issues investigated every semester, and it is repeatable for credit. The range of topics explored follows the research interests of the students and faculty. Repeatable for Credit.