# Linguistics Courses for Fall 2015

*Revised April 24, 2015*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAS LX 205**</td>
<td>The Origins of Writing</td>
<td>Nikolaev</td>
<td>MWF</td>
<td>11-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS LX 250**</td>
<td>Introduction to Linguistics</td>
<td>Barnes</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>2-3:30</td>
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*No prerequisites*

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>CAS LX 502**</td>
<td>Semantics 1</td>
<td>Alrenga</td>
<td>MWF</td>
<td>10-11</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAS LX 510**</td>
<td>Phonetics</td>
<td>Barnes</td>
<td>TR</td>
<td>9:30-11</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAS LX 522**</td>
<td>Syntax 1</td>
<td>Hagstrom</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAS LX 530</td>
<td>Variation in Dialects of English</td>
<td>Myler</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAS LX 532</td>
<td>Romance Linguistics</td>
<td>Myler</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAS LX 541</td>
<td>Phonological Development</td>
<td>Chang</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAS LX 542</td>
<td>Second Language Acquisition</td>
<td>Chang</td>
<td>MWF</td>
<td>3-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAS LS/LX 507</td>
<td>Sounds of Spanish          (taught in Spanish)</td>
<td>Erker</td>
<td>TR</td>
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*Prerequisite: CAS LX 250 Introduction to Linguistics*

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<tr>
<td>CAS LX 503</td>
<td>Semantics 2</td>
<td>Alrenga</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAS LX 523</td>
<td>Syntax 2</td>
<td>Hagstrom</td>
<td>M</td>
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*More advanced courses (prerequisite of a specific course beyond CAS LX 250)*

** Carries humanities divisional credit in CAS.
**For students without any background in linguistics:** No prerequisites

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**CAS LX 250  ** Introduction to Linguistics.*


Study of the fundamental properties that all languages share, and how languages differ with respect to structure (sound system, word formation, syntax), expression of meaning, acquisition, variation, and change; cultural and artistic uses of languages; comparison of oral, written, and signed languages.

Students should also sign up for one of the Friday discussion sections:

S1 9-10, S2 10-11, S3 11-12, S4 12-1, S5 1-2, S6 2-3, S7 11-12.

* CAS LX 250 is a prerequisite for all of the LX courses with higher numbers.

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**CAS LX 205  ** Origins of Writing.

A1. **Nikolaev.** MWF 11-12.

An overview of the major writing systems of the world: Egyptian and Mayan hieroglyphs, Sumerian and Akkadian cuneiform, West Semitic consonantal scripts (abjads), East Asian scripts, runes, and Greek and Roman alphabets. This course has a considerable linguistic component supplemented by historical information about ancient languages and cultures.

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**Core courses** (required for majors and minors - can be taken in any order)

**CAS LX 502  ** Semantics 1.


Semantics is the study of linguistic meaning. This course will examine meaning from a variety of perspectives, including: how it is encoded in words and sentences, how native speakers interpret language, and how truth and falsehood can emerge from the complexity of the grammar. We will also touch on various aspects of pragmatics -- the function of meaning in a communicative setting.

**Prereq:** CAS LX 250 or consent of instructor.

**CAS LX 510  ** Phonetics.

A1. **Barnes.** TR 9:30-11.

Introduction to phonetic and phonological theory at an elementary level. Transcription and production of sounds, International Phonetic Alphabet, the anatomy and physiology of speech, speech acoustics, phonological rules, analysis of data from a variety of languages.

**Prereq:** CAS LX 250 or consent of instructor.

**CAS LX 522  ** Syntax 1.

A1. **Hagstrom.** TR 3:30-5.

Introduction to the logical structure and organization of language, and to generative theory. Application of principles of syntactic analysis to students' own and other languages through data-oriented problem sets from different language types.

**Prereq:** CAS LX 250 or consent of instructor.
Linguistic analysis of specific languages

(Conducted in Spanish) This course introduces students to the linguistic analysis of speech, with a focus on Spanish. We examine the vowels and consonants of Spanish from the perspective of articulatory and acoustic phonetics. In addition, the course introduces core concepts in phonological analysis, surveying the phonemic inventory and phonological organization of Spanish. We also investigate a range of regional variation demonstrated by so-called ‘dialects’ of Spanish, with an emphasis on the historical and social significance of such variation in Spain, Latin America, and the United States. In summary, this course aims to examine the sounds of Spanish as physical, mental, and social phenomena.

PREREQ: One 300-level Spanish course & CAS LX 250 or consent of instructor.
[Also offered as CAS LS 507]

This course explores how dialects of English differ from each other, focusing on grammatical variation in the US, with occasional forays into British dialects. The class will examine grammatical diversity on a number of levels (including accents, dialectal vocabulary, and social factors in language variation), but the main focus will be on studying and accounting for morphosyntactic differences amongst varieties. Students come to appreciate how linguists investigate grammatical diversity scientifically, revealing the complex structure of non-standard dialects.

PREREQ: CAS LX 250 or consent of instructor.

This course covers sound and morphosyntactic change since Latin, plus various topics in the comparative grammar of modern Romance languages. In addition, there is a module introducing students to the grammatical systems of certain less-studied Romance languages. Students deepen their linguistic knowledge and analytic skills by applying what they have learned in other linguistics courses to this language family, and learn how data from Romance languages have contributed to our understanding of how language works in general.

PREREQ: CAS LX 250 & prior study of some Romance language at the 4th semester level or higher (e.g., CAS LF 212, CAS LI 212, CAS LS 212, CAS LP 212 or equivalent) or consent of instructor.
Other electives

The goal of this course is to examine the resources, mechanisms, and limitations underlying children's acquisition of phonology during the first years of life. Specific topics include the biological foundations of phonological acquisition; the developmental arcs of both speech perception and production; the relationship between phonological development and word learning; phonological universals as they apply to acquisition; and implicit and explicit learning mechanisms. The course considers different theoretical models of phonological development, as well as the range of variation observed among typically developing children.
PREREQ:  CAS LX 250 or consent of instructor.

The goal of this course is to provide an overview of findings from the interdisciplinary field of second language acquisition (SLA), especially as they relate to differences between adult and child learners and individual variation among adult learners. The course examines data from many different language pairs, diverse theoretical perspectives on second-language attainment, and a wide range of factors influencing acquisition: language-universal, demographic, experiential, cognitive, social/affective, and environmental. The course also considers the case of third language acquisition as well as pedagogical implications.
PREREQ:  CAS LX 250 or consent of instructor.

Courses with one prerequisite beyond LX 250

Introduction to the semantics of natural language at an intermediate level. Topics include (but are not limited to) predication and quantification, scope and anaphora, problems of discourse analysis, various issues at the interface of semantics and pragmatics, and crosslinguistic semantics.
PREREQ:  CAS LX 502 Semantics 1 or consent of instructor.

Investigation of syntactic commonalities and differences across languages. Scrutiny of evidence and argumentation from past and current analyses, focusing on construction of strong arguments. Topics include movement, passives, question formation, syntactic micro-structure, and interaction with semantics, pragmatics, and phonology.
PREREQ:  CAS LX 522 Syntax 1, or consent of instructor.

Note:  These listings are subject to change.  
For the most up-to-date information, please consult http://ling.bu.edu and the Student Link. 
Linguistics faculty members would be happy to provide further information about any of these courses.