

Joint major in

Linguistics & Philosophy

2017-18

The joint major in Linguistics and Philosophy, offered through the Linguistics Program, provides a solid foundation in both disciplines and allows students to explore theoretical issues and basic philosophical questions raised in connection with discussions of meaning, intention, and reference.

The academic program consists of 2 foundation courses (one each in Linguistics and Philosophy) plus 11 principal courses (at least 5 within each concentration).

Participating faculty

Linguistics

Carol Neidle, Professor and Director of the Linguistics Program

Jonathan Barnes, Associate Professor

Charles Chang, Assistant Professor

Elizabeth Coppock, Assistant Professor

Paul Hagstrom, Associate Professor

Neil Myler, Assistant Professor

Philosophy

Juliet Floyd, Professor and Philosophy coordinator

Judson Webb, Associate Professor

Course Requirements

1. Two foundation courses

Philosophy

One of the following, to be taken before higher-level Philosophy courses:

- CASPH 100 Introduction to Philosophy
- CASPH 110 Great Philosophers
- CASPH 160 Reasoning and Argumentation

Linguistics

To be taken before higher-level Linguistics courses:

- CAS LX 250 Introduction to Linguistics

2. Four additional Philosophy courses:

- CASPH 310 History of Modern Philosophy
- CASPH 360 Symbolic Logic
- CASPH 463 Philosophy of Language
- CASPH 422 Analytic Philosophy **or**
CASPH 443 Philosophy of Mind

3. Four additional Linguistics courses:

- CASLX 301 (or 510) Phonetics & Phonology: Introduction to Sound Systems
- CASLX 321 (or 522) Syntax: Introduction to Sentential Structure
- CASLX 331 (or 502) Semantics & Pragmatics: Introduction to Linguistic Meaning
- One additional course in formal syntax, semantics, or pragmatics, to be chosen from the following (or an appropriate Topics course, chosen in consultation with the student's academic advisor):
 - CASLX 317 (or 517) *Having & Being* across Languages
 - CASLX 327 (or 518) Focus
 - CASLX 328 (or 519) Questions
 - CASLX 422 Intermediate Syntax: Modeling Syntactic Knowledge
 - CASLX 432 (or 503) Intermediate Semantics: The Grammatical Construction of Meaning
 - CASLX 433 (or 504) Intermediate Pragmatics: Meaning in Context
 - or an appropriate CAS LX 390 or 490 topics course

4. Three additional Linguistics and Philosophy

courses above the 100-level, including at least one each in Linguistics and Philosophy. Recommended courses include:

Philosophy

- CASPH 261 Puzzles and Paradoxes
- CASPH 265 Minds & Machines
- CASPH 270 Philosophy of Science
- CASPH 266 Mind, Brain and Self
- CASPH 421 Frege, Moore, and Russell
- CASPH 424 Wittgenstein
- CASPH 460 Epistemology
- CASPH 461 Computability and Logic
- CASPH 462 Foundations of Math
- CASPH 465 Philosophy of Cognitive Science
- CASPH 467 Mathematical Logic
- CASPH 468 Logic and Mathematics
- CASPH 486 Topics in Knowledge, Language and Logic

Linguistics

- CAS LX 342 (or 320) Language, Race, and Gender
- CAS LX 311 (or 521) Morphology: Introduction to the Structures and Shapes of Words
- CAS LX 345 (or 515) Languages in Contact
- CAS LX 349 (or 545) Bilingualism
- CAS LX 359 (or 546) Interrupted Acquisition and Language Attrition
- CAS LX 360 (or 535) Historical and Comparative Linguistics
- CAS LX 365(or 530) Variation in English Dialects
- CAS LX 405 (or 525) Prosody
- CAS LX 423 (or 523) Advanced Syntax: Issues in Modern Syntactic Theory
- CAS LX 454 (or 540) Acquisition of Syntax

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Honors program in Linguistics & Philosophy

The Honors Program in Linguistics and Philosophy requires fifteen courses in all, including seven each in Linguistics and Philosophy plus one semester of directed research to complete a senior honors project. The project will be co-advised by two faculty members, one in Linguistics and one in Philosophy. Successful completion of the honors program requires an average GPA of 3.7 in the courses satisfying requirements for the major as well as a minimum grade of A- on the honors project itself.

The honors program shares the following 9 course requirements with the current major in Linguistics & Philosophy:

1. Philosophy: One of the following, to be taken before higher-level PH courses

- CASPH 100 Introduction to Philosophy
- CASPH 110 Great Philosophers
- CASPH 160 Reasoning and Argumentation

2. Linguistics: to be taken before higher-level LX courses

- CAS LX 250 Introduction to Linguistics

3. Four additional Philosophy courses

- CASPH 310 History of Modern Philosophy
- CASPH 360 Symbolic Logic
- CASPH 463 Philosophy of Language
- CASPH 422 Analytic Philosophy or CAS 443 Philosophy of Mind

4. Three additional Linguistics courses

- CASLX 301 (or 510) Phonetics & Phonology: Introduction to Sound Systems
- CASLX 321 (or 522) Syntax: Introduction to Sentential Structure
- CASLX 331 (or 502) Semantics & Pragmatics: Introduction to Linguistic Meaning

The honors program also requires:

5. Two additional courses in formal syntax, semantics, or pragmatics from the following (or other courses, chosen in consultation with the student's advisor)

- CASLX 317 (or 517) *Having & Being* across Languages
- CASLX 327 (or 518) Focus
- CASLX 328 (or 519) Questions
- CASLX 422 Intermediate Syntax: Modeling Syntactic Knowledge
- CASLX 423 (or 523) Advanced Syntax: Issues in Modern Syntactic Theory
- CASLX 432 (or 503) Intermediate Semantics: The Grammatical Construction of Meaning
- CASLX 433 (or 504) Intermediate Pragmatics: Meaning in Context

6. One course in Philosophy, from the following

- CAS PH 460 Epistemology
- CAS PH 461 Computability and Logic
- CAS PH 462 Foundations of Math
- CAS PH 465 Philosophy of Cognitive Science
- CAS PH 467 Mathematical Logic
- CAS PH 468 Logic and Mathematics
- CAS PH 486 Topics Knowledge, Language, Logic

7. One course in Linguistics (CASLX) and one in Philosophy (CASPH) above the 100-level.

8. One semester of Senior Honors Research (normally to be undertaken in the fall of senior year). Students are expected to begin discussions with faculty advisors about the project by no later than March of their junior year, and are required to submit an approved proposal by the end of their junior year.

Application to the Honors program

A student may apply to the honors program no sooner than the end of sophomore year and no later than the beginning of the spring semester of junior year. For admission into the program, students must have completed CASLX 331 (or 502) Semantics & Pragmatics: Introduction to Linguistic Meaning and one of the 4 Philosophy courses listed in (3).

Qualifications for admission into the honors program include a GPA of least 3.65 in all CAS courses—and a minimum GPA of 3.7 in the set of courses satisfying requirements for the major—that the student has taken as of the time of application.

Application Form

Can be downloaded from <http://www.bu.edu/linguistics/UG/honors/honors-application-l-and-p.pdf> and should be submitted to room 120, 621 Commonwealth Ave.

Co-curricular Activities

Meetings of Linguistics and Linguistics & Philosophy honors students will take place at least several times each semester. Activities may include colloquia as well as presentations, question-and-answer sessions, and panel discussions with BU faculty. In addition, we will maintain an email list of honors students, and we will inform them of other events (both at BU and in the Boston area) that may be of interest in the areas of Linguistics and Philosophy. Honors students in Linguistics & Philosophy will also be included in the activities associated with the Philosophy honors program.

For more information, see

- <http://ling.bu.edu/degrees/lingphil>
- <http://ling.bu.edu>
- <http://www.bu.edu/philo/>