



Joint major in **Linguistics & Philosophy**

2018-19

The joint major in Linguistics and Philosophy, offered through the Linguistics Department, 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 five within each concentration). For information about how the major fits in with the new BU Hub, please see <https://tinyurl.com/BU-LX-Hub>.

Participating faculty

Linguistics

Carol Neidle, Professor & Chair, Linguistics Department
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:

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

Linguistics

To be taken before higher-level Linguistics courses:

- CAS LX 250 Introduction to Linguistics

2. Four additional Philosophy courses:

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

3. Four additional Linguistics courses:

- CAS LX 301 (or 510) Phonetics & Phonology: Introduction to Sound Systems
- CAS LX 321 (or 522) Syntax: Introduction to Sentential Structure
- CAS LX 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):
 - CAS LX 317 (or 517) *Having & Being* across Languages
 - CAS LX 327 (or 518) Focus
 - CAS LX 328 (or 519) Questions
 - CAS LX 422 Intermediate Syntax: Modeling Syntactic Knowledge
 - CAS LX 432 (or 503) Intermediate Semantics: The Grammatical Construction of Meaning
 - CAS LX 433 (or 504) Intermediate Pragmatics: Meaning in Context
 - or an appropriate CAS LX 390 or 490 topics course, selected in consultation with the student's advisor

4. Three additional Linguistics and Philosophy

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

Philosophy

- CAS PH 261 Puzzles and Paradoxes
- CAS PH 265 Minds & Machines
- CAS PH 270 Philosophy of Science
- CAS PH 266 Mind, Brain and Self
- CAS PH 421 Frege, Moore, and Russell
- CAS PH 424 Wittgenstein
- 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 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 and Philosophy:

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

- CAS PH 100 Introduction to Philosophy
- CAS PH 110 Great Philosophers
- CAS PH 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

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

4. Three additional Linguistics courses

- CAS LX 301 (or 510) Phonetics & Phonology:
Introduction to Sound Systems
- CAS LX 321 (or 522) Syntax: Introduction to Sentential
Structure
- CAS LX 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)

- CAS LX 317 (or 517) *Having & Being* across Languages
- CAS LX 327 (or 518) Focus
- CAS LX 328 (or 519) Questions
- CAS LX 422 Intermediate Syntax: Modeling
Syntactic Knowledge
- CAS LX 423 (or 523) Advanced Syntax: Issues in
Modern Syntactic Theory
- CAS LX 432 (or 503) Intermediate Semantics: The
Grammatical Construction of Meaning
- CAS LX 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 (CAS LX) and one in Philosophy (CAS PH) 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 CAS LX 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>>; it should be submitted to the Linguistics Department, room 120, 621 Commonwealth Ave.

Co-curricular Activities

Meetings of Linguistics and Linguistics and 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 and 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/>