DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND PHILOSOPHY

As its name suggests, the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy houses a linguistics section and a philosophy section. Though they share a number of intellectual interests and a joint undergraduate major, these two sections are administratively autonomous with separate chairpersons, faculties, admissions procedures, curricular and degree requirements, and financial aid programs.

Undergraduate Study

Bachelor of Science in Philosophy (Course 24-1)
This major (http://catalog.mit.edu/degree-charts/philosophy-course-24-1) is designed to provide familiarity with the history and current status of the main problems in epistemology, metaphysics, and ethics; mastery of some of the technical skills requisite for advanced work in philosophy; facility at independent philosophical study; and work at an advanced level in an allied field. A relatively large amount of unrestricted elective time is available so that students can devise programs suited to individual needs and interests.

Bachelor of Science in Linguistics and Philosophy (Course 24-2)
This major, also known as the Program in Language and Mind, aims to provide students with a working knowledge of a variety of issues that currently occupy the intersection of philosophy, linguistics, and cognitive science. Central among these topics are the nature of language, of those mental representations that we call "knowledge" and "belief," and of the innate basis for the acquisition of certain types of knowledge (especially linguistic knowledge). Students have the option of pursuing either a philosophy track (http://catalog.mit.edu/degree-charts/linguistics-philosophy-course-24-2/#philosophytext) or a linguistics track (http://catalog.mit.edu/degree-charts/linguistics-philosophy-course-24-2/#linguisticstext). Both require a core set of subjects drawn from both fields and are designed to teach students the central facts and issues in the study of language and the representation of knowledge. Each track requires, in addition, a set of subjects drawn primarily from its discipline and is designed to prepare students for graduate study either in philosophy/cognitive science or in linguistics. A coherent program of three restricted electives (drawn from one or two of the following three areas: linguistics, philosophy, or a related area) rounds out the major.

Note that students are prohibited from majoring in both 24-1 and 24-2.

Minor in Philosophy
The goal of the Minor in Philosophy is to introduce students to the methods of analytic philosophy and then to have them study a broad range of philosophers and philosophical issues at a more sophisticated level, culminating in an advanced seminar.

The minor consists of six subjects arranged into three levels of study as follows:

| Tier I |
| Select any introductory philosophy subject numbered 24.00 - 24.09 | 12 |
| Select one of the following logic subjects: | |
| 24.118 Paradox and Infinity | 12 |
| 24.241 Logic I | |
| 24.242 Logic II | |
| 24.243 Classical Set Theory | |
| 24.244 Modal Logic | |
| 24.245 Theory of Models | |

| Tier II |
| Select three non-introductory philosophy subjects, approved by the minor advisor | 36 |

| Tier III |
| 24.260 Topics in Philosophy | 12 |

Total Units | 72 |

1 Students may substitute an appropriate philosophy concourse subject with the permission of the minor advisor.
2 Students may take a logic subject offered by another department (e.g., Mathematics) with the permission of the minor advisor.

Minor in Linguistics
The Minor in Linguistics consists of six subjects arranged in three levels of study, intended to provide students with breadth in the field of theoretical linguistics as a whole. The three levels are as follows:

| Tier I |
| 24,900 Introduction to Linguistics | 12 |

| Tier II |
| 24,901 Language and Its Structure I: Phonology | 12 |
| 24,902 Language and Its Structure II: Syntax | 12 |
| 24,903 Language and Its Structure III: Semantics and Pragmatics | 12 |

| Tier III |
| Select two of the following: | 24 |
| 24,904 Language Acquisition | |
| 24,905[J] Laboratory in Psycholinguistics | |
| 24,906[J] The Linguistic Study of Bilingualism | |
| 24,909 Field Methods in Linguistics | |
| 24,910 Advanced Topics in Linguistic Analysis | |
| 24,914 Language Variation and Change | |
Graduate Study

Master of Science in Linguistics
The Department of Linguistics (http://linguistics.mit.edu) and Philosophy (http://web.mit.edu/philosophy) has an Indigenous Language Initiative program leading to a Master of Science in Linguistics. For more information about this degree, visit the website or contact the program administrator (mitili@mit.edu).

Doctor of Philosophy in Linguistics
The Linguistics Section offers a demanding program leading to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Linguistics. The normal course of study is five years, including the writing of the dissertation. The orientation of the program is highly theoretical, its central aim being the development of a general theory that reveals the rules and laws that govern the structure of a given language and the general laws and principles that govern all natural languages. The topics that form the core of this program are the traditional ones of phonology, syntax, and semantics, but the program’s interests also extend into questions of the interrelations between linguistics and other disciplines such as philosophy and logic, speech science and technology, computer science and artificial intelligence, and study of the brain and cognition.

Approximately eight students enter the program each year in a highly selective admissions process. The department does not require that applicants have taken any particular set of subjects or that they be trained in any particular discipline. Instead, applicants must present evidence that they are able to engage in serious scholarly inquiry of complex subject matter.

All students in the linguistics program must complete a set of required subjects unless they have acquired adequate preparation elsewhere. Before degree candidates begin their doctoral research, they are required to pass a comprehensive general examination that is composed of two parts. The first part is a written examination consisting of two substantial papers on topics chosen in consultation with members of the faculty. The two papers must present research on two distinct topics in two distinct subdisciplines of linguistics. The subdisciplines include phonetics, phonology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, language acquisition, language processing, or any other area of linguistics, so long as there is a substantial theoretical-linguistic component to the papers. In conformity with Institute regulations, the second part of the examination is oral. It deals with topics treated in the candidate’s written examination, but is not limited to these and probes into the candidate’s competence in linguistics in general.

Before students begin their doctoral research, they are required to pass a comprehensive general examination that is composed of two parts. The first part is a written examination consisting of two substantial papers on topics chosen in consultation with members of the faculty. The two papers must present research on two distinct topics in two distinct subdisciplines of linguistics. The subdisciplines include phonetics, phonology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, language acquisition, language processing, or any other area of linguistics, so long as there is a substantial theoretical-linguistic component to the papers. In conformity with Institute regulations, the second part of the examination is oral. It deals with topics treated in the candidate’s written examination, but is not limited to these and probes into the candidate’s competence in linguistics in general.

For more information about the PhD program requirements, visit the website (http://web.mit.edu/philosophy/PhDprogram.html).

Doctor of Philosophy in Philosophy
The program of studies leading to the doctorate in philosophy provides subjects and seminars in such traditional areas as logic, ethics, metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of science, philosophy of language, philosophy of mind, aesthetics, social and political philosophy, and history of philosophy. Interest in philosophical problems arising from other disciplines, such as linguistics, psychology, mathematics, and physics, is also encouraged.

To enter the doctoral program, students must have done well in their previous academic work and must be formally accepted as candidates for the degree by the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy. Although there are no formal course requirements for admission, applicants must satisfy the committee on admissions that their preparation in philosophy and allied disciplines is sufficient for undertaking the study of philosophy at the graduate level.

Before beginning dissertation research, students are required to take two years of coursework, including a proseminar in contemporary philosophy that all students must complete in their first year of graduate study. Students are also required to demonstrate
competence in the following areas: value theory, logic, and the
history of philosophy.

Interdisciplinary study is encouraged, and candidates for the
doctorate may take a minor in a field other than philosophy. Options
for minors include linguistics, psychology, and logic. Students
who elect one of these options are expected to complete three
approved graduate subjects in their minor field. There is no general
language requirement for the doctorate, except in those cases in
which competence in one or more foreign languages is needed to
carry on research for the dissertation.

For more information about the PhD program requirements, visit the
website (http://web.mit.edu/philosophy/PhDprogram.html).

Inquiries
Information regarding undergraduate or graduate academic
programs, research activities, admissions, financial aid, and
assistantships may be obtained from the Department of Linguistics
and Philosophy, Room 32-D808, 617-253-9372.

Faculty and Teaching Staff

Alex Byrne, PhD
Professor of Philosophy
Head, Department of Linguistics and Philosophy

Professors
Adam Albright, PhD
Professor of Linguistics

Noam Chomsky, PhD
Institute Professor
Professor of Linguistics

Michel DeGraff, PhD
Professor of Linguistics

Suzanne Flynn, PhD
Professor of Second Language Acquisition

Daniel Fox, PhD
Anshen-Chomsky Professor in Language and Thought
Professor of Linguistics

Caspar Hare, PhD
Professor of Philosophy

Sally Haslanger, PhD
Ford International Professor
Professor of Philosophy
(On leave, spring)

Sabine Iatridou, PhD
Professor of Linguistics

Michael John Kenstowicz, PhD
Professor of Linguistics

Vann McGee, PhD
Professor of Philosophy

Shigeru Miyagawa, PhD
Kochi Prefecture-John Manjiro Professor in Japanese Language and
Culture
Professor Post-Tenure of Linguistics

David Pesetsky, PhD
Ferrari P. Ward Professor of Modern Languages and Linguistics

Agustín Rayo, PhD
Professor of Philosophy
Associate Dean, School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences

Norvin W. Richards, PhD
Professor of Linguistics

Roger Schwarzschild, PhD
Professor of Linguistics
(On leave)

Kieran Setiya, PhD
Professor of Philosophy
(On leave)

Bradford Skow, PhD
Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor
Professor of Philosophy

Donca Steriade, PhD
Class of 1941 Professor
Professor of Linguistics

Kai von Fintel, PhD
Andrew E. Mellon Professor in the Humanities
Professor of Linguistics

Roger White, PhD
Professor of Philosophy
(On leave, fall)

Stephen Yablo, PhD
David W. Skinner Professor
Professor of Philosophy

Associate Professors
Edward Flemming, PhD
Associate Professor of Linguistics

Martin Hackl, PhD
Associate Professor of Linguistics

Justin Khoo, PhD
Associate Professor of Philosophy
Discovery-focused

24.93 The Search for Meaning
Subject meets with 24.A03
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
Acad Year 2021-2022: U (Fall)
1-0-1 units

"We create islands of meaning in the sea of information" (Freeman Dyson). In this subject, we will explore a central feature of human nature: we are meaning-seeking engines. There are many ways of encoding and extracting meaning. We will talk about smoke signals, talking drums, alphabets, Universal Grammar, artificial languages, the problem of first contact, code breaking, Sherlock Holmes, the genetic code, and much more. We will bring in ideas from information theory, cryptography, linguistics, logic, psychology, anthropology, computer science, philosophy, and literature. Includes some reading and thinking outside class, but no problem sets or papers. Subject can count toward the 9-unit discovery-focused credit limit for first year students.

K. von Fintel

Philosophy

Undergraduate Subjects

24.00 Problems of Philosophy
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Introduction to the problems of philosophy—in particular, to problems in ethics, metaphysics, theory of knowledge, and philosophy of logic, language, and science. A systematic rather than historical approach. Readings from classical and contemporary sources, but emphasis is on examination and evaluation of proposed solutions to the problems.

A. Byrne
24.01 Classics of Western Philosophy
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
Acad Year 2021-2022: U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Introduction to Western philosophical tradition through the study of selected major thinkers such as Plato, Aristotle, Lucretius, Descartes, Hobbes, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Kant, Nietzsche and Marx. Emphasis on changes of intellectual outlook over time, and the complex interplay of scientific, religious and political concerns that influence the development of philosophical ideas.

S. Haslanger

24.013 Philosophy and the Arts
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Explores philosophical questions about art in general, and about the particular arts, such as literature and music. Measures the answers philosophers have proposed to these questions against our own experiences with the arts. Readings include short works of literature. Includes a museum visit with no charge to students.
B. Skow

24.02 Moral Problems and the Good Life
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
Acad Year 2021-2022: U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Introduction to important philosophical debates about moral issues and what constitutes a good life: What is right, what is wrong, and why? How important are personal happiness, longevity, and success if one is to live a good life? When is it good for you to get what you want? To what extent are we morally obliged to respect the rights and needs of others? What do we owe the poor, the discriminated, our loved ones, animals and fetuses?
K. Setiya

24.03 Good Food: The Ethics and Politics of Food
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Explores the values (aesthetic, moral, cultural, religious, prudential, political) expressed in the choices of food people eat. Analyzes the decisions individuals make about what to eat, how society should manage food production and consumption collectively, and how reflection on food choices might help resolve conflicts between different values.

S. Haslanger

24.04[1J] Justice
Same subject as 17.01[1J]
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Provides an introduction to contemporary political thought centered around the ideal of justice and the realities of injustice. Examines what a just society might look like and how we should understand various forms of oppression and domination. Studies three theories of justice (utilitarianism, libertarianism, and egalitarian liberalism) and brings them into conversation with other traditions of political thought (critical theory, communitarianism, republicanism, and post-structuralism). Readings cover foundational debates about equality, freedom, recognition, and power.
B. Zacka

24.05 Philosophy of Religion
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Uses key questions in the philosophy of religion to introduce tools of contemporary philosophy. Explores what defines a god, the possibility of the existence of gods, the potential conflict between religion and science, whether morality requires a divine author, and religious tolerance.
J. Spencer
24.06[J] Bioethics
Same subject as STS.006[J]
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2020-2021: U (Fall)
Acad Year 2021-2022: Not offered
3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Considers ethical questions that have arisen from the growth of biomedical research and the health-care industry since World War II. Should doctors be allowed to help patients end their lives? If so, when and how? Should embryos be cloned for research and/or reproduction? Should parents be given control over the genetic make-up of their children? What types of living things are appropriate to use as research subjects? How should we distribute scarce and expensive medical resources? Draws on philosophy, history, and anthropology to show how problems in bioethics can be approached from a variety of perspectives.

N. Baron-Schmitt, R. Scheffler

24.07 The Ethics of Climate Change
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
Acad Year 2021-2022: U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Deals with ethical questions raised by the way in which our climate is changing as a result of fossil fuel consumption. Explores the moral problems raised by these effects, the obligations of individuals and governments, the difficulties involved in dealing with uncertainty, catastrophe, and the ethics of future generations.

C. Hare, K. Setiya

24.08[J] Philosophical Issues in Brain Science
Same subject as 9.48[J]
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
Acad Year 2021-2022: U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

An introduction to some central philosophical questions about the mind, specifically those intimately connected with contemporary psychology and neuroscience. Discussions focus on arguments over innate concepts; 'mental images' as pictures in the head; whether color is in the mind or in the world; and whether there can be a science of consciousness. Explains the relevant parts of psychology and neuroscience as the subject proceeds.

E. J. Green

24.09 Minds and Machines
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

Introduction to philosophy of mind. Can computers think? Is the mind an immaterial thing? Alternatively, is the mind the brain? How can creatures like ourselves think thoughts that are about things? Can I know whether your experiences are the same as mine when we both look at raspberries, fire trucks, and stoplights? Can consciousness be given a scientific explanation?

E. J. Green

24.111 Philosophy of Quantum Mechanics
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
Acad Year 2021-2022: U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Quantum mechanics is said to describe a world in which physical objects often lack "definite" properties, indeterminism creeps in at the point of "observation," ordinary logic does not apply, and distant events are perfectly yet inexplicably correlated. Examination of these and other issues central to the philosophical foundations of quantum mechanics, with special attention to the measurement problem, no-hidden-variables proofs, and Bell's Inequalities. Rigorous approach to the subject matter nevertheless neither presupposes nor requires the development of detailed technical knowledge of the quantum theory.

B. Skow

24.116 Philosophy of Statistics
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
Acad Year 2021-2022: U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Studies how to evaluate statistical hypotheses. Critically considers several prominent approaches, including frequentism (with its null hypotheses, test statistics, p-values), likelihoodism (with its likelihood ratios and relative support) and Bayesianism (with its priors, conditionalization, utilities). Focuses on foundations, not technicalities. Previous exposure to statistics will be helpful but isn't required.

C. Grant
24.118 Paradox and Infinity
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Presents highlights of the more technical side of philosophy. Studies a cluster of puzzles, paradoxes, and intellectual wonders - from the higher infinite to Godel’s Theorem - and discusses their philosophical implications. Recommended prerequisites: 6.0001, 18.01.
A. Rayo

24.120 Moral Psychology
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
Acad Year 2021-2022: U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

An examination of philosophical theories of action and motivation in the light of empirical findings from social psychology, sociology and neuroscience. Topics include belief, desire, and moral motivation; sympathy and empathy; intentions and other committing states; strength of will and weakness of will; free will; addiction and compulsion; guilt, shame and regret; evil; self-knowledge and self-deception; virtues and character traits.
E. J. Green

24.131 Ethics of Technology
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
Acad Year 2021-2022: U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Introduces the tools of philosophical ethics through application to contemporary issues concerning technology. Takes up current debates on topics such as privacy and surveillance, algorithmic bias, the promise and peril of artificial intelligence, automation and the future of work, and threats to democracy in the digital age from the perspective of users, practitioners, and regulatory/governing bodies.
Staff

24.132 Workshop in Ethical Engineering
Prereq: None
U (IAP)
Not offered regularly; consult department
2-0-1 units

Students study and apply a protocol for identifying and addressing ethical issues in a computer science, software development, or other engineering project. Builds a vocabulary to advocate for and justify ethical decisions in engineering contexts. For the final project, students either apply the protocol to a project they are working on, or develop their own protocol.
Staff

24.133 Experiential Ethics (New)
Prereq: None
U (Fall; partial term)
1-0-2 units

Examines the ethical context around students’ summer internships, research, and other experiential learning activities. During the summer (virtually) and through the first four weeks of the fall term, students engage in small group discussions of applied ethical practices and case studies. In the fall, they explore their own moral values through a reflective final project that examines their engagement with ethics during their summer experience. Includes local field trips, practitioner interviews, and/or similar opportunities for interaction with professional ethics. Concludes with a showcase of final presentations. Students planning to take this subject must apply in the spring; consult program website for details.
M. Phillips-Brown

24.140[J] Literature and Philosophy
Same subject as 21L.452[J]
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Highlights interactions between literary and philosophical texts, asking how philosophical themes can be explored in fiction, poetry, and drama. Exposes students to diverse modes of humanistic thought, interpretation, and argument, putting the tools and ideas of philosophy into conversation with those of the literary humanities. Students engage closely with selected literary and philosophical texts, explore selected topics in philosophy - such as ethics, epistemology, and aesthetics - through a literary lens, and participate in class discussion with peers and professors. Limited to 20.
M. Gubar, K. Setiya
24.200 Ancient Philosophy
Prereq: One Philosophy subject or permission of instructor
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
Acad Year 2021-2022: U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H
Investigates the origins of Western philosophy in ancient Greece. Aims both to understand the philosophical questions the Greeks were asking on their own terms, and to assess their answers to them. Examines how a human being can lead a good life, the relationship between morality and happiness, our knowledge of the world around us, and the entities we need to appeal to in order to explain that world. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

Staff

24.201 Topics in the History of Philosophy
Prereq: One philosophy subject or permission of instructor
U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H
Can be repeated for credit.
Close examination of a text, an author, or a theme in the history of philosophy. Can be repeated for credit with permission of the instructor and advisor.

Fall: T. Schapiro, Spring: J. Van Cleve

24.211 Theory of Knowledge
Prereq: One philosophy subject
U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H
Study of problems concerning our concept of knowledge, our knowledge of the past, our knowledge of the thoughts and feelings of ourselves and others, and our knowledge of the existence and properties of physical objects in our immediate environment.

R. White

24.212 Philosophy of Perception
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H
In-depth examination of philosophical issues concerning perception, such as whether we see mind-independent physical objects or, alternatively, mind-dependent representations; whether perception is a source of theory-neutral observations or is affected by the perceiver’s beliefs in a way that compromises the objectivity of science. Readings primarily drawn from contemporary literature in both philosophy and psychology.

Staff

24.213 Philosophy of Film
Prereq: One philosophy subject or permission of instructor
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
Acad Year 2021-2022: U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H
Explores the philosophical analysis of cinematic art. Topics may include the nature of film, authorship, interpretation, ethical, narration, metaphor, meta-criticism, political and emotional engagement with the cinematic experience.

J. Khoo

24.215 Topics in the Philosophy of Science
Prereq: One philosophy subject
U (Fall, Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H
Can be repeated for credit.
Close examination of a small number of issues central to recent philosophy of science, such as the demarcation problem, causal relations, laws of nature, underdetermination of theory by data, paradoxes of confirmation, scientific realism, the role of mathematics in science, elimination of bias, and the objectivity of scientific discourse.

B. Skow

24.221 Metaphysics
Prereq: One philosophy subject
U (Fall, Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H
Study of basic metaphysical issues concerning existence, the mind-body problem, personal identity, and causation plus its implications for freedom. Classical as well as contemporary readings. Provides practice in written and oral communication.

J. Spencer

24.222 Decisions, Games and Rational Choice
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
Acad Year 2021-2022: U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H
Foundations and philosophical applications of Bayesian decision theory, game theory and theory of collective choice. Why should degrees of belief be probabilities? Is it always rational to maximize expected utility? If so, why and what is its utility? What is a solution to a game? What does a game-theoretic solution concept such as Nash equilibrium say about how rational players will, or should, act in a game? How are the values and the actions of groups, institutions and societies related to the values and actions of the individuals that constitute them?

V. McGee
24.230 Meta-ethics
Prereq: One philosophy subject or permission of instructor
U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Considers a range of philosophical questions about the foundations of morality, such as whether and in what sense morality is objective, the nature of moral discourse, and how we can come to know right from wrong. Instruction and practice in oral and written communication provided.

J. Khoo

24.231 Ethics
Prereq: One philosophy subject
U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Systematic study of central theories in ethics, including egoism, act and rule utilitarianism, intuitionism, emotivism, rights theories, and contractualism. Discussion and readings also focus on problems associated with moral conflicts, justice, the relationship between rightness and goodness, objective vs. subjective moral judgments, moral truth, and relativism.

T. Schapiro

24.235[J] Philosophy of Law
Same subject as 17.021[J]
Prereq: One Philosophy subject or permission of instructor
U (Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Examines fundamental issues in philosophy of law, such as the nature and limits of law and a legal system, and the relation of law to morality, with particular emphasis on the philosophical issues and problems associated with privacy, liberty, justice, punishment, and responsibility. Historical and contemporary readings, including court cases. Instruction and practice in oral and written communication provided.

Staff

24.236 Topics in Social Theory and Practice
Subject meets with 24.636
Prereq: One philosophy subject or permission of instructor
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
Acad Year 2021-2022: U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

An in-depth consideration of a topic in social theory with reflection on its implications for social change. Examples of topics include race and racism; punishment and prison reform; global justice and human rights; gender and global care chains; environmentalism and industrial agriculture; bioethics, disability, and human enhancement; capitalism and commodification; and sexuality and the family. Readings draw from both social science and philosophy with special attention to the normative literature relevant to the issue. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

S. Haslanger

24.237[J] Feminist Thought
Same subject as 17.007[J], WGS.301[J]
Subject meets with 17.006[J], 24.637[J]
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Analyzes theories of gender and politics, especially ideologies of gender and their construction; definitions of public and private spheres; gender issues in citizenship, the development of the welfare state, experiences of war and revolution, class formation, and the politics of sexuality. Graduate students are expected to pursue the subject in greater depth through reading and individual research. Limited to 15.

E. Wood

24.241 Logic I
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Introduction to the aims and techniques of formal logic. The logic of truth functions and quantifiers. The concepts of validity and truth and their relation to formal deduction. Applications of logic and the place of logic in philosophy.

V. McGee
24.242 Logic II  
Prereq: 24.241 or permission of instructor  
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered  
Acad Year 2021-2022: U (Spring)  
3-0-9 units. HASS-H  
The central results of modern logic: the completeness of predicate logic, recursive functions, the incompleteness of arithmetic, the unprovability of consistency, the indefinability of truth, Skolem-Löwenheim theorems, and nonstandard models.  
V. McGee  

24.243 Classical Set Theory  
Prereq: 24.241 or permission of instructor  
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered  
Acad Year 2021-2022: U (Spring)  
3-0-9 units. HASS-H  
Introduction to the basic concepts and results of standard, i.e., Zermelo-Fraenkel, set theory, the axioms of ZF, ordinal and cardinal arithmetic, the structure of the set-theoretic universe, the axiom of choice, the (generalized) continuum hypothesis, inaccessibles, and beyond.  
V. McGee  

24.244 Modal Logic  
Prereq: 24.241  
U (Fall)  
3-0-9 units. HASS-H  
Sentential and quantified modal logic, with emphasis on the model theory ("possible worlds semantics"). Soundness, completeness, and characterization results for alternative systems. Tense and dynamic logics, epistemic logics, as well as logics of necessity and possibility. Applications in philosophy, theoretical computer science, and linguistics.  
V. McGee  

24.245 Theory of Models  
Prereq: 24.241 or permission of instructor  
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered  
Acad Year 2021-2022: U (Spring)  
3-0-9 units. HASS-H  
Studies fundamental results in the model theory of the first-order predicate calculus. Includes completeness, compactness, Löwenheim-Skolem, omitting types, ultraproducts, and categoricity in a cardinal, starting with Tarski’s definition of logical consequence, in terms of truth in a model.  
V. McGee  

24.251 Introduction to Philosophy of Language  
Prereq: One philosophy subject  
U (Spring)  
3-0-9 units. HASS-H  
Examines views on the nature of meaning, reference, and truth, and their bearing on the use of language in communication. No knowledge of logic or linguistics presupposed. Instruction and practice in oral and written communication provided.  
J. Khoo  

24.252 Language and Power  
Prereq: One philosophy subject or permission of instructor  
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered  
Acad Year 2021-2022: U (Spring)  
3-0-9 units. HASS-H  
Explores topics at the intersection of philosophy of language and social/political philosophy. Topics may include linguistic harm, free speech, speech in non-cooperative contexts (lying, insincerity, antagonistic interlocutors), propaganda, pejoratives, and the relationship of language to features of the social world (race, gender, ideology). Instruction and practice in oral and written communication provided.  
J. Khoo  

24.253 Philosophy of Mathematics  
Prereq: One philosophy subject or permission of instructor  
U (Spring)  
3-0-9 units. HASS-H  
Philosophical issues about or related to mathematics, including the existence and nature of basic mathematical objects such as numbers and sets, how we can come to have knowledge of such objects, the status of mathematical truth, the relation of mathematics to logic, and whether classical logic can be called into question.  
V. McGee  

24.260 Topics in Philosophy  
Prereq: Two subjects in philosophy  
U (Fall)  
3-0-9 units. HASS-H  
Close examination of a single book, or group of related essays, with major significance in recent philosophy. Subject matter varies from year to year. Intended primarily for majors and minors in philosophy. Opportunities are provided for oral presentation. Students will be required to revise at least one paper in response to instructor’s comments.  
C. Hare
24.280 Foundations of Probability
Prereq: One philosophy subject or one subject on probability
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
Acad Year 2021-2022: U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Topics include probability puzzles, common fallacies in probabilistic reasoning, defenses and criticisms of Kolmogorov's axiomatization, interpretations of probability (including the frequency, logical, propensity, and various subjectivist interpretations), the relation of objective chance to rational subjective credence, conditional probability, rules for updating probability, and proposals for supplementing the probability calculus with further principles.

R. White

24.292 Independent Study: Philosophy
Prereq: Any two subjects in philosophy
U (Fall)
Units arranged

Open to qualified students who wish to pursue special studies or projects. Students electing this subject must consult the undergraduate officer.

Staff

24.293 Independent Study: Philosophy
Prereq: Any two subjects in philosophy
U (Spring)
Units arranged

Open to qualified students who wish to pursue special studies or projects. Students electing this subject must consult the undergraduate officer.

Staff

24.S00 Special Subject: Philosophy
Prereq: None
U (Fall, Spring)
3-0-9 units
Can be repeated for credit.

Undergraduate subject that covers topics not offered in the regular curriculum. Consult department to learn of offerings for a particular term.

Staff

24.S20 Special Subject: Philosophy
Prereq: One philosophy subject or permission of instructor
U (Fall, Spring)
3-0-9 units
Can be repeated for credit.

Undergraduate subject that covers topics not offered in the regular curriculum. Consult department to learn of offerings for a particular term.

Staff

24.UR Undergraduate Research
Prereq: None
U (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)
Units arranged [P/D/F]
Can be repeated for credit.

Research opportunities in linguistics and philosophy. For further information, consult the departmental coordinators.

Staff

24.URG Undergraduate Research
Prereq: None
U (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.

Research opportunities in linguistics and philosophy. For further information consult the departmental coordinators.

Staff

Undergraduate Seminars

24.191 Being, Thinking, Doing (or Not): Ethics in Your Life
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
2-0-4 units

Provides an opportunity to explore a wide range of ethical issues through guided discussions that are geared to equip students for ongoing reflection and action. Lectures and discussions with guest faculty, as well as attendance at on- and off-campus events, expose students to ethical problems and resources for addressing them. Encourages students to work collaboratively as they clarify their personal and vocational principles. Topics vary each term and will reflect the interests of those enrolled. Limited to 12.

P. Weinmann
24.192 Language, Information, and Power
Prereq: One philosophy subject or permission of instructor
U (Fall)
Not offered regularly; consult department
2-0-4 units
Explores foundational issues about language and communication by investigating different ways language and its use affects various aspects of lived experience. Topics include speech act theory, lying, propaganda, censorship, expressions of knowledge, communication in non-cooperative contexts.
J. Khoo

Graduate Subjects

24.400 Proseminar in Philosophy I
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall)
6-0-18 units
Advanced study of the basic problems of philosophy. Intended for first-year graduate students in philosophy.
A. Rayo

24.401 Proseminar in Philosophy II
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Spring)
6-0-18 units
Advanced study of the basic problems of philosophy. Intended for first-year graduate students in philosophy.
C. Hare, J. Spencer

24.410 Topics in the History of Philosophy
Prereq: Permission of instructor
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
Acad Year 2021-2022: G (Fall)
3-0-9 units
Can be repeated for credit.
Intensive study of a philosopher or philosophical movement. Content varies from year to year and subject may be taken repeatedly with permission of instructor and advisor.
Staff

24.420 Ancient Philosophy
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 units
Investigates the origins of Western philosophy in ancient Greece. Aims both to understand the philosophical questions the Greeks were asking on their own terms, and to assess their answers to them. Examines how a human being can lead a good life, the relationship between morality and happiness, our knowledge of the world around us, and the entities we need to appeal to in order to explain that world. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.
Staff

24.500 Topics in Philosophy of Mind
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Spring)
3-0-9 units
Can be repeated for credit.
Selected topics in philosophy of mind. Content varies from year to year. Topics may include consciousness, mental representation, perception, and mental causation.
J. Van Cleve

24.501 Problems in Metaphysics
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall)
3-0-9 units
Can be repeated for credit.
Systematic examination of selected problems in metaphysics. Content varies from year to year and subject may be taken repeatedly with permission of instructor and advisor.
B. Skow

24.502 Topics in Metaphysics and Ethics
Prereq: Permission of instructor
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
Acad Year 2021-2022: G (Fall)
3-0-9 units
Can be repeated for credit.
Systematic examination of selected problems concerning the relation between metaphysics and ethics, for example questions about personal identity and its relation to issues about fairness and distribution, or questions about the relation between causation and responsibility. Content may vary from year to year, and the subject may be taken repeatedly with the permission of the instructor and the student's advisor.
Staff
24.503 Topics in Philosophy of Religion
Prereq: Permission of instructor
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
Acad Year 2021-2022: G (Fall)
3-0-9 units
Can be repeated for credit.

Selected topics in philosophy of religion. Content varies from year to year. Topics may include the traditional arguments for the existence of God, religious experience, the problem of evil, survival after death, God and ethics.
A. Byrne

24.504 Topics in Aesthetics
Prereq: Permission of instructor
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
Acad Year 2021-2022: G (Fall)
3-0-9 units
Can be repeated for credit.

Selected topics in aesthetics. Content varies from year to year. Topics may include the definition of art, the expression of emotion in music, the nature of depiction, the role of artists intentions in interpretation, and the relationship between moral and aesthetic value.
B. Skow

24.601 Topics in Moral Philosophy
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall)
3-0-9 units

Systematic examination of selected problems in moral philosophy. Content varies from year to year. Subject may be repeated only with permission of instructor and advisor.
T. Schapiro

24.602 Topics in the Philosophy of Agency
Prereq: Permission of instructor
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
Acad Year 2021-2022: G (Spring)
3-0-9 units
Can be repeated for credit.

Systematic examination of selected problems in the theory of agency. Content varies from year to year and subject may be taken repeatedly with permission of instructor and advisor.
T. Schapiro

24.611[J] Political Philosophy
Same subject as 17.000[J]
Prereq: Permission of instructor
Acad Year 2020-2021: G (Fall)
Acad Year 2021-2022: Not offered
3-0-9 units
Can be repeated for credit.

See description under subject 17.000[J].
B. Zacka

24.635 Topics in Critical Social Theory
Prereq: Permission of instructor
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
Acad Year 2021-2022: G (Fall)
3-0-9 units
Can be repeated for credit.

Explores topics arising within critical race theory, feminist theory, queer theory, disability studies, working class studies, and related interdisciplinary efforts - both historical and contemporary - to understand and promote social justice.
S. Haslanger

24.636 Topics in Social Theory and Practice
Subject meets with 24.236
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
Acad Year 2021-2022: G (Spring)
3-0-9 units

An in-depth consideration of a topic in social theory with reflection on its implications for social change. Examples of topics include race and racism; punishment and prison reform; global justice and human rights; gender and global care chains; environmentalism and industrial agriculture; bioethics, disability, and human enhancement; capitalism and commodification; and sexuality and the family. Readings draw from both social science and philosophy with special attention to the normative literature relevant to the issue. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.
S. Haslanger

24.637[J] Feminist Thought
Same subject as 17.006[J]
Subject meets with 17.007[J], 24.237[J], WGS.301[J]
Prereq: Permission of instructor, based on previous coursework
G (Spring)
3-0-9 units

See description under subject 17.006[J]. Limited to 15.
E. Wood
24.711 Topics in Philosophical Logic
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Spring)
3-0-9 units
Can be repeated for credit.
Problems of ontology, epistemology, and philosophy of language that bear directly on questions about the nature of logic and the conceptual analysis of logical theory, such as logical truth, logical consequence, and proof. Content varies from year to year and subject may be taken repeatedly upon permission of instructor and advisor. V. McGee

24.729 Topics in Philosophy of Language
Prereq: Permission of instructor
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
Acad Year 2021-2022: G (Spring)
3-0-9 units
Can be repeated for credit.
Major issues in the philosophy of language. Topics change each year and subject may be taken repeatedly with permission of instructor. J. Spencer

24.805 Topics in Theory of Knowledge
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Spring)
3-0-9 units
Can be repeated for credit.
Major issues in theory of knowledge. Topics change each year and subject may be taken repeatedly with permission of instructor. C. Hare, R. White

24.810 Topics in Philosophy of Science
Prereq: Permission of instructor
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
Acad Year 2021-2022: G (Fall)
3-0-9 units
Can be repeated for credit.
Topics in the foundations of science: the nature of concepts and theories, the distinction between empirical and theoretical knowledge claims, realist and instrumentalist interpretation of such claims, and the analysis of scientific explanation. The central topic varies from year to year. Subject may be taken repeatedly with the permission of instructor and advisor. Staff

24.891 Independent Study: Philosophy
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall, Spring, Summer)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.
Open to qualified graduate students in philosophy who wish to pursue special studies or projects. Consult with the intended supervisor and the Chair of the Committee on Graduate Students in Philosophy before registering. B. Skow

24.892 Independent Study: Philosophy
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall, Spring, Summer)
Units arranged [P/D/F]
Can be repeated for credit.
Open to qualified graduate students in philosophy who wish to pursue special studies or projects. Consult with the intended supervisor and the Chair of the Committee on Graduate Students in Philosophy before registering. Consult B. Skow

24.893 Dissertation Workshop
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall, Spring)
2-0-1 units
Workshop for students working on their dissertations. Restricted to Philosophy doctoral students. A. Byrne

24.894 Placement Workshop (New)
Prereq: None
G (Fall, Spring)
2-0-1 units
Can be repeated for credit.
Workshop for students planning to apply for academic jobs in the following year. Advice and feedback on preparation of application materials, including writing sample, thesis abstract, and course syllabi. Limited to philosophy graduate students. Staff


**24.899 Topics in Linguistics and Philosophy**  
Prereq: Permission of instructor  
G (Fall)  
3-0-9 units  
Can be repeated for credit.  

Selected topics at the intersection of linguistics and philosophy. Intended for graduate students in either linguistics or philosophy. Topics vary from year to year.  
*K. von Fintel, S. Iatridou, J. Khoo*

**24.THG Graduate Thesis**  
Prereq: Permission of instructor  
G (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)  
Units arranged  
Can be repeated for credit.  

Program of research and writing of thesis, to be arranged by the student with supervising committee.  
*Staff*

**24.S40 Special Seminar: Philosophy**  
Prereq: None  
G (Fall)  
3-0-9 units  
Can be repeated for credit.  

Graduate subject that covers topics not offered in the regular curriculum. Consult department to learn of offerings for a particular term.  
*Staff*

**24.S41 Special Seminar: Philosophy**  
Prereq: Permission of instructor  
G (Fall, Spring)  
3-0-9 units  
Graduate subject that covers topics not offered in the regular curriculum. Consult department to learn of offerings for a particular term.  
*Staff*

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**Linguistics**

**Undergraduate Subjects**

**24.900 Introduction to Linguistics**  
Prereq: None  
U (Fall, Spring)  
4-0-8 units. HASS-S; CI-H  
Credit cannot also be received for 24.9000  

Studies what is language and what does knowledge of a language consist of. It asks how do children learn languages and is language unique to humans; why are there many languages; how do languages change; is any language or dialect superior to another; and how are speech and writing related. Context for these and similar questions provided by basic examination of internal organization of sentences, words, and sound systems. Assumes no prior training in linguistics.  
*Fall: A. Albright  Spring: N. Richards*

**24.9000 How Language Works**  
Prereq: None  
U (Spring)  
Not offered regularly; consult department  
4-0-8 units. HASS-S  
Credit cannot also be received for 24.900  

Introduces the field of linguistics as the scientific study of the human capacity for language, and its interaction with other cognitive systems. Examines specific phenomena that reveal the general laws and principles that govern the structure of all human languages, as well as the ways in which languages do differ. Topics include language acquisition and use, language change, dialects, and language technologies, with a special focus on collection and analysis of linguistic data. Assumes no prior training in linguistics.  
*K. von Fintel*

**24.901 Language and Its Structure I: Phonology**  
Subject meets with 24.931  
Prereq: 24.900 or 24.9000  
U (Fall)  
3-0-9 units. HASS-S  

Introduction to fundamental concepts in phonological theory and their relation to issues in philosophy and cognitive psychology. Articulatory and acoustic phonetics, distinctive features and the structure of feature systems, underlying representations and underspecification, phonological rules and derivations, syllable structure, accentual systems, and the morphology-phonology interface. Examples and exercises from a variety of languages. Students taking graduate version complete different assignments.  
*D. Steriade*


**24.902 Language and Its Structure II: Syntax**  
Subject meets with 24.932  
Prereq: 24.900 or 24.9000  
U (Fall)  
3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Introduction to fundamental concepts in syntactic theory and its relation to issues in philosophy and cognitive psychology. Examples and exercises from a variety of languages. Students taking graduate version complete different assignments.  
*D. Pesetsky*

**24.903 Language and Its Structure III: Semantics and Pragmatics**  
Subject meets with 24.933  
Prereq: 24.900 or 24.9000  
U (Spring)  
3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Introduction to fundamental concepts in semantic and pragmatic theory. Basic issues of form and meaning in natural languages. Ambiguities of structure and of meaning. Compositionality. Word meaning. Quantification and logical form. Contexts: indexicality, discourse, presupposition and conversational implicature. Students taking graduate version complete different assignments.  
*P. Elliott*

**24.904 Language Acquisition**  
Prereq: 24.900, 24.9000, or permission of instructor  
U (Spring)  
3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Covers the major results in the study of first-language acquisition concentrating on the development of linguistic structure, including morphology, syntax, and semantics. Universal aspects of development are discussed, as well as a variety of cross-linguistic phenomena. Theories of language learning are considered, including parameter-setting and maturation.  
*A. Aravind*

**24.905[J] Laboratory in Psycholinguistics**  
Same subject as 9.59[J]  
Prereq: None  
U (Spring)  
3-3-6 units. Institute LAB

See description under subject 9.59[J].  
*E. Gibson*

**24.906[J] The Linguistic Study of Bilingualism**  
Same subject as 216.024[J]  
Prereq: 24.900 or 24.9000  
U (Fall)  
3-0-9 units. HASS-S; CI-H

Development of bilingualism in human history (from *Australopithecus* to present day). Focuses on linguistic aspects of bilingualism; models of bilingualism and language acquisition; competence versus performance; effects of bilingualism on other domains of human cognition; brain imaging studies; early versus late bilingualism; opportunities to observe and conduct original research; and implications for educational policies among others. Students participate in six online web meetings with partner institutions. Taught in English. Enrollment limited.  
*S. Flynn*

**24.908 Creole Languages and Caribbean Identities**  
Prereq: None  
U (Spring)  
3-0-9 units. HASS-S; CI-H

Caribbean Creole languages result from language contact via colonization and the slave trade. Explores creolization from cognitive, historical and comparative perspectives and evaluates popular theories about "Creole genesis" and the role of language acquisition. Also explores non-linguistic creolization in literature, religion and music in the Caribbean and addresses issues of Caribbean identities by examining Creole speakers' and others' beliefs toward Creole cultures. Draws comparisons with aspects of African-American culture.  
*M. DeGraff*

**24.909 Field Methods in Linguistics**  
Prereq: 24.901, 24.902, and permission of instructor  
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered  
Acad Year 2021-2022: U (Fall)  
3-1-8 units. Institute LAB

Explores the structure of an unfamiliar language through direct work with a native speaker. Students complete a grammatical sketch of the phonology and syntax, work in groups on specific aspects of the language's structure, and assemble reports to create a partial grammar of the language. Provides instruction and practice in written and oral communication. Enrollment limited.  
*Staff*
24.910 Advanced Topics in Linguistic Analysis
Prereq: (24.901, 24.902, and 24.903) or permission of instructor
U (Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 units. HASS-S
Can be repeated for credit.

In-depth study of an advanced topic in phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax or semantics, with a focus on the interfaces among these grammar components. Provides practice in written and oral communication.
S. Flynn

Same subject as 21H.106[J], 21L.008[J], 21W.741[J], CMS.150[J], WGS.190[J]
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-A, HASS-H; CI-H

Interdisciplinary survey of people of African descent that draws on the overlapping approaches of history, literature, anthropology, legal studies, media studies, performance, linguistics, and creative writing. Connects the experiences of African-Americans and of other American minorities, focusing on social, political, and cultural histories, and on linguistic patterns. Includes lectures, discussions, workshops, and required field trips that involve minimal cost to students.
M. Degraff & D. Fox Harrell

24.914 Language Variation and Change
Prereq: 24.900 or 24.9000
U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Explores how linguistic systems vary across time and space. Uses case studies in particular languages to examine how language transmission and social factors shape the grammatical systems of individual speakers, and how grammar constrains variation and change. Students work in groups to analyze corpus or survey data. Provides instruction and practice in written and oral communication.
A. Albright

24.915 Linguistic Phonetics
Subject meets with 24.963
Prereq: 24.900 or 24.9000
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
Acad Year 2021-2022: U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-S

The study of speech sounds: how we produce and perceive them and their acoustic properties. The influence of the production and perception systems on phonological patterns and sound change. Acoustic analysis and experimental techniques. Students taking the graduate version complete different assignments.
E. Flemming

24.916[J] Old English and Beowulf
Same subject as 21L.601[J]
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
Acad Year 2021-2022: U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

See description under subject 21L.601[J]. Limited to 16.
A. Bahr

24.917 ConLangs: How to Construct a Language
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Explores languages that have been deliberately constructed (ConLangs), including Esperanto, Klingon, and Tolkien's Elvish. Students construct their own languages while considering phenomena from a variety of languages of the world. Topics include writing systems, phonology (basic units of speech and how they combine), morphology (structure of words), syntax (how words are put together), and semantics (the expression of meaning, and what language leaves unexpressed). Through regular assignments, students describe their constructed language in light of the topics discussed. Final assignment is a grammatical description of the new language.
N. Richards
24.918 Workshop in Linguistic Research
Prereq: (24.901, 24.902, and 24.903) or permission of instructor
U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-S

Students pursue individual research projects in linguistic analysis under the guidance of an advisor. Class meets weekly for presentation of student research and to critically discuss background reading. Focuses on developing skills in linguistic argumentation and presentation of findings. Provides practice in written and oral communication. Includes a 20-page final paper that each student presents to the class.

S. Flynn

24.919 Independent Study: Linguistics
Prereq: None
U (Fall, Spring, Summer)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.

Open to qualified students who wish to pursue special studies or projects.

Consult Department Headquarters

24.UR Undergraduate Research
Prereq: None
U (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)
Units arranged [P/D/F]
Can be repeated for credit.

Research opportunities in linguistics and philosophy. For further information, consult the departmental coordinators.

Staff

24.URG Undergraduate Research
Prereq: None
U (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.

Research opportunities in linguistics and philosophy. For further information consult the departmental coordinators.

Staff

24.S90 Special Subject: Linguistics
Prereq: 24.900 or permission of instructor
U (Fall, Spring)
3-0-9 units
Can be repeated for credit.

Undergraduate subject that covers topics not offered in the regular curriculum. Consult department to learn of offerings for a particular term.

Staff

Graduate Subjects

24.921 Independent Study: Linguistics
Prereq: Permission of advisor
G (Fall, Spring, Summer)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.

Open to qualified graduate students in linguistics who wish to pursue special studies or projects.

Consult Department Headquarters

24.922 Independent Study: Linguistics
Prereq: Permission of advisor
G (Fall, Spring, Summer)
Units arranged [P/D/F]
Can be repeated for credit.

Open to qualified graduate students in linguistics who wish to pursue special studies or projects.

Consult Department Headquarters

24.931 Language and Its Structure I: Phonology
Subject meets with 24.901
Prereq: 24.900, 24.9000, or permission of instructor
G (Fall)
3-0-9 units

Introduction to fundamental concepts in phonological theory and their relation to issues in philosophy and cognitive psychology. Articulatory and acoustic phonetics, distinctive features and the structure of feature systems, underlying representations and underspecification, phonological rules and derivations, syllable structure, accentual systems, and the morphology-phonology interface. Examples and exercises from a variety of languages. Students taking graduate version complete different assignments.

D. Steriade

24.932 Language and Its Structure II: Syntax
Subject meets with 24.902
Prereq: 24.900, 24.9000, or permission of instructor
G (Fall)
3-0-9 units

Introduction to fundamental concepts in syntactic theory and its relation to issues in philosophy and cognitive psychology. Examples and exercises from a variety of languages. Students taking graduate version complete different assignments.

D. Pesetsky
24.933 Language and Its Structure III: Semantics and Pragmatics
Subject meets with 24.903
Prereq: 24.900, 24.9000, or permission of instructor
G (Spring)
3-0-9 units

Introduction to fundamental concepts in semantic and pragmatic theory. Basic issues of form and meaning in natural languages. Ambiguities of structure and of meaning. Compositionality. Word meaning. Quantification and logical form. Contexts: indexicality, discourse, presupposition and conversational implicature. Students taking graduate version complete different assignments.

P. Elliott

24.942 Topics in the Grammar of a Less Familiar Language
Prereq: 24.951
G (Spring)
3-0-9 units
Can be repeated for credit.

Students work with a native speaker of a language whose structure is significantly different from English, examining aspects of its syntax, semantics, and phonology. In the course of doing this, students will acquire techniques for gathering linguistic data from native speakers. Enrollment limited.

M. Kenstowicz, N. Richards

24.943 Syntax of a Language (Family)
Prereq: Permission of instructor
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
Acad Year 2021-2022: G (Fall)
3-0-9 units

Detailed examination of the syntax of a particular language or language family, and theories proposed in the existing literature to account for the observed phenomena.

M. DeGraff

24.946 Linguistic Theory and Japanese Language
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-6 units

Detailed examination of the grammar of Japanese and its structure which is significantly different from English, with special emphasis on problems of interest in the study of linguistic universals. Data from a broad group of languages studied for comparison with Japanese. Assumes familiarity with linguistic theory.

S. Miyagawa

24.947 Language Disorders in Children
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
Acad Year 2021-2022: G (Spring)
3-0-9 units

Reading and discussion of current linguistic theory, first language acquisition and language disorders in young children. Focus on development of a principled understanding of language disorders at the phonological, morphological and syntactic levels. Examines ways in which these disorders confront theories of language and acquisition.

S. Flynn

24.948 Linguistic Theory and Second and Third Language Acquisition in Children and Adults
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Spring)
3-0-6 units

Students read and discuss current linguistic theory, first language acquisition research, and data concerning second and third language acquisition in adults and children. Focuses on development of a theory of second and third language acquisition within current theories of language. Emphasizes syntactic, lexical, and phonological development. Examines ways in which these bodies of data confront theories of language and the mind. When possible, students participate in practica with second and/or third language learners.

S. Flynn

24.949 Language Acquisition I (New)
Prereq: 24.952, 24.970, and 24.973
G (Fall)
3-0-6 units

Lectures, reading, and discussion of current theory and data concerning the psychology and biology of language acquisition. Emphasizes learning of syntax, semantics, and morphology, together with some discussion of phonology, and especially research relating grammatical theory and learnability theory to empirical studies of children.

A. Aravind
**24.951 Introduction to Syntax**  
Prereq: Permission of instructor  
G (Fall)  
3-0-9 units  
Introduction to theories of syntax underlying work currently being done within the lexical-functional and government-binding frameworks. Organized into three interrelated parts, each focused upon a particular area of concern: phrase structure; the lexicon; and principles and parameters. Grammatical rules and processes constitute a focus of attention throughout the course that serve to reveal both modular structure of grammar and interaction of grammatical components.  
D. Pesetsky

**24.952 Advanced Syntax**  
Prereq: 24.951  
G (Spring)  
3-0-9 units  
Problems in constructing an explanatory theory of grammatical representation. Topics drawn from current work on anaphora, casemarking, control, argument structure, Wh- and related constructions. Study of language-particular parameters in the formulation of linguistic universals.  
A. Aravind, S. Iatridou

**24.954 Pragmatics in Linguistic Theory**  
Prereq: Permission of instructor  
G (Fall)  
3-0-9 units  
Formal theories of context-dependency, presupposition, implicature, context-change, focus and topic. Special emphasis on the division of labor between semantics and pragmatics. Applications to the analysis of quantification, definiteness, presupposition projection, conditionals and modality, anaphora, questions and answers.  
P. Elliott, D. Fox

**24.955 More Advanced Syntax**  
Prereq: 24.951 and 24.952  
G (Fall)  
3-0-9 units  
An advanced-level survey of topics in syntax.  
D. Fox, S. Iatridou

**24.956 Topics in Syntax**  
Prereq: 24.951  
G (Fall, Spring)  
3-0-9 units  
Can be repeated for credit.  
The nature of linguistic universals that make it possible for languages to differ and place limits on these differences. Study of selected problem areas show how data from particular languages contribute to the development of a strong theory of universal grammar and how such a theory dictates solutions to traditional problems in the syntax of particular languages.  
Fall: S. Miyagawa, N. Richards, Spring: A. R. Deal, D. Pesetsky

**24.960 Syntactic Models**  
Prereq: 24.951 and 24.952  
G (Spring)  
3-0-9 units  
Comparison of different proposed architectures for the syntax module of grammar. Subject traces several themes across a wide variety of approaches, with emphasis on testable differences among models. Models discussed include ancient and medieval proposals, structuralism, early generative grammar, generative semantics, government-binding theory/minimalism, LFG, HPSG, TAG, functionalist perspectives and others.  
D. Pesetsky

**24.961 Introduction to Phonology**  
Prereq: Permission of instructor  
G (Fall)  
3-0-9 units  
First half of a year-long introduction to the phonological component of grammar. Introduces the major research results, questions, and analytic techniques in the field of phonology. Focuses on segmental feature structure and prosodic structure while the sequel (24.962) considers the interfaces of phonology with morphology, syntax, and the lexicon. Students should have basic knowledge of articulatory phonetic description and phonetic transcription.  
E. Flemming, M. Kenstowicz

**24.962 Advanced Phonology**  
Prereq: 24.961  
G (Spring)  
3-0-9 units  
Continuation of 24.961.  
D. Steriade
24.963 Linguistic Phonetics
Subject meets with 24.915
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
Acad Year 2021-2022: G (Fall)
3-0-9 units
The study of speech sounds: how we produce and perceive them and their acoustic properties. The influence of the production and perception systems on phonological patterns and sound change. Acoustic analysis and experimental techniques. Students taking the graduate version complete different assignments.
E. Flemming

24.964 Topics in Phonology
Prereq: 24.961
G (Spring)
3-0-9 units
Can be repeated for credit.
In-depth study of a topic in current phonological theory.
Spring: E. Flemming

24.965 Morphology
Prereq: Permission of instructor
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
Acad Year 2021-2022: G (Spring)
3-0-9 units
A. Albright

24.966[J] Laboratory on the Physiology, Acoustics, and Perception of Speech
Same subject as 6.542[J], HST.712[J]
Prereq: Permission of instructor
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
Acad Year 2021-2022: G (Spring)
2-2-8 units
See description under subject 6.542[J].
S. Shattuck-Hufnagel, J.-Y. Choi

24.967 Topics in Experimental Phonology
Prereq: 24.961, 24.963, or permission of instructor
G (Fall)
3-0-9 units
Experimental techniques to test predictions drawn from current phonological theory. Includes a survey of experimental methodologies currently in use, an introduction to experimental design and analysis, and critical consideration of how experimental results are used to inform theory.
A. Albright, E. Flemming

24.970 Introduction to Semantics
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall)
3-0-9 units
Basic issues of form and meaning in formalized and natural languages. Conceptual, logical, and linguistic questions about truth. Reference, modal, and intensional notions. The role of grammar in language use and context-dependency. Ambiguities of structure and meaning, and dimensions of semantic variation in syntax and the lexicon.
K. von Fintel

24.973 Advanced Semantics
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Spring)
3-0-9 units
Current work on semantics and questions of logic and meaning for syntactic systems in generative grammar.
A. R. Deal, M. Hackl

24.979 Topics in Semantics
Prereq: Permission of instructor
Acad Year 2020-2021: Not offered
Acad Year 2021-2022: G (Spring)
3-0-9 units
Can be repeated for credit.
Seminar on current research in semantics and generative grammar. Topics may vary from year to year.
P. Elliott, K. von Fintel, D. Fox, S. Iatridou
24.981 Topics in Computational Phonology
Prereq: 24.961 or permission of instructor
G (Spring)
3-0-9 units
Exploration of issues in the computational modeling of phonology: finding generalizations in data, formalisms for representing phonological knowledge, modeling grammar acquisition, and testing phonological theories by means of implemented models. Experience using and developing models, including preparing training data, running simulations, and interpreting their results. No background in programming or machine learning is assumed.
A. Albright

24.991 Workshop in Linguistics
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall, Spring)
3-0-9 units
Can be repeated for credit.
An intensive group tutorial/seminar for discussion of research being conducted by participants. No listeners.
Fall: M. DeGraff, D. Steriade, Spring: M. Hackl, M. Kenstowicz

24.993 Tutorial in Linguistics and Related Fields
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall, Spring)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.
Individual or small-group tutorial in which students, under the guidance of a faculty member, explore the interrelations with linguistics of some specified area.
Consult Department Headquarters

24.995 Linguistics Professional Perspective
Prereq: None
G (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)
0-1-0 units
Can be repeated for credit.
Required for linguistics doctoral students to explore and gain professional perspective through industry and academic experiences. Professional perspective options include industry internships, academic internships, or training for academia. For an internship experience, an offer from a company or organization is required prior to enrollment. A written report is required upon completion of the experience. Proposals subject to departmental approval in consultation with advisor.
Consult Department

24.THG Graduate Thesis
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.
Program of research and writing of thesis, to be arranged by the student with supervising committee.
Staff

24.593 Special Seminar: Linguistics
Prereq: None
G (Fall, Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit.
Covers topics not offered in the regular curriculum. Consult department to learn of offerings for a particular term.
Staff

24.594 Special Seminar: Linguistics
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall; first half of term)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-3 units
Can be repeated for credit.
Half-term subject that covers topics in linguistics not offered in the regular curriculum. Consult department to learn of offerings for a particular term.
Staff

24.595 Special Seminar: Linguistics
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall, Spring)
3-0-9 units
Can be repeated for credit.
Graduate subject that covers topics not offered in the regular curriculum. Consult department to learn of offerings for a particular term.
Staff
24.96 Special Seminar: Linguistics
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall, Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 units
Can be repeated for credit.

Graduate subject that covers topics not offered in the regular curriculum. Consult department to learn of offerings for a particular term.

Staff