LINGUISTICS AND PHILOSOPHY (COURSE 24)

**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.  
*C. Hare*

**24.01 Classics of Western Philosophy**  
Prereq: None  
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*

**24.02 Moral Problems and the Good Life**  
Prereq: None  
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 (Fall)  
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][ Justice**  
Same subject as 17.01[]  
Prereq: None  
U (Spring)  
3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H

An examination of alternative theories of justice—utilitarianism, rights theories, social contract theory, and communitarianism—and the implications of those theories for problems of liberty, equality, and community. Readings drawn principally from the work of contemporary political philosophers, including Rawls, Nozick, Dworkin, Walzer, MacIntyre, and Buchanan.  
*L. Stanczyk*

**24.05 Philosophy of Religion**  
Prereq: None  
U (Spring)  
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
U (Spring)
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. Schüll, V. Urbanek

24.08[J] Philosophical Issues in Brain Science
Same subject as 9.48[J]
Prereq: None
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.
A. Byrne

24.09 Minds and Machines
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
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?
S. Paul

24.11 Philosophy of Quantum Mechanics
Prereq: None
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

24.112 Space, Time, and Relativity
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H
Philosophical questions raised by relativistic and pre-relativistic physics, especially questions about space and time. Discussions focus on Newton's arguments for the existence of absolute space and time; pre-relativistic arguments that the geometry of space is a matter of convention; and counter arguments from relativity showing that the passage of time is not a real phenomenon. Other topics include the relationship between matter and energy in relativity, and the possibility of time travel. Previous exposure to special relativity will be helpful but is not required.
B. Skow

Same subject as 10.04[J]
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H; CI-H
See description under subject 10.04[J].
B. L. Trout, A. Schulman

24.115 Philosophy and Time
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H
Considers a wide range of philosophical questions about time through the lenses of metaphysics, philosophy of mind, and theory of value. Topics include the question of time's existence, how our minds represent events in time, and whether it is rational to be 'biased toward the future.'
B. Skow
24.118 Paradox and Infinity
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H

Different kinds of infinity; the paradoxes of set theory; the reduction of arithmetic to logic; formal systems; paradoxes involving the concept of truth; Gödel's incompleteness theorems; the nonformalizable nature of mathematical truth; and Turing machines.
A. Rayo

24.120 Moral Psychology
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
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.
T. Schapiro

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.
S. Haslanger, R. McKinney

24.202 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

24.215 Topics in the Philosophy of Science
Prereq: One philosophy subject
U (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

24.211 Metaphysics
Prereq: One philosophy subject
U (Fall)
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
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?
R. Stalnaker

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.
J. Khoo
24.231 Ethics
Prereq: One philosophy subject
U (Fall)
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)
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
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 (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-H
See description under subject WGS.301[J].
R. McKinney

24.241 Logic I
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
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
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
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 (Spring)
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.
R. Stalnaker

24.245 Theory of Models
Prereq: 24.241 or permission of instructor
U (Fall)
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

24.253 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
U (Fall)
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

24.500 Special Subject: Philosophy
Prereq: None
U (Fall, Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 units
Can be repeated for credit.
24.520 Special Subject: Philosophy
Prereq: One philosophy subject or permission of instructor
U (Fall, Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
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.

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

24.190[J] Doing Right
Same subject as 21L.301[J]
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
Not offered regularly; consult department
2-0-4 units
See description under subject 21L.301[J].
R. Perry

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.
R. McKinney, P. Weinmann

24.192 Language, Information, and Power
Prereq: One philosophy subject or permission of instructor
U (Fall)
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.
J. Spencer, 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.
A. Byrne, R. White
24.410 Topics in the History of Philosophy
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Spring)
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.

J. Thomson

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.

A. Rayo

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.

S. Haslanger, S. Yablo

24.502 Topics in Metaphysics and Ethics
Prereq: Permission of instructor
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
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

24.601 Topics in Moral Philosophy
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall, Spring)
3-0-9 units
Can be repeated for credit.

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.

Fall: T. Schapiro
Spring: C. Hare

24.611[J] Political Philosophy
Same subject as 17.000[J]
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Spring)
3-0-9 units
Can be repeated for credit.

See description under subject 17.000[J].

L. Stanczyk

24.636 Topics in Social Theory and Practice
Subject meets with 24.236
Prereq: None
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 (Fall)
3-0-9 units
See description under subject 17.006[J].
S. Haslanger

24.711 Topics in Philosophical Logic
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall)
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
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.
R. Stalnaker

24.805 Topics in Theory of Knowledge
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall)
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.
A. Byrne, S. Paul

24.810 Topics in Philosophy of Science
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Spring)
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.
B. Skow

24.891 Independent Study: Philosophy
Prereq: Permission of advisor
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 Department Headquarters

24.892 Independent Study: Philosophy
Prereq: Permission of advisor
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 Department Headquarters

24.899 Topics in Linguistics and Philosophy
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall)
Not offered regularly; consult department
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

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
24.540 Special Seminar: Philosophy
Prereq: None
G (Fall)
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

24.541 Special Seminar: Philosophy
Prereq: Permission of Instructor
G (Fall, Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
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

Linguistics

Undergraduate Subjects

24.900 Introduction to Linguistics
Prereq: None
U (Fall, Spring)
4-0-8 units. HASS-S; CI-H

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: D. Pesetsky
Spring: N. Richards

24.901 Language and Its Structure I: Phonology
Subject meets with 24.931
Prereq: 24.900
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.
D. Steriade

24.902 Language and Its Structure II: Syntax
Subject meets with 24.932
Prereq: 24.900
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.
S. Iatridou

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

R. Schwarzschild

24.904 Language Acquisition
Prereq: 24.900 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.
Staff
24.905[J] Laboratory in Psycholinguistics
Same subject as 9.59[J]
Prereq: 9.00 or 24.900
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 21G.024[J]
Prereq: 24.900
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.
S. Flynn

24.907[J] Abnormal Language
Same subject as 9.56[J]
Prereq: 24.900 or permission of instructor
U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-S

See description under subject 9.56[J].
K. Wexler

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, permission of instructor
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.
Staff

24.910 Advanced Topics in Linguistic Analysis
Prereq: 24.901, 24.902, 24.903; or permission of instructor
U (Fall)
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.
D. Steriade

Same subject as 21H.106[J], 21L.008[J], 21W.741[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.
S. Alexandre, M. Degraff

24.913[J] Language and Technology
Same subject as 21A.503[J], STS.070[J]
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
3-0-9 units. HASS-S

See description under subject 21A.503[J].
G. Jones
24.914 Language Variation and Change
Prereq: 24.900
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. E. Flemming

24.915 Linguistic Phonetics
Subject meets with 24.963
Prereq: 24.900
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

24.918 Workshop in Linguistic Research
Prereq: 24.901, 24.902, 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. D. Steriade

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.

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

24.920 Special Subject: Linguistics
Prereq: 24.900 or permission of instructor
U (Fall, Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
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 or permission of instructor
G (Fall)
3-0-9 units
Meets with 24.901, but assignments differ. See description under 24.901.
D. Steriade

24.932 Language and Its Structure II: Syntax
Subject meets with 24.902
Prereq: 24.900 or permission of the instructor
G (Fall)
3-0-9 units
Meets with 24.902, but assignments differ. See description under 24.902.
S. Iatridou

24.933 Language and Its Structure III: Semantics and Pragmatics
Subject meets with 24.903
Prereq: 24.900 or permission of instructor
G (Spring)
3-0-9 units
Meets with 24.903, but assignments differ. See description under 24.903.
R. Schwarzschild

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.
A. Albright, N. Richards

24.943 Syntax of a Language (Family)
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Spring)
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.
S. Iatridou

24.946 Linguistic Theory and Japanese Language
Subject meets with 21G.514
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. Meets with undergraduate subject 21G.514, but assignments differ. Assumes familiarity with linguistic theory.
S. Miyagawa

24.947 Language Disorders in Children
Prereq: None
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 Language Acquisition
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Spring)
3-0-6 units
Reading and discussion of current linguistic theory, first language acquisition research, and data concerning adult second language acquisition. Focus on development of a theory of second language acquisition within a theory of universal grammar. Emphasis on syntactic, lexical, and phonological development. Examination of ways in which this body of data confronts theories of language.
S. Flynn

24.949[J] Language Acquisition I
Same subject as 9.601[J]
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall)
3-0-6 units
See description under subject 9.601[J].
M. Hackl
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.
S. Iatridou

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.
D. Fox, D. Pesetsky

24.954 Pragmatics in Linguistic Theory
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Spring)
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.
D. Fox, I. Heim

24.955 More Advanced Syntax
Prereq: 24.951, 24.952
G (Spring)
3-0-9 units
An advanced-level survey of topics in syntax.
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: D. Pesetsky

24.960 Syntactic Models
Prereq: 24.951, 24.952
G (Fall)
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
Introduction to the current research questions in phonological theory. Topics include metrical and prosodic structure, features and their phonetic basis in speech, acquisition and parsing, phonological domains, morphology, and language change and reconstruction. Activities include problemsolving, squibs, and data collection.
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
G (Fall)
3-o-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 (Fall, Spring)
3-o-9 units
Can be repeated for credit.

In-depth study of a topic in current phonological theory.
E. Flemming

24.965 Morphology
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Spring)
3-o-9 units

A. Albright, D. Pesetsky

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
G (Fall)
2-2-8 units

See description under subject 6.542[J].
L. D. Braida, S. Shattuck-Hufnagel

24.967 Topics in Experimental Phonology
Prereq: 24.961, 24.963, or permission of instructor
G (Spring)
3-o-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

24.968[J] Speech Communication
Same subject as 6.541[J], HST.710[J]
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Spring)
3-1-8 units

See description under subject 6.541[J].
L. D. Braida, S. S. Ghosh, R. E. Hillman, S. Shattuck-Hufnagel

24.970 Introduction to Semantics
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall)
3-o-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.
R. Schwarzschild

24.973 Advanced Semantics
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Spring)
3-o-9 units

Current work on semantics and questions of logic and meaning for syntactic systems in generative grammar.
K. von Fintel, I. Heim

24.979 Topics in Semantics
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall, Spring)
3-o-9 units
Can be repeated for credit.

Seminar on current research in semantics and generative grammar. Topics may vary from year to year.
Fall: D. Fox, M. Hackl
Spring: K. von Fintel, S. Iatridou, R. Schwarzschild
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: A. Albright, N. Richards
Spring: D. Steriade

24.992 Survey of General Linguistics
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall)
3-0-9 units
Can be repeated for credit.
Reading and discussion of certain important papers in syntax, semantics, and phonology designed to familiarize the student with central ideas in current linguistic research. Organization of discussion is primarily in the hands of seminar participants.
Staff

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.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

24.594 Special Seminar: Linguistics
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall; partial term)
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)
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.
R. Berwick

24.596 Special Seminar: Linguistics
Prereq: Permission of Instructor
G (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