LINGUISTICS
Advisor: Associate Professor Lama Nassif

How is language structured? What are the social forces associated with the development of language? How does the mind process and produce language? What are the best methods for teaching and learning a new language? Linguistics is a vibrant and multifaceted field that bridges the academic and the everyday. From Sociolinguistics to Linguistic Anthropology to Applied Linguistics, each of the various disciplines associated with the general area of Linguistics provides an illuminating perspective on the ways in which language works.

At Williams, students can gain insight into the intricacies of linguistic functions in courses located in several different academic units.

Linguistics

ANTH 162  (S)  Languages of East Asia

Cross-listings:  CHIN 162  ANTH 162  ASIA 162  GBST 162

Secondary Cross-listing

A survey of the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean languages in their linguistic and cultural context. Working with various types of multimedia including audio, video, animation, and texts, we'll take up the phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and lexicon of these three major East Asian languages, including also their history and writing systems as well as how they function in the societies where they are spoken. Though the emphasis of the course is on linguistic description and analysis, there will also be an applied component, as part of which we'll learn several dozen common expressions in each language. Some of the questions to be discussed are: What are the similarities and differences among these three languages? How are and how aren't they related? How did the modern standard form of each develop and what is its relationship to any non-standard languages or dialects? How do these three languages reflect sociolinguistic phenomena such as gender, class, and politeness? How do the writing systems of these languages function and what is the role of Chinese characters in them? What has been the influence of Classical Chinese on Modern Chinese, Japanese, and Korean? How have these languages changed due to influence from English and other languages? And what are the prospects for their future development, including the influence of computers and digital communications? While this course is not intended as a comprehensive introduction to linguistics, it does introduce many basic terms and concepts from that discipline.

Class Format: combination of lecture, discussion, and language practice

Requirements/Evaluation: three quizzes, two 2- to 3-page papers, an oral presentation, and an 8- to 10-page term paper

Prerequisites: none (lectures, class discussions, and readings in English; no prior background in linguistics or any Asian language required)

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: open to all with preference to first-year students and sophomores as well as majors/concentrators in CHIN, JAPN, EALC, ANTH, ASIA and GBST

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

CHIN 162 (D1) ANTH 162 (D2) ASIA 162 (D1) GBST 162 (D2)

Attributes: Linguistics

Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01  MW 8:25 pm - 9:40 pm  Cornelius C. Kubler

ANTH 262  (S)  Language and Power

"A language is a dialect with an army." This (originally Yiddish) aphorism points to ways in which language, often imagined to be a neutral or apolitical medium of communication, proves in practice to be a social domain fully implicated in the operations of power. How do we create community - and social exclusion - by the way that we talk? What role does speech play in the accumulation of cultural capital? How are racism and colonialism
sustained or subverted by language practices, and how can speech transform the world? This introduction to linguistic anthropology draws together classic works of linguistic and semiotic theory with studies of the politics of actual speech grounded in rich and particular cultural and historical contexts, from witchcraft accusations in rural France to the partition of Hindi and Urdu in colonial South Asia. Students will gain familiarity with key concepts (speech acts, performatives, code-switching, language ideology), themes and debates in the social scientific study of language. Assignments include regular postings of 1-page critical response papers and an ethnographic project analyzing a series of speech events in our local community.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Regular postings of critical response papers and an ethnographic final project.

**Prerequisites:** None.

**Enrollment Limit:** 20

**Enrollment Preferences:** Students in all fields of study are most welcome. If overenrolled, priority will be given to Anthropology or Sociology majors or final-year students.

**Expected Class Size:** 20

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

**Attributes:** Linguistics

*Not offered current academic year*

**ARAB 224 (S) Second Language Learning: The Learner, the Classroom, and the Social World**

Learning a second language is one of the most exhilarating, rewarding, and eye-opening experiences of a life-time. Millions of people around the globe embark on a journey of exploration of target languages and cultures while reflecting on the self and home culture(s) in the process. This course introduces you to core issues related to the learning of a second language. What are the processes involved in learning a second language? What does it mean to know another language? Is second language learning similar to first language learning? Why are some language learners more successful than others? What individual variables do learners bring to the learning process? How can classrooms facilitate second language learning? How do learners perceive teachers’ feedback? How does the specific socio-cultural context impact language learning? How does learning about the target culture feed into language learning? How does the learner’s identity evolve in the process of second language learning? These are some key second language learning questions that we will examine in this class. Readings are drawn from studies on the learning of different languages.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Active class participation, assignments, article presentation and leading a class discussion, language learner interview, exam, a final project.

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 20

**Enrollment Preferences:** If the course is overenrolled preference will be first given to Arabic majors, then seniors, then juniors.

**Expected Class Size:** 20

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1)

**Attributes:** Linguistics

Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01 Cancelled

**ASIA 131 (F) Introduction to Japanese Linguistics: Past, Present and Future of Japanese Language**

**Cross-listings:** ASIA 131 JAPN 131

**Secondary Cross-listing**

This course is to understand of how and why the Japanese language has developed to its present form and usage. We will first learn basic concepts and methodologies of linguistics, such as how to formally analyze the patterns of speech sounds (phonetics and phonology), word formation (morphology), sentence structures (syntax), and meaning (semantics and pragmatics). Then, based on sociolinguistics, linguistic typology, anthropological and cognitive linguistics frameworks, we will investigate variations and usages of the Japanese language. Topics will include polite language and honorifics, gender and women’s language, onomatopoeia, linguistic landscape, Japanese dialects, language conflicts, language rights (Okinawans, Ainu, and Koreans in Japan), and multilingualism. The course format combines lectures, seminars, and student-facilitated discussions.
There will be small quizzes, homework assignments, a final research paper, and a poster presentation of the final project. Although there is no prerequisite, intermediate Japanese proficiency or equivalent is beneficial when analyzing primary data.

**Class Format:** combination of lecture and discussion

**Requirements/Evaluation:** quizzes, one or two discussion facilitation, mid-term exam, poster presentation, and an 8- to 10-page final paper

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 20

**Enrollment Preferences:** current or prospective majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**

ASIA 131 (D1) JAPN 131 (D1)

**Attributes:** Linguistics

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Fall 2022

SEM Section: 01  TF 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm  Kasumi Yamamoto

**ASIA 162 (S) Languages of East Asia**

**Cross-listings:** CHIN 162  ANTH 162  ASIA 162  GBST 162

**Secondary Cross-listing**

A survey of the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean languages in their linguistic and cultural context. Working with various types of multimedia including audio, video, animation, and texts, we'll take up the phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and lexicon of these three major East Asian languages, including also their history and writing systems as well as how they function in the societies where they are spoken. Though the emphasis of the course is on linguistic description and analysis, there will also be an applied component, as part of which we'll learn several dozen common expressions in each language. Some of the questions to be discussed are: What are the similarities and differences among these three languages? How are and how aren’t they related? How did the modern standard form of each develop and what is its relationship to any non-standard languages or dialects? How do these three languages reflect sociolinguistic phenomena such as gender, class, and politeness? How do the writing systems of these languages function and what is the role of Chinese characters in them? What has been the influence of Classical Chinese on Modern Chinese, Japanese, and Korean? How have these languages changed due to influence from English and other languages? And what are the prospects for their future development, including the influence of computers and digital communications? While this course is not intended as a comprehensive introduction to linguistics, it does introduce many basic terms and concepts from that discipline.

**Class Format:** combination of lecture, discussion, and language practice

**Requirements/Evaluation:** three quizzes, two 2- to 3-page papers, an oral presentation, and an 8- to 10-page term paper

**Prerequisites:** none (lectures, class discussions, and readings in English; no prior background in linguistics or any Asian language required)

**Enrollment Limit:** 25

**Enrollment Preferences:** open to all with preference to first-year students and sophomores as well as majors/concentrators in CHIN, JAPN, EALC, ANTH, ASIA and GBST

**Expected Class Size:** 20

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**

CHIN 162 (D1) ANTH 162 (D2) ASIA 162 (D1) GBST 162 (D2)

**Attributes:** Linguistics

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Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01  MW 8:25 pm - 9:40 pm  Cornelius C. Kubler
CHIN 272 (S) The History and Mythology of Chinese Scripts

Cross-listings: STS 272 CHIN 272 COMP 272

Primary Cross-listing

Written scripts using what are most often called "Chinese characters" have an attested history of over 3000 years and have been used all over the world to represent a range of different languages. In this course we will examine the history and development of Chinese characters from their earliest extant examples on sacrificial animal bones to their often amusingly misguided use for contemporary tattoos. We will look at historical evidence and mythology, carefully constructed grammatological studies and wild orientalist imaginings. Some topics will include: comparisons between the development of Chinese characters and other written scripts, the relationship between Chinese characters and the languages of China, the use of Chinese characters to write non-Chinese languages, Chinese characters in art and calligraphy, theories of connections between Chinese characters and Chinese philosophy and literature, issues of education and literacy, and the future of Chinese characters in the digital age.

Class Format: discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: quizzes, short writing assignments, a midterm, and a final exam

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: none

Enrollment Preferences: none

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

STS 272 (D2) CHIN 272 (D1) COMP 272 (D1)

Attributes: Linguistics

COGS 222 (F)(S) Minds, Brains, and Intelligent Behavior: An Introduction to Cognitive Science

Cross-listings: PSYC 222 PHIL 222 COGS 222

Primary Cross-listing

This course will emphasize interdisciplinary approaches to the study of intelligent systems, both natural and artificial. Cognitive science synthesizes research from cognitive psychology, computer science, linguistics, neuroscience, and contemporary philosophy. Special attention will be given to the philosophical foundations of cognitive science, representation and computation in symbolic and connectionist architectures, concept acquisition, problem solving, perception, language, semantics, reasoning, and artificial intelligence.

Requirements/Evaluation: midterm and final exams, and weekly exercises

Prerequisites: PSYC 101 or any PHIL course or CSCI 134 or permission of instructor; background in more than one of these is recommended.

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: sophomore and first-year students, with additional preference given to students who satisfy more of the prerequisites.

There is no need to contact the instructor to indicate special interest in the course.

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Unit Notes: meets Contemporary Metaphysics & Epistemology requirement only if registration is under PHIL

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

PSYC 222 (D3) PHIL 222 (D2) COGS 222 (D2)

Attributes: Linguistics PHIL Contemp Metaphysics + Epistemology Courses PSYC 200-level Courses
The sentence "Every cookie is chocolate chip and three of them are oatmeal raisin" is a perfectly grammatical sentence of English, but it's self-contradictory. What does it take to realize this fact? One must grasp the meanings of the various parts of the sentence. In particular, one must grasp that "three of them" picks out a subset of the group picked out by "every cookie", and that there's no such thing as a cookie that is both chocolate chip and oatmeal raisin. There are two ways to understand "Many students took every class". According to one, there is a single group of students that had their hands extremely full this semester. According to the other, every class was well-populated, potentially by different groups. The reason for this is that there are two underlying structures that the original sentence can realize. This course serves as an introduction to formal methods in the scientific study of language. Our goal will be to characterize phenomena like those above with logical and mathematical precision. The focus will be on model-theoretic semantics, the sub-field of linguistics that studies meanings. Along the way we will discuss principles of syntax, the sub-field that studies sentence structures, and pragmatics, the sub-field that studies inferences of non-literal content. This is a formal course, but no prior logical or mathematical background will be expected. Starting from scratch, students will learn the building blocks of current-day linguistic research. This introduction will be of use to students interested in language from a variety of perspectives, including philosophy, cognitive science, and computer science.

Requirements/Evaluation: Weekly problem sets, plus a final project (paper/presentation/other type, to be discussed with instructor)

Prerequisites: No prerequisites

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: Preference given to seniors and philosophy/cognitive science majors.

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (QFR)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

COGS 224 (D2) PHIL 221 (D2)

Quantitative/Formal Reasoning Notes: This course teaches the fundamentals of the formal analysis of language. Students will learn to provide translation schemes from English to a logical language (typed lambda calculus).

Attributes: COGS Interdepartmental Electives COGS Related Courses Linguistics PHIL Contemp Metaphysics + Epistemology Courses

Fall 2022

SEM Section: 01 TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Christian De Leon

COGS 390 (S) Discourse Dynamics (WS)

Cross-listings: COGS 390 PHIL 390

Primary Cross-listing

It'd be perfectly natural to say "I might've left the stove on", then check the stove, then say "I didn't leave the stove on". But perform those exact same steps in a different order--check the stove, say "I didn't leave the stove on", then say "I might've left the stove on"--and something's gone quite wrong. Conversation is dynamic--the back and forth exchange of information is a process that grows and adapts to the surrounding context. The order in which you say things matters, and it matters for what you communicate what actions you take and what events happen around you. In this course, we will investigate dynamic communicative phenomena and discuss competing theoretical explanations about how they're interpreted. Of particular interest will be the extent to which discourse dynamics are built into the meanings of linguistic expressions vs. the extent to which they're consequences of our rational cognition. Is a sentence's relation to previously uttered sentences similar to its relation to extra-linguistic events? How much inference goes into interpreting what's said? In pursuing the answers to these questions, we will discuss both classic and contemporary theories from philosophy and linguistics.
Requirements/Evaluation: Four short papers (3-4 pages), take-home midterm paper (5-7) pages, take-home final paper (6-8 pages)
Prerequisites: At least one philosophy or cognitive science course (any level), or permission of instructor.
Enrollment Limit: 19
Enrollment Preferences: Preference given to seniors and philosophy/cognitive science majors, then to students who have taken 200-Level Intro to Formal Linguistics
Expected Class Size: 19
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2) (WS)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
COGS 390 (D2) PHIL 390 (D2)
Writing Skills Notes: There will be four short papers (3-4 pages each) that will receive written comments on substance, argument structure, and writing style. These will be designed to include sections that, upon revision in light of comments, can be incorporated into the longer midterm and final papers (5-7 pages and 6-8 pages respectively). Students will be required to meet with the instructor before the midterm and final papers to discuss outlines and revisions of short papers.
Attributes: COGS Interdepartmental Electives COGS Related Courses Linguistics PHIL Contemp Metaphysics + Epistemology Courses

Spring 2023
SEM Section: 01 TF 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm Christian De Leon

COMP 272 (S) The History and Mythology of Chinese Scripts
Cross-listings: STS 272 CHIN 272 COMP 272
Secondary Cross-listing
Written scripts using what are most often called “Chinese characters” have an attested history of over 3000 years and have been used all over the world to represent a range of different languages. In this course we will examine the history and development of Chinese characters from their earliest extant examples on sacrificial animal bones to their often amusingly misguided use for contemporary tattoos. We will look at historical evidence and mythology, carefully constructed grammatological studies and wild orientalist imaginings. Some topics will include: comparisons between the development of Chinese characters and other written scripts, the relationship between Chinese characters and the languages of China, the use of Chinese characters to write non-Chinese languages, Chinese characters in art and calligraphy, theories of connections between Chinese characters and Chinese philosophy and literature, issues of education and literacy, and the future of Chinese characters in the digital age.
Class Format: discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: quizzes, short writing assignments, a midterm, and a final exam
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: none
Enrollment Preferences: none
Expected Class Size: 15
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
STS 272 (D2) CHIN 272 (D1) COMP 272 (D1)
Attributes: Linguistics
Not offered current academic year

GBST 162 (S) Languages of East Asia
Cross-listings: CHIN 162 ANTH 162 ASIA 162 GBST 162
Secondary Cross-listing
A survey of the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean languages in their linguistic and cultural context. Working with various types of multimedia including audio, video, animation, and texts, we'll take up the phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and lexicon of these three major East Asian languages, including also their history and writing systems as well as how they function in the societies where they are spoken. Though the emphasis of the course is on linguistic description and analysis, there will also be an applied component, as part of which we'll learn several dozen common expressions in each language. Some of the questions to be discussed are: What are the similarities and differences among these three languages? How are and how aren't they related? How did the modern standard form of each develop and what is its relationship to any non-standard languages or dialects? How do these three languages reflect sociolinguistic phenomena such as gender, class, and politeness? How do the writing systems of these languages function and what is the role of Chinese characters in them? What has been the influence of Classical Chinese on Modern Chinese, Japanese, and Korean? How have these languages changed due to influence from English and other languages? And what are the prospects for their future development, including the influence of computers and digital communications? While this course is not intended as a comprehensive introduction to linguistics, it does introduce many basic terms and concepts from that discipline.

Class Format: combination of lecture, discussion, and language practice
Requirements/Evaluation: three quizzes, two 2- to 3-page papers, an oral presentation, and an 8- to 10-page term paper
Prerequisites: none (lectures, class discussions, and readings in English; no prior background in linguistics or any Asian language required)
Enrollment Limit: 25
Enrollment Preferences: open to all with preference to first-year students and sophomores as well as majors/concentrators in CHIN, JAPN, EALC, ANTH, ASIA and GBST
Expected Class Size: 20
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
CHIN 162 (D1) ANTH 162 (D2) ASIA 162 (D1) GBST 162 (D2)
Attributes: Linguistics

Spring 2023
SEM Section: 01   MW 8:25 pm - 9:40 pm   Cornelius C. Kubler

**JAPN 131 (F) Introduction to Japanese Linguistics: Past, Present and Future of Japanese Language**

**Cross-listings:** ASIA 131 JAPN 131

**Primary Cross-listing**
This course is to understand of how and why the Japanese language has developed to its present form and usage. We will first learn basic concepts and methodologies of linguistics, such as how to formally analyze the patterns of speech sounds (phonetics and phonology), word formation (morphology), sentence structures (syntax), and meaning (semantics and pragmatics). Then, based on sociolinguistics, linguistic typology, anthropological and cognitive linguistics frameworks, we will investigate variations and usages of the Japanese language. Topics will include polite language and honorifics, gender and women's language, onomatopoeia, linguistic landscape, Japanese dialects, language conflicts, language rights (Okinawans, Ainu, and Koreans in Japan), and multilingualism. The course format combines lectures, seminars, and student-facilitated discussions. There will be small quizzes, homework assignments, a final research paper, and a poster presentation of the final project. Although there is no prerequisite, intermediate Japanese proficiency or equivalent is beneficial when analyzing primary data.

Class Format: combination of lecture and discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: quizzes, one or two discussion facilitation, mid-term exam, poster presentation, and an 8- to 10-page final paper
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 20
Enrollment Preferences: current or prospective majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
Expected Class Size: 15
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
PHIL 118  (F)(S)  Meaning, Communication and Society  (DPE) (WS)
The primary way we interact with others is through the use of language. We use language to communicate meanings in order to accomplish a variety of goals: to convey information, make requests, establish rules, utilize power, issue protests, and much more. We coordinate our lives through sounds from mouths, signs from hands, and squiggles on paper because somehow sounds, signs, and squiggles have meanings. This course is an investigation into how language is used to express meaning, and how such expression can have real interpersonal and societal impact. Using resources from philosophy and linguistics, we will study various ways in which literal and non-literal uses of language influence our social lives. Of particular interest will be how language can be used to establish, reinforce, and resist power relationships involving race and gender.

Requirements/Evaluation:  Weekly short papers (500-1000 words), take-home midterm paper (5-6 pages), take-home final paper (7-8) pages, with comments on writing given on short papers and midterm

Prerequisites:  none

Enrollment Limit:  19

Enrollment Preferences:  Preference given to first year students and philosophy majors.

Expected Class Size:  19

Grading:  yes pass/fail option,  yes fifth course option

Distributions:  (D2)  (DPE) (WS)

Writing Skills Notes:  There will be short writing assignments that will receive comments on content, writing style, and argument structure every week except when midterm/final papers are due. The midterm/final papers will incorporate revisions from previous short papers.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:  This course has a focus on the role of language in relationships involving power, oppression, and group inclusion between individuals belonging to various socio-political identities.

Attributes:  Linguistics

PHIL 203  (F) Logic and Language  (QFR)
Logic is the study of reasoning and argument. More particularly, it concerns itself with the difference between good and bad reasoning, between strong and weak arguments. We all examine the virtues and vices of good arguments in both informal and formal systems. The goals of this course are to improve the critical thinking of the students, to introduce them to sentential and predicate logic, to familiarize them with enough formal logic to enable them to read some of the great works of philosophy, which use formal logic (such as Wittgenstein's Tractatus), and to examine some of the connections between logic and philosophy.

Class Format: discussion

Requirements/Evaluation:  a midterm, a final, frequent homework and problem sets

Prerequisites:  none

Enrollment Limit:  40/sect

Enrollment Preferences:  Philosophy majors, seniors, juniors, sophomores, first-years in that order.

Expected Class Size:  40/sect

Grading:  yes pass/fail option,  yes fifth course option

Distributions:  (D2)  (QFR)
Quantitative/Formal Reasoning Notes: The main part of the course is learning two formal languages of logic: sentential logic predicate logic

Attributes: Linguistics  PHIL Contemp Metaphysics + Epistemology Courses

Not offered current academic year

PHIL 221  (F)  Introduction to Formal Linguistics  (QFR)
Cross-listings: COGS 224  PHIL 221

Secondary Cross-listing

The sentence "Every cookie is chocolate chip and three of them are oatmeal raisin" is a perfectly grammatical sentence of English, but it's self-contradictory. What does it take to realize this fact? One must grasp the meanings of the various parts of the sentence. In particular, one must grasp that "three of them" picks out a subset of the group picked out by "every cookie", and that there's no such thing as a cookie that is both chocolate chip and oatmeal raisin. There are two ways to understand "Many students took every class". According to one, there is a single group of students that had their hands extremely full this semester. According to the other, every class was well-populated, potentially by different groups. The reason for this is that there are two underlying structures that the original sentence can realize. This course serves as an introduction to formal methods in the scientific study of language. Our goal will be to characterize phenomena like those above with logical and mathematical precision. The focus will be on model-theoretic semantics, the sub-field of linguistics that studies meanings. Along the way we will discuss principles of syntax, the sub-field that studies sentence structures, and pragmatics, the sub-field that studies inferences of non-literal content. This is a formal course, but no prior logical or mathematical background will be expected. Starting from scratch, students will learn the building blocks of current-day linguistic research. This introduction will be of use to students interested in language from a variety of perspectives, including philosophy, cognitive science, and computer science.

Requirements/Evaluation: Weekly problem sets, plus a final project (paper/presentation/other type, to be discussed with instructor)
Prerequisites: No prerequisites
Enrollment Limit: 20
Enrollment Preferences: Preference given to seniors and philosophy/cognitive science majors.
Expected Class Size: 20
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)  (QFR)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
COGS 224 (D2)  PHIL 221 (D2)

Quantitative/Formal Reasoning Notes: This course teaches the fundamentals of the formal analysis of language. Students will learn to provide translation schemes from English to a logical language (typed lambda calculus).

Attributes: COGS Interdepartmental Electives  COGS Related Courses  Linguistics  PHIL Contemp Metaphysics + Epistemology Courses

Fall 2022
SEM Section: 01    TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm  Christian  De Leon

PHIL 222  (F)(S)  Minds, Brains, and Intelligent Behavior: An Introduction to Cognitive Science
Cross-listings: PSYC 222  PHIL 222  COGS 222

Secondary Cross-listing

This course will emphasize interdisciplinary approaches to the study of intelligent systems, both natural and artificial. Cognitive science synthesizes research from cognitive psychology, computer science, linguistics, neuroscience, and contemporary philosophy. Special attention will be given to the philosophical foundations of cognitive science, representation and computation in symbolic and connectionist architectures, concept acquisition, problem solving, perception, language, semantics, reasoning, and artificial intelligence.

Requirements/Evaluation: midterm and final exams, and weekly exercises
Prerequisites: PSYC 101 or any PHIL course or CSCI 134 or permission of instructor; background in more than one of these is recommended.
Enrollment Limit: 20
Enrollment Preferences: sophomore and first-year students, with additional preference given to students who satisfy more of the prerequisites.

There is no need to contact the instructor to indicate special interest in the course.
PHIL 310  (F) Wittgenstein's Later Philosophy  (WS)

Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889-1951) is probably the greatest philosopher of the 20th century. His later work, best known through posthumously published *Philosophical Investigations*, continues to influence contemporary thinking about language, mind, action, knowledge, ethics, religion, aesthetics, culture, and of course, philosophy itself. Understanding later Wittgenstein is thus vital for engaging in contemporary philosophy, but neither the interpretation nor the evaluation of his thought is straightforward or easy. Later Wittgenstein is a controversial, polarizing figure; but serious reading of his work is invariably intellectually enriching and fertile. This tutorial aims to provide students with the skills necessary for careful, serious and thorough reading of Wittgenstein's later philosophy. In the first part of the course, we will read Wittgenstein's *Philosophical Investigations*, one of the greatest books ever written. In the second part of the course, we will read *On Certainty*, and selections from other of Wittgenstein's posthumously published works: *Zettel*, *Philosophical Grammar*, *Remarks on the Philosophy of Psychology, Culture and Value*, *Lectures and Conversations on Aesthetics, Psychology and Religious Belief*, and *The Big Typescript*. Throughout the course, we will consult and discuss the important secondary literature on Wittgenstein, and analyze different philosophical presuppositions and goals that motivate particular readings. The central topics of the course will be: meaning, rule following, human languages; private experiences and other minds; intention and action; knowledge and skepticism; and especially, the methods and nature of philosophy.

Requirements/Evaluation: tutorial attendance and participation; bi-weekly tutorial papers, each about 5 pages long (totaling 6 per student); bi-weekly oral responses to the paper of the tutorial partner

Prerequisites: two Philosophy courses

Enrollment Limit:  10

Enrollment Preferences: preference will be given to students who already took a course on Wittgenstein, for example, PHIL 309

Expected Class Size:  10

Grading:  no pass/fail option,  no fifth course option

Distributions:  (D2)  (WS)

Writing Skills Notes: Students will write two short (about 800 words) seminar papers; five 5-7 pages long papers; five 2-3 pages long comments on their tutorial partner's papers; and a final paper (also 5-7 pages long) which will be a revision of one of the previously written papers. Students will get regular feedback from their tutorial partner and from the instructor on the substance of their work as well as on their oral and writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Attributes:  Linguistics  PHIL History Courses

Not offered current academic year

PHIL 390  (S) Discourse Dynamics  (WS)

Cross-listings:  COGS 390  PHIL 390

Secondary Cross-listing

It'd be perfectly natural to say "I might've left the stove on", then check the stove, then say "I didn't leave the stove on". But perform those exact same steps in a different order--check the stove, say "I didn't leave the stove on", then say "I might've left the stove on"--and something's gone quite wrong. Conversation is dynamic--the back and forth exchange of information is a process that grows and adapts to the surrounding context. The order in
which you say things matters, and it matters for what you communicate what actions you take and what events happen around you. In this course, we will investigate dynamic communicative phenomena and discuss competing theoretical explanations about how they're interpreted. Of particular interest will be the extent to which discourse dynamics are built into the meanings of linguistic expressions vs. the extent to which they're consequences of our rational cognition. Is a sentence's relation to previously uttered sentences similar to its relation to extra-linguistic events? How much inference goes into interpreting what's said? In pursuing the answers to these questions, we will discuss both classic and contemporary theories from philosophy and linguistics.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Four short papers (3-4 pages), take-home midterm paper (5-7) pages, take-home final paper (6-8 pages)

**Prerequisites:** At least one philosophy or cognitive science course (any level), or permission of instructor.

**Enrollment Limit:** 19

**Enrollment Preferences:** Preference given to seniors and philosophy/cognitive science majors, then to students who have taken 200-Level Intro to Formal Linguistics

**Expected Class Size:** 19

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

COGS 390 (D2) PHIL 390 (D2)

**Writing Skills Notes:** There will be four short papers (3-4 pages each) that will receive written comments on substance, argument structure, and writing style. These will be designed to include sections that, upon revision in light of comments, can be incorporated into the longer midterm and final papers (5-7 pages and 6-8 pages respectively). Students will be required to meet with the instructor before the midterm and final papers to discuss outlines and revisions of short papers.

**Attributes:** COGS Interdepartmental Electives COGS Related Courses Linguistics PHIL Contemp Metaphysics + Epistemology Courses

Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01  TF 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm  Christian De Leon

**PSYC 222 (F)(S) Minds, Brains, and Intelligent Behavior: An Introduction to Cognitive Science**

**Cross-listings:** PSYC 222 PHIL 222 COGS 222

**Secondary Cross-listing**

This course will emphasize interdisciplinary approaches to the study of intelligent systems, both natural and artificial. Cognitive science synthesizes research from cognitive psychology, computer science, linguistics, neuroscience, and contemporary philosophy. Special attention will be given to the philosophical foundations of cognitive science, representation and computation in symbolic and connectionist architectures, concept acquisition, problem solving, perception, language, semantics, reasoning, and artificial intelligence.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** midterm and final exams, and weekly exercises

**Prerequisites:** PSYC 101 or any PHIL course or CSCI 134 or permission of instructor; background in more than one of these is recommended.

**Enrollment Limit:** 20

**Enrollment Preferences:** sophomore and first-year students, with additional preference given to students who satisfy more of the prerequisites. There is no need to contact the instructor to indicate special interest in the course.

**Expected Class Size:** 20

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Unit Notes:** meets Contemporary Metaphysics & Epistemology requirement only if registration is under PHIL

**Distributions:** (D3)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

PSYC 222 (D3) PHIL 222 (D2) COGS 222 (D2)

**Attributes:** Linguistics PHIL Contemp Metaphysics + Epistemology Courses PSYC 200-level Courses

Fall 2022
STS 272 (S) The History and Mythology of Chinese Scripts

Cross-listings: STS 272 CHIN 272 COMP 272

Secondary Cross-listing

Written scripts using what are most often called "Chinese characters" have an attested history of over 3000 years and have been used all over the world to represent a range of different languages. In this course we will examine the history and development of Chinese characters from their earliest extant examples on sacrificial animal bones to their often amusingly misguided use for contemporary tattoos. We will look at historical evidence and mythology, carefully constructed grammatological studies and wild orientalist imaginings. Some topics will include: comparisons between the development of Chinese characters and other written scripts, the relationship between Chinese characters and the languages of China, the use of Chinese characters to write non-Chinese languages, Chinese characters in art and calligraphy, theories of connections between Chinese characters and Chinese philosophy and literature, issues of education and literacy, and the future of Chinese characters in the digital age.

Class Format: discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: quizzes, short writing assignments, a midterm, and a final exam

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: none

Enrollment Preferences: none

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

STS 272 (D2) CHIN 272 (D1) COMP 272 (D1)

Attributes: Linguistics

Not offered current academic year