

# 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:** ASIA 162 / GBST 162 / CHIN 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? How are they used in Asian American speech communities? 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:** 20

**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:** 15

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

**Distributions:** (D2)

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

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

**Attributes:** Linguistics

Not offered current academic year

### **ANTH 262 (S) Language and Power (DPE)**

**Cross-listings:** ASIA 262

#### Primary Cross-listing

"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 include, exclude, or

accumulate cultural capital by the way that we talk? When a language is a goddess (as with Tamil), what forms of linguistic community follow? How is structural inequality 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 India. Students will gain familiarity with key concepts (speech acts, performatives, code-switching, language ideology), themes and debates in the social scientific study of language. The course is global in orientation, with special attention to South Asia. Assignments include in-class presentations and short response papers; students will also study language policy in a place of importance to them and make recommendations toward improving inclusivity. Finally students will conduct individual ethnographic projects analyzing a distinctive speech genre of their choice.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** In-class presentations, short response papers, short study of language policy, and an ethnographic final project (roughly 12 page paper).

**Prerequisites:** None.

**Enrollment Limit:** 16

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

**Expected Class Size:** 16

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

**Distributions:** (D2) (DPE)

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

ANTH 262(D2) ASIA 262(D2)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** The course attends to the operations of power in several linguistic domains: colonial language policy in South Asia, everyday racism and "mock Spanish" in the United States, and conflict between users of "dialect" and "standard" in multiple language contexts. In their ethnographic projects students will carefully analyze the operations of power in language use in our own local community.

**Attributes:** Linguistics

Spring 2025

LEC Section: 01 MWF 8:30 am - 9:45 am Joel Lee

### **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

Not offered current academic year

## ARAB 344 (S) Language and Power: Political Discourse during and after the Arab Spring Uprisings (DPE)

**Cross-listings:** COMP 339

### Primary Cross-listing

"Political language is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind." George Orwell, *Politics and the English Language* In this course, we will examine the interplay between language and politics during the Arab Spring Uprisings. We will explore the socio-political conditions that precipitated the movement, and analyze how language functioned both as a tool of oppression and a vehicle for dismantling power structures. Students will be introduced to key linguistic and sociopolitical frameworks, such as systemic functional linguistics, critical discourse analysis, and Bakhtinian dialogism. Through a combination of lectures, discussions, and case studies, we will analyze speeches, media coverage, protest slogans, and grassroots communications from different Arabic-speaking countries to uncover the linguistic and rhetorical strategies employed by both state and non-state actors. We will also reflect on how the convergence of the Arab Spring and digital technologies promoted diverse forms of political expressions and translations thus challenging the state's authoritative discourse and ultimately ending its monopoly over political narrative. This course is taught entirely in English, and all Arabic texts are accompanied by English translations.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Several short reflections (2-3 pages) and answering prompts based on the readings; class presentations, and a final project.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Enrollment Limit:** 15

**Enrollment Preferences:** Arabic Studies majors

**Expected Class Size:** 19

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

**Distributions:** (D1) (DPE)

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

ARAB 344(D1) COMP 339(D1)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** The conceptual and material framework of this course focuses on the power relation between language and structures of political domination. Students will not only acquire tools to identify and deconstruct this relationship, but also learn about various expressions of linguistic resistance.

**Attributes:** Linguistics

Spring 2025

SEM Section: 01 W 1:10 pm - 3:50 pm Ahmad Jeddeeni

## ASIA 131 (F) Introduction to Japanese Formal Linguistics

**Cross-listings:** JAPN 131

### Secondary Cross-listing

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the theoretical study of the Japanese language. We will delve into various aspects of linguistic theory, exploring speech sounds (phonetics and phonology), word formation (morphology), sentence structures (syntax), and meaning (semantics). Throughout, we will primarily juxtapose Japanese with English to deepen our understanding. By the end, we will not only grasp the fundamentals but also gain practical skills to delve into applied linguistics with confidence. This includes areas such as language acquisition, pragmatics, psycholinguistics, neurolinguistics, sociolinguistics, historical linguistics, language change, and cross-linguistic variation. While there is no prerequisite, having some proficiency in Japanese would enhance your experience.

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

**Requirements/Evaluation:** quizzes, problem sets, a paper, a presentation, a mid-term exam, and a final exam

**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:**

JAPN 131(D1) ASIA 131(D1)

**Attributes:** Linguistics

Fall 2024

SEM Section: 01 TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Masashi Harada

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

**Cross-listings:** ANTH 162 / GBST 162 / CHIN 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? How are they used in Asian American speech communities? 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:** 20

**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:** 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 162(D1) ANTH 162(D2) GBST 162(D2) CHIN 162(D1)

**Attributes:** Linguistics

**Not offered current academic year**

### **ASIA 207 (S) Exploration of Japanese Language and Culture: A Linguistic Journey**

**Cross-listings:** JAPN 207

#### **Secondary Cross-listing**

Language is a fundamental tool for human interaction, embodying cultural values and shaping social realities. This course examines the intricate relationship between the Japanese language and the cultural beliefs, social structures, and daily life of Japanese society. Through in-depth analysis, we will explore how language not only reflects but also influences the ways in which Japanese people perceive and navigate their world. The course covers a range of topics, beginning with an exploration of polite language and the variety of personal pronouns, which illuminate the underlying hierarchies in Japanese society. We will also examine gendered language, youth slang, and queer Japanese, considering how these linguistic forms contribute to the construction of social identities. Additionally, we will analyze the role of language stereotypes in media--such as manga, anime, and television dramas--to understand their impact on cultural perceptions. The study of language policy and ideology will be incorporated as we discuss efforts to preserve and revitalize the Ainu and Ryukyuan languages, reflecting Japan's approach to linguistic diversity. Our inquiry will also address the

challenges of translation, particularly the cultural and semantic nuances that can be lost when converting Japanese prose into English. Throughout the course, students will engage with essential questions that shape the study of language and culture: How does language influence cultural practices, and how does culture influence language? How do social changes manifest in linguistic evolution? What are the dynamic interactions between language, society, and individual identity in Japan? This course invites students to embark on a linguistic journey that connects language with cultural insight, offering an academic yet engaging exploration of Japan's evolving society.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** attendance and participation, 5 short papers, 5 critiques, and one final project

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 10

**Enrollment Preferences:** current or prospective Japanese, Chinese majors, and Asian Studies concentrators

**Expected Class Size:** 10

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

**Distributions:** (D1)

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

ASIA 207(D1) JAPN 207(D1)

**Attributes:** Linguistics

Spring 2025

TUT Section: T1 TBA Kasumi Yamamoto

### **ASIA 262 (S) Language and Power (DPE)**

**Cross-listings:** ANTH 262

**Secondary Cross-listing**

"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 include, exclude, or accumulate cultural capital by the way that we talk? When a language is a goddess (as with Tamil), what forms of linguistic community follow? How is structural inequality 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 India. Students will gain familiarity with key concepts (speech acts, performatives, code-switching, language ideology), themes and debates in the social scientific study of language. The course is global in orientation, with special attention to South Asia. Assignments include in-class presentations and short response papers; students will also study language policy in a place of importance to them and make recommendations toward improving inclusivity. Finally students will conduct individual ethnographic projects analyzing a distinctive speech genre of their choice.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** In-class presentations, short response papers, short study of language policy, and an ethnographic final project (roughly 12 page paper).

**Prerequisites:** None.

**Enrollment Limit:** 16

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

**Expected Class Size:** 16

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

**Distributions:** (D2) (DPE)

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

ANTH 262(D2) ASIA 262(D2)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** The course attends to the operations of power in several linguistic domains: colonial language policy in South Asia, everyday racism and "mock Spanish" in the United States, and conflict between users of "dialect" and "standard" in multiple language contexts. In their ethnographic projects students will carefully analyze the operations of power in language use in our own local community.

**Attributes:** Linguistics

Spring 2025

LEC Section: 01 MWF 8:30 am - 9:45 am Joel Lee

### **CHIN 162 (S) Languages of East Asia**

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

#### **Primary 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? How are they used in Asian American speech communities? 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:** 20

**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:** 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 162(D1) ANTH 162(D2) GBST 162(D2) CHIN 162(D1)

**Attributes:** Linguistics

**Not offered current academic year**

### **COGS 129 (S) Language and the Mind**

**Cross-listings:** PHIL 129

#### **Secondary Cross-listing**

Many animals communicate, but only humans can use language. What is language? Is the ability to learn it specialized, or just a matter of having enough cognitive processing power? Do successes of large language models and AI chat bots confirm or challenge traditional linguistic theory? Does language in any way determine, shape, or enable thought? How sophisticated could a mind without language be? Does knowledge of language require consciousness? In this course we will investigate (a) what makes language stand out from other kinds of communication system and (b) what makes human minds uniquely capable of acquiring language. Drawing on debates about the evolution of language, Chomskyan universal grammar, the computational theory of mind, and more, we will explore the philosophical consequences of our existence as linguistic creatures.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Short reading responses (approx. 2 pages) every other week, two exams

**Prerequisites:** None

**Enrollment Limit:** 20

**Enrollment Preferences:** Priority given to first and second years

**Expected Class Size:** 15

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

**Distributions:** (D2)

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

COGS 129(D2) PHIL 129(D2)

**Attributes:** Linguistics

Not offered current academic year

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

**Cross-listings:** PHIL 222 / PSYC 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:** 25

**Enrollment Preferences:** sophomore and first-year students, with additional preference given to students who satisfy more of the prerequisites. Do not contact the instructor to plead for special enrollment consideration.

**Expected Class Size:** 25

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

**Distributions:** (D2)

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

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

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

Fall 2024

LEC Section: 01 TR 11:20 am - 12:35 pm Joseph L. Cruz

### **COGS 224 (F) Introduction to Formal Linguistics (QFR)**

**Cross-listings:** PHIL 221

**Primary 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 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:**

PHIL 221(D2) COGS 224(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 2024

LEC Section: 01 Cancelled

### **COGS 390 (S) Discourse Dynamics (WS)**

**Cross-listings:** 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

Not offered current academic year

### **COMP 339 (S) Language and Power: Political Discourse during and after the Arab Spring Uprisings (DPE)**

**Cross-listings:** ARAB 344

#### Secondary Cross-listing

"Political language is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind." George Orwell, Politics and the English Language In this course, we will examine the interplay between language and politics during the Arab Spring Uprisings. We will explore the socio-political conditions that precipitated the movement, and analyze how language functioned both as a tool of oppression and a



vehicle for dismantling power structures. Students will be introduced to key linguistic and sociopolitical frameworks, such as systemic functional linguistics, critical discourse analysis, and Bakhtinian dialogism. Through a combination of lectures, discussions, and case studies, we will analyze speeches, media coverage, protest slogans, and grassroots communications from different Arabic-speaking countries to uncover the linguistic and rhetorical strategies employed by both state and non-state actors. We will also reflect on how the convergence of the Arab Spring and digital technologies promoted diverse forms of political expressions and translations thus challenging the state's authoritative discourse and ultimately ending its monopoly over political narrative. This course is taught entirely in English, and all Arabic texts are accompanied by English translations.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Several short reflections (2-3 pages) and answering prompts based on the readings; class presentations, and a final project.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Enrollment Limit:** 15

**Enrollment Preferences:** Arabic Studies majors

**Expected Class Size:** 19

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

**Distributions:** (D1) (DPE)

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

ARAB 344(D1) COMP 339(D1)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** The conceptual and material framework of this course focuses on the power relation between language and structures of political domination. Students will not only acquire tools to identify and deconstruct this relationship, but also learn about various expressions of linguistic resistance.

**Attributes:** Linguistics

Spring 2025

SEM Section: 01 W 1:10 pm - 3:50 pm Ahmad Jeddeeni

## **GBST 162 (S) Languages of East Asia**

**Cross-listings:** ASIA 162 / ANTH 162 / CHIN 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? How are they used in Asian American speech communities? 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:** 20

**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:** 15

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

**Distributions:** (D2)

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

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

**Attributes:** Linguistics

Not offered current academic year

### **JAPN 131 (F) Introduction to Japanese Formal Linguistics**

**Cross-listings:** ASIA 131

**Primary Cross-listing**

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the theoretical study of the Japanese language. We will delve into various aspects of linguistic theory, exploring speech sounds (phonetics and phonology), word formation (morphology), sentence structures (syntax), and meaning (semantics). Throughout, we will primarily juxtapose Japanese with English to deepen our understanding. By the end, we will not only grasp the fundamentals but also gain practical skills to delve into applied linguistics with confidence. This includes areas such as language acquisition, pragmatics, psycholinguistics, neurolinguistics, sociolinguistics, historical linguistics, language change, and cross-linguistic variation. While there is no prerequisite, having some proficiency in Japanese would enhance your experience.

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

**Requirements/Evaluation:** quizzes, problem sets, a paper, a presentation, a mid-term exam, and a final exam

**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:**

JAPN 131(D1) ASIA 131(D1)

**Attributes:** Linguistics

Fall 2024

SEM Section: 01 TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Masashi Harada

### **JAPN 207 (S) Exploration of Japanese Language and Culture: A Linguistic Journey**

**Cross-listings:** ASIA 207

**Primary Cross-listing**

Language is a fundamental tool for human interaction, embodying cultural values and shaping social realities. This course examines the intricate relationship between the Japanese language and the cultural beliefs, social structures, and daily life of Japanese society. Through in-depth analysis, we will explore how language not only reflects but also influences the ways in which Japanese people perceive and navigate their world. The course covers a range of topics, beginning with an exploration of polite language and the variety of personal pronouns, which illuminate the underlying hierarchies in Japanese society. We will also examine gendered language, youth slang, and queer Japanese, considering how these linguistic forms contribute to the construction of social identities. Additionally, we will analyze the role of language stereotypes in media--such as manga, anime, and television dramas--to understand their impact on cultural perceptions. The study of language policy and ideology will be incorporated as we discuss efforts to preserve and revitalize the Ainu and Ryukyuan languages, reflecting Japan's approach to linguistic diversity. Our inquiry will also address the challenges of translation, particularly the cultural and semantic nuances that can be lost when converting Japanese prose into English. Throughout the course, students will engage with essential questions that shape the study of language and culture: How does language influence cultural practices, and how does culture influence language? How do social changes manifest in linguistic evolution? What are the dynamic interactions between language, society, and individual identity in Japan? This course invites students to embark on a linguistic journey that connects language with cultural insight, offering an academic yet engaging exploration of Japan's evolving society.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** attendance and participation, 5 short papers, 5 critiques, and one final project

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 10

**Enrollment Preferences:** current or prospective Japanese, Chinese majors, and Asian Studies concentrators

**Expected Class Size:** 10

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

**Distributions:** (D1)

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

ASIA 207(D1) JAPN 207(D1)

**Attributes:** Linguistics

Spring 2025

TUT Section: T1 TBA Kasumi Yamamoto

### **PHIL 118 (F) Meaning, Communication and Society (DPE)**

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.

**Class Format:** This class will have both lecture and seminar elements.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** 5-6 papers over the course of the semester.

**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)

**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

Fall 2024

SEM Section: 01 Cancelled

### **PHIL 129 (S) Language and the Mind**

**Cross-listings:** COGS 129

#### **Primary Cross-listing**

Many animals communicate, but only humans can use language. What is language? Is the ability to learn it specialized, or just a matter of having enough cognitive processing power? Do successes of large language models and AI chat bots confirm or challenge traditional linguistic theory? Does language in any way determine, shape, or enable thought? How sophisticated could a mind without language be? Does knowledge of language require consciousness? In this course we will investigate (a) what makes language stand out from other kinds of communication system and (b) what makes human minds uniquely capable of acquiring language. Drawing on debates about the evolution of language, Chomskyian universal grammar, the computational theory of mind, and more, we will explore the philosophical consequences of our existence as linguistic creatures.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Short reading responses (approx. 2 pages) every other week, two exams

**Prerequisites:** None

**Enrollment Limit:** 20

**Enrollment Preferences:** Priority given to first and second years

**Expected Class Size:** 15

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

**Distributions:** (D2)

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

COGS 129(D2) PHIL 129(D2)

**Attributes:** Linguistics

Not offered current academic year

### **PHIL 203 (S) Introductory Logic (QFR)**

Logic is the study of reasoning and argument. More particularly, it concerns itself with the differences between good and bad reasoning, between strong and weak arguments. This course is an introduction to the precise characterization of good logical reasoning. We will learn a to a formal language, Monadic First-Order Logic, designed to cleanly represent good inference patterns. Learning this language will primarily involve learning two skills: (i) translation between sentences of English and formulas of the logical language, and (ii) proving the validity of logical arguments using a system of natural deduction. No prior mathematical/logical/formal experience is assumed for this course.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** A midterm, a final, frequent problem sets.

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 40

**Enrollment Preferences:** Preference given to philosophy majors.

**Expected Class Size:** 40

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

**Distributions:** (D2) (QFR)

**Quantitative/Formal Reasoning Notes:** This course teaches two formal languages of logic: sentential logic and predicate logic.

**Attributes:** Linguistics PHIL Contemp Metaphysics + Epistemology Courses

Spring 2025

LEC Section: 01 Cancelled

### **PHIL 221 (F) Introduction to Formal Linguistics (QFR)**

**Cross-listings:** COGS 224

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 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:**

PHIL 221(D2) COGS 224(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 2024

LEC Section: 01 Cancelled

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

**Cross-listings:** PSYC 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:** 25

**Enrollment Preferences:** sophomore and first-year students, with additional preference given to students who satisfy more of the prerequisites. Do not contact the instructor to plead for special enrollment consideration.

**Expected Class Size:** 25

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

**Distributions:** (D2)

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

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

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

Fall 2024

LEC Section: 01 TR 11:20 am - 12:35 pm Joseph L. Cruz

### **PHIL 390 (S) Discourse Dynamics (WS)**

**Cross-listings:** COGS 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

Not offered current academic year

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

**Cross-listings:** 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:** 25

**Enrollment Preferences:** sophomore and first-year students, with additional preference given to students who satisfy more of the prerequisites. Do not contact the instructor to plead for special enrollment consideration.

**Expected Class Size:** 25

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

**Distributions:** (D3)

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

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

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

Fall 2024

LEC Section: 01 TR 11:20 am - 12:35 pm Joseph L. Cruz