Graduate Courses in Linguistics, Fall 2015*

(*does not include courses only taken by MA TESOL students. For those see the Graduate Bulletin http://sb.cc.stonybrook.edu/gradbulletin/current/courses/lin/)

NB: descriptions of commonly taught courses are taken from the graduate bulletin, and marked with an asterix*

LIN 521. Syntax 1* (Daniel Finer) (M/W 2:30-3:50, Physics P-124)  
A study of formal grammar as one aspect of our knowledge of language. Concepts and elements of modern syntactic analysis are introduced and motivated using a variety of grammatical phenomena and processes, across a wide range of languages.

LIN 522. Phonetics* (José Elías-Ulloa) (Thurs 5:30-8:30, Frey Hall 316)  
A study of articulatory phonetics and the international phonetic alphabet, with intensive practice in phonetic transcription from a wide variety of languages. Acoustic phonetics, speech perception, and the applications of phonetics to foreign language teaching.

LIN 523. Phonology I* (Lori Repetti) (T/Th 8:30-9:50, Humanities 3020)  
An introduction to the formal study of sound patterns. Problems from various languages serve as the basis for developing a theory of the representation of sound structure.

LIN 527. Structure of English* (Ellen Guigelaar) (M/W 4:00-5:20, SBS S-228)  
A description of the major sentence elements, subsystems, and productive grammatical processes of English. The justification of grammatical categories, interaction between systems and processes, and notions of standard and correctness are discussed with a view to their application in the ESL classroom.

LIN 530 Introduction to General Linguistics* (Christina Bethin) (Tues 5:30-8:30, Chem 123)  
An introduction to modern theoretical and applied linguistics, including phonology, morphology, syntax, language acquisition, historical linguistics, and sociolinguistics.

LIN 541. Bilingualism (John Drury) (T/Th 4:00-5:20, Chem 126)  
This course deals with the topic of bilingualism from a variety of perspectives (linguistics, psychology, cognitive neuroscience). Our primary focus will be on simultaneous bilinguals (acquisition of 2 languages from birth), though we will also discuss SLA (second language or “L2” acquisition) in children (late/adult SLA is the topic of another course, LIN 532, typically taught in the Spring). Questions to be addressed include, among others: Do children acquiring two languages develop two separate systems, or not? Should we view bilinguals as roughly the sum of two monolinguals? How does bilingual acquisition compare to monolingual acquisition and how should we understand such comparisons? Is there a (biologically defined) “critical period” for language acquisition (related to the issue of child vs. adult SLA)? What happens in cases of developmental language impairment in bilinguals? What about cases where a second language (L2) takes over, and the first language (L1) is lost (due to lack of exposure, as in cases of international adoptees)? Are there cognitive benefits to bilingualism? How are the languages of bilinguals handled by the brain? What happens in bilinguals in cases of language breakdown due to brain damage?
LIN 544. Language Acquisition and Literacy Development* (Joy Janzen)  
(TH 5:30-8:30, Frey 224)  
In-depth exploration of the theories of literacy and language development of native English speakers and students who are English language learners pre-school through grade 12. The development and assessment of literacy skills among children at various stages of learning development and across disciplines will be examined. Attention will also be given to children with special needs and the integration of technology in the development of literacy skills.

LIN-625 Semantics (Jiwon Yun) (M/F 1:00-2:20, Humanities 3016)  
This course is an introduction to the formal analysis of natural language semantics, particularly within the framework of generative grammar. It aims to help students develop the ability for semantic analysis essential for their own research. During the course, students will gain hands-on experience with semantic analysis by exploring selected topics in detail, such as predication, modification, conjunction, negation, and quantification.

LIN 650-1. Historical Linguistics (Robert Hoberman) (Monday 5:30-8:30, Physics P122)  
An introduction to the concepts and methods used for the analysis of language change. Beginning with the classical, bedrock tools, such as what is known as the Comparative Method, we will then look at approaches to modeling language change within modern theories of phonology, morphology, and syntax. Since all language change grows out of synchronic variation within society, we will survey the techniques and findings of the sociolinguistics of language variation and of language change in progress. Depending on the interests of the students, we may also look at other topics, such as the genetic classification of languages; language families, language, and prehistory; reconstruction; types of sound change; semantic change; borrowing; writing and documentary evidence.

LIN 650-2. Introduction to Computational Linguistics (Jiwon Yun)  
(Mon 5:20-8:20, Physics P123)  
This course aims to provide a highly accessible introduction to Computational Linguistics for humanities students. Students will learn i) Python, a simple yet powerful programming language for processing linguistic data, and ii) basic concepts in natural language processing with the help of NLTK (Natural Language Toolkit). Through this course, students will gain confidence and proficiency with computer technology that is helpful for linguistics research.

LIN 650-3. Experimental Methods in Phonetics (Marie Huffman)  
(T/Th 2:30 - 3:50. Melville Library 3074)  
This course is a graduate level introduction to common experimental methods in phonetics. Students will get firsthand experience with several analysis techniques which can be used to study phonetic differences between languages, as well as extensive experience in analysis of recorded speech for studying both production and perception. Students will also learn about the phonetic patterns that define the physical "fabric" of spoken language and which must also be born in mind when planning experiments that test hypotheses about linguistic representations and processing.
LIN 651-1. Parsing and Syntactic Processing (Thomas Graf)
(Tue 4:00-7:00, SBS N-250, CompLing Lab)
In this course, we will take a look at syntactic processing from a computational perspective. We will cover basic parsing techniques (recursive descent, shift reduce, Earley, CKY, left corner) and to what extent they can model the quirks of human sentence processing, e.g. garden paths and the difficulty of center embedding. During the second half of the course, we will try to apply what we have learned to current research problems in protein folding.

The given time and location is just for the initial meeting, where we will work out a biweekly schedule for the first half of the semester. For more information, consult the course website: http://lin630.thomasgraf.net

Lin 651-2. Syntax Seminar (Richard Larson) (M/W 4:50-6:20, place TBA)
This seminar will discuss basic issues of structure projection in syntax: where syntactic structure comes from, how we know expressions have the structure that they do, and how this structure relates (if at all) to the meanings of the subexpressions in them. Although broad in scope, these questions allow for a surprisingly limited range of answers within the Minimalist Program. I will be mostly concerned with two primary domains: the verbal domain and the nominal domain, although we may make side trips to AP and PP. In this exploration, I will draw upon some elementary semantic notions for clarification and amplification, although not at the level of developing detailed compositional fragments.