Graduate Electives in Linguistics, Spring, 2015*
(*does not include courses only taken by MA TESOL students. For those see the Graduate Bulletin)

LIN 532. Second Language Acquisition (TBA) (M/W 4-5:20, Chemistry 123)
This course reviews current scientific understanding of the nature of late/adult second language acquisition from a multidisciplinary perspective, taking into account concepts, theories/models, and empirical methods/data from linguistics, psychology, and cognitive neuroscience. Emphasis is placed on understanding and critically evaluating the primary research literature across these different branches of science. Key questions/issues include the impact of critical/sensitive periods and age of acquisition, how these factors may affect the acquisition of different levels/sub-systems of the organization of human language (lexicon, syntax, semantics, phonology), how these subsystems may or may not be differently realized in the brains of late learners compared to native speakers, and what role individual differences may play.

LIN 542 Sociolinguistics (Joy Janzen) (TH 5:30-8:30, Chemistry 128)
An introduction to topics in sociolinguistics, including language variation, language attitudes, language and identity, and language in education and the media.

LIN 544. Language Acquisition and Literacy Development (Joy Janzen) (TH 1-4, Frey 128)
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 621. Syntax 2 (John Bailyn) (Tues, 12:50-3:40, SBS S-218)
A detailed consideration of recent developments in syntactic theory, including treatments of constituency and word order, grammatical relations, typological variation and linguistic universals, and constraints on grammatical rules and representations.

LIN 623. Phonology 2 (Ellen Broselow) (M/W 2:30-3:50, Frey 326)
A study of recent developments in phonological theory, with particular attention to nonlinear models of phonological representation and constraint-based models.

LIN 650-1 Seminar: Computational Linguistics-2 (Thomas Graf) (T/Th 10-11:20, Psych-A 144)
(Prerequisites: Computational Linguistics-1 or consent of instructor. Recommended: Syntax 1, Phonology 1)

This course introduces students to the theoretical foundations of computational linguistics and how they relate to linguistic problems. We will cover essential notions of logic, computer science, and formal language theory and their application to natural language. Topics include:

- the subregular hierarchy of formal languages and its role in phonology
- string automata and transducers for phonology and morphology
- the equivalence of SPE, OT, and two-level morphology
- context-free and mildly context-sensitive grammar formalisms
- the generative capacity of syntax
- Chomsky's T-model as an instance of machine translation
- parallels between phonology and syntax
- machine learning arguments against the poverty of stimulus
LIN 650-2  Statistics Seminar (Michael Becker) (Mon, 11-2, Humanities 3020)
This class aims to introduce linguists to the basics of descriptive and inferential statistics in R. No previous background is assumed. Topics include data exploration, data visualization, and an introduction to regression analysis. We will examine a variety of datasets, including yours, with the goal of giving you the tools to keep learning further.

LIN 650-3 Prosody Seminar (Jiwon Yun) (Thurs, 12:50-3:40, SBS S-218)
This course explores prosody (stress, accent, tone, intonation, etc.) with focus on its relation with syntax and semantics. We will learn recent theories on syntax-phonology and/or semantics-phonology interface. Then we will explore the prosodic patterns of the languages of our interest to apply and evaluate theories, and possibly develop our own theories. Familiarity with minimalist syntax and formal semantics is recommended to take this seminar.

LIN 651 Syntax Seminar: Syntactic Variation in the minimalist program: Impersonals, Voice and EPP (Francisco Ordonez) (Wed 4-7, SBS N-111)
This seminar will tackle the question of linguistic variation in the minimalist program in view of new debate on this issue involving important contributions from such linguists as Adger, Boeckx, Kayne, Holmberg, Roberts and Rizzi. We will do so in the context of different approaches to Voice (as in Passive versus Active voice). This examination includes the typology and representations of impersonal constructions such as Romance and Slavic se pronouns, impersonal passives, and antipassives in different groups of languages. We will examine new approaches to this phenomenon from Collins, Kratzer, and Legate perspective. Finally we will also discuss how the EPP plays an important role in all these proposals and its consequences in contemporary syntactic theory and its possible parametrization with reference to works by Chomsky and Barbosa.