Linguistics
BA in Liberal Arts & Sciences

What is Linguistics?
Linguistics is the scientific study of the structure and use of human language. Linguists study a wide variety of languages, not to learn these languages, but to learn about them in order to understand the universal properties of human language.

What kinds of classes do Linguistics majors take?
Students in the Linguistics major study language in a variety of ways. In addition to introductory courses that cover a broad range of topics, there are specific courses in phonology (sound systems of language), morphology (word structure), syntax (phrase and sentence structure), and language acquisition. There are also courses that investigate how language works in various contexts such as advertising and politics, as well as how it varies across groups of speakers, for example different gender and sexual orientation groups. Other courses focus on the applications of linguistics to real world issues including the teaching and learning of a second language and computational analysis of language, such as that used in internet searches.

What do Linguistics majors do in their classes?
In the Linguistics major, students learn to analyze linguistic data from English and other languages to make discoveries about how language works. They develop the analytical skills to work with language in a variety of contexts, including educational and computational ones. It's a process of discovery that is interwoven throughout the major.

Lower division gateway class:
LING 101: Introduction to Language [GE: Foundations B: Social and Behavioral Sciences]
This class addresses the nature of language, including: sound, meaning, and grammar; dialects and variation; language acquisition, and how the brain processes language.

Course highlights:
LING 350: Language and Politics
LING 352: Language and Advertising
LING 420: Linguistics and English
LING 430: English Grammar for Prospective Teachers
LING 450: Second Language Acquisition
LING 525: Semantics & Pragmatics
LING 550: Theory & Practice of Teaching ESL
LING 551: Sociolinguistics
LING 581: Computational Linguistics

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