LINGUISTICS

THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

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IN RESIDENCE**
E. Douglas Mitchell

Degrees Offered: BA, MA, PhD

BA in Linguistics

The department offers both a major program in linguistics and a Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language, which may be earned with or without a linguistics major. For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (pages 14–15). In addition, students must satisfy the distribution requirements and complete no fewer than 60 semester hours for a total of at least 120 semester hours.

Because human language is a multifaceted object of study, linguistics is, by its nature, an interdisciplinary field. The undergraduate major in linguistics provides both an in-depth grounding in the field as well as cross-disciplinary breadth. Students beginning a linguistics major should take LING 200, which is a prerequisite for many upper-level courses in the department. All majors are required to take at least 8 courses (24 semester hours) in linguistics at the 300 level or above, including 4 core courses listed below:

Core Courses

LING 300 *Linguistic Analysis*
LING 301 *Phonetics* or LING 311 *Phonology*
LING 402 *Syntax and Semantics* or LING 416 *Linguistic Universals and Typology*
LING 305 *Historical Linguistics* or LING 315 *Semantics: Introduction to the Study of Meaning* or LING 415 *Sociolinguistics*

No more than 1 independent study course may be counted toward the major requirements. In addition, competency in 1 language other than English is required. This requirement may be satisfied by 2 courses in a foreign language at the 200 level or above or equivalent, or at the 100 level or above for non-European languages. The general linguistics major requires, in addition to the 4 core courses and the language requirement, at least 4 upper-level linguistics electives.

Students may elect either a general linguistics major or one of four areas of concentration. Majors who plan to pursue graduate training in linguistics are recommended to choose one of the areas of concentration. These students also are urged to apply for admission to the honors program by the end of their junior year. The requirements for the various concentrations include additional courses, as follows.

- **Language Concentration.** In addition to the basic language competency required of all majors, the language concentration requires an advanced level competency in a different language. This can be satisfied by 2 language courses taught in a language other than English at the 300 level or above, or equivalent. In addition to the core courses, 4 advanced linguistics electives also are required, which should be chosen in consultation with the linguistics adviser. Courses in the structure or history of the languages studied are especially appropriate.

- **Cognitive Science Concentration.** This concentration requires 3 additional courses focused on the cognitive aspects of human language, selected from LING 306, 315, 317, 411, and 412; 2 courses from cognitively related disciplines (psychology, computer science, anthropology, philosophy) as approved by the major adviser; and 2 other advanced linguistics electives.

- **Language, Culture, and Society Concentration.** For an in-depth grounding in a particular language and culture, this concentration requires 2 language courses at the 300 level or above. The language may be the same as that used to satisfy the basic language competency. Besides the 4 core courses, the student must select 2 courses from LING 313, 406, 415, 419, 421, or 424; and 2 more linguistics electives. Finally, 2 courses in sociocultural studies outside the department are required, and the selection must be approved by the major adviser. Examples of appropriate courses are ANTH 353, PSYC 202, RELI 393, or HIST 250.

- **Second Language Acquisition Concentration.** Two language courses at the 300 level or above are required; the language may be the same as that used to satisfy the basic language competency. In addition to the linguistics core courses, 4 additional courses are required as follows: LING 340, LING 394 or a foreign language equivalent (e.g., Structure of Spanish, Structure of Japanese, etc.) as approved by the major advisor, and two of the following: LING 309, LING 313, LING 370, LING 415, LING 418, LING 419, LING 420, LING 422, or LING 490.

Honors Program—The departmental honors program provides selected undergraduate majors with the opportunity to conduct supervised research within their area of specialization in the major. Majors planning to pursue graduate training in linguistics or a related field are strongly encouraged to apply, as well as others who wish to add the experience of an intensive, individualized research project to their undergraduate education.

Application to the honors program should be made in person to the undergraduate adviser in the second semester of a student's junior year. In support of the application, the student should prepare a brief description of the proposed project signed by the faculty member who is to supervise the work. Acceptance into the program is by agreement of the linguistics faculty. On acceptance, the student will enroll in LING 482, with the supervising faculty member named as instructor.

The honors program framework is designed to facilitate the development of a mentoring relationship between student and faculty member. Students are thus expected to consult with the project supervisor periodically regarding their progress; the supervisor will provide research guidance and general support.

With the appropriate completion of major requirements and the honors project or thesis, the student will graduate with departmental honors as follows: "With Distinction," "With High Distinction," or "With Highest Distinction," as determined by the linguistics faculty.

Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language—This program is designed for students who plan to teach English to nonnative speakers in the U.S. or abroad. The Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language provides undergraduate-level training in applied linguistics and the English language, as well as some practical preparation for English language teaching. It can be easily combined with a major in linguistics, education, or English. To enroll in the program, see the director of the TESL Certificate Program (for 2005, Claire Bowern) or the linguistics undergraduate advisor.

The program consists of 4 required courses and a practical component.

Required Courses

LING 200 *Introduction to the Scientific Study of Language*
LING 340 *Theory and Methods of Teaching ESL*
LING 394 *Structure of the English Language*
LING 205 *Language and Society,* LING 309 *Psychology of Language,* LING 313 *Language and Culture*, LING 415 *Sociolinguistics,* or LING 306 *Language, Thought, and Mind*

Practical Component—The practical component consists of a total of 20 contact hours of language teaching/tutoring experience. This requirement may be filled by tutoring in the Rice Student Volunteer Program or by teaching in a high school or community TESL program. Students will be expected to write a short report on their teaching experience.

Successful completion of the certificate program must be certified by the director of the TESL Certificate Program and will be indicated on the Rice transcript upon completion of degree requirements.

PhD in Linguistics

The doctoral linguistics program at Rice emphasizes the study of language use and functional/cognitive approaches to linguistic theory. Areas of particular research strength in the department include field studies of particular languages (e.g., languages of North and South America; Australia; Austronesia; Africa; Europe; and East Asia), typology, language and mind (cognitive linguistics, neurolinguistics, schema-based theories, lexical semantics), language change (diachronic typology, grammaticalization theory, semantic change, language classification, and (Indo-European linguistics), phonetics and phonology, and discourse analysis, including corpus linguistics. Additional research areas represented are second language acquisition and applied linguistics.

The program only admits students planning to study for the PhD degree full time. Undergraduate preparation should ideally include language study and course work in linguistics or disciplines related to linguistics, such as anthropology, applied linguistics, psychology, or computational modeling. Interdisciplinary interests are encouraged. A master's degree may be earned during progress to the PhD degree. Admission to the program is competitive, and an advanced degree is not required. Students admitted to the program are generally offered financial support in the form of tuition scholarships and/or stipends for living expenses.

During the first year of residence, each entering student works closely with the graduate adviser to choose a plan of study congruent with the demands of the program and the student's interests. Emphasis throughout the program is on a close working relationship with faculty. Students should select areas of specialization that fit well with faculty research interests and activities. See the departmental homepage at http://linguistics.rice.edu.

Students with a master's degrees in linguistics will progress through the degree

program in four years; those without in five. With no prior linguistics background, course work in the first two years will include:

- 2 courses in the area of phonetics/phonology
- 2 courses in the area of syntactic/semantic analysis
- 1 two-course sequence in field methods
- 1 problem-solving course in linguistic analysis
- 2 courses in other subfields of linguistics

Prior preparation in linguistics will be assessed with regard to its equivalence to particular Rice courses. Students are also normally expected to serve as teaching assistants for 1 course per year during the time they are receiving departmental support; such service is included in the normal course load. Graduate students are required to register for at least 12 hours credit per semester before advancing to candidacy.

In each of the second and third years in addition to course work, students prepare an in-depth research paper on a topic chosen in consultation with two separate committees of the faculty. These two papers must represent different areas of the field, as determined by the linguistics faculty. A separate committee of the three faculty members, to be approved by the student's advisor, referees each paper. In addition, one of the papers must be presented in the departmental colloquium, and it is expected that students submit their work for presentation at relevant professional meetings, and publish such work in conference proceedings and /or journals (funds may be available to defray the cost of the travel to meetings). Finally, students must demonstrate reading competency in two research languages.

In the course of the second and third years, the student should work toward establishing a close working relationship with various members of the faculty such that multiple faculty members are familiar with the students work. After the student's second paper is accepted, a dissertation advisor is selected and a doctoral committee is formed, by mutual agreement of the student and the anticipated committee members.

During the fourth year, students present to their committee members a third research paper consisting of a substantial dissertation proposal and a comprehensive bibliography. This proposal may take the form of a grant proposal to an external funding agency, particularly in the case of proposed fieldwork. Upon completion of the prospectus, students will submit to an oral qualifying exam, to be administered by the dissertation committee. The exam will consist of two parts, a general exam, demonstrating the student's knowledge of the field, and a dissertation prospectus hearing. Upon completion of this qualifying examination, the student will advance to candidacy.

The doctoral research project may require fieldwork before writing the dissertation; however, the student is expected to consult regularly with the committee members during the writing process. After a complete draft of the dissertation is submitted, the student defends the dissertation publicly. When the final version of the dissertation is accepted by the doctoral committee and filed with the university, and all other requirements are certified as filled, the degree is then granted.

See LING and SANS in the Courses of Instruction section.