

Proposal for a Certificate in Linguistics

I. The “**Certificate in Linguistics**” will be an interdepartmental program in the College of Liberal Arts, taught by members of the departments of Modern Languages and English; if the program is expanded to include more courses, some of these may be taught by faculty in other CoLA departments, but Modern Languages and English will remain the major deliverers of the core program.

II. **Objectives.** The main objective is to provide a course of study in linguistics that introduces students to all major sub-disciplines within the field of linguistics, with close study of some of these (phonetics/phonology and morphology, historical linguistics, sociolinguistics). The certificate is designed in such a way as to appeal most of all to two major audiences: students of Modern Languages and students of English. Two sets of these courses are designed specifically for one or the other (introduction to linguistics, historical linguistics: see III below), while others are designed for general audiences in which all students of linguistics come together. The certificate is not, however, limited to students of these departments, and students of other majors will be able (and encouraged) to participate in the program.

III. **Description.** The Certificate in Linguistics will comprise a core of 5 courses plus a final capstone project course (total: 22 credits) consisting of

Introduction to Linguistics (ENG 478 or LI 301 [new]; 4 c.h.)

Historical Linguistics (ENG 479 or LI 371; 4 c.h.)

Language/Literacy or ESL/Language Acquisition (either ENG 480 or 481; 4 c.h.)

Sociolinguistics (ENG 483; 4 c.h.)

Typology of a non-Indo-European Language (LI 499; 4 c.h.)

Final Project (LI 399; 2 c.h.)

Description of the Courses:

NB: *= new course

1. ENG 478 - Introduction to Linguistics

Presents a survey of the scientific study of language and focuses on describing and explaining languages in their natural environment. Includes phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, and sociolinguistics.

****OR (for ML students): LI 301 “Linguistics for Modern Languages”***

This course introduces the scientific study of language and focuses on describing and explaining languages, especially English, Spanish, French, and German, in their

natural environment. Includes phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and sociolinguistics.

2. ENG 479 - History of the English Language

Study of the ancestry and early growth of the English language, the history of English sounds and inflections, the development of the English vocabulary, and variations in pronunciation and usage in modern British and American English.

OR (for ML students): LI 371 Introduction to Historical & Comparative Linguistics

Principles of historical and comparative study of languages; introduction to Indo-European, Germanic, Romance, and Slavic philology. This course is anchored by one member of ML staff, but with occasional guest lectures on specialized topics within Indo-European (e.g., Slavic)

3. (FOR ALL) ENG 480 - Studies in Language and Literacy

Intensive study of linguistic and/or rhetorical approaches to language. Intended to develop an understanding of language history, structure, theory, pedagogy, and context.

OR: ENG 481 - Theory of ESL (English as a Second Language/Language Acquisition)

Presents a theoretical foundation for the study of second language acquisition, including first language acquisition, interlanguage, contrastive analysis, error analysis, language universals, communicative competence, and learning theory.

4. (FOR ALL) ENG 483 - Sociolinguistics

Examines the sociology of language, the ethnography of speaking, the variation in language structures, the social varieties of English, with their political and educational implications, and the relationship of these to second language acquisition.

***5. (FOR ALL) LI 499 "Typology of a non-Indo-European Language"**

This course examines the structure of a non-Indo-European language, including study of its phonological system, morphology, and syntax. Languages are presented on a rotational basis, and include Finnish, Arabic, Chinese, Hebrew (modern).

IV. Admission Requirements. Students wishing to be admitted to the Certificate in Linguistics must:

- a. have been admitted to a major subject (usually but not exclusively) within CoLA;
- b. have completed their first three quarters at Wright State University (i.e., have received at least 36 credits), with a GPA of 2.5 or better;
- c. note specific requirements or prerequisites attached to each Certificate course in particular.

V. Program Requirements. As outlined above, the program of study is based on the core subjects of:

1. Introduction to Linguistics (ENG 478 or LI 301 [new])
2. Historical Linguistics (ENG 479 or LI 371)
3. Language/Literacy or ESL/Language Acquisition (either ENG 480 or 481)
4. Sociolinguistics (ENG 483)
5. Typology of a non-Indo-European Language (LI 499 [new])
6. Final Project (LI 399)

The minimum total credits for the completion of the certificate is 20. In principle students could take a sixth course (e.g., under [3] above) as an elective; however, as each of the courses described (with the exception of no. 6) is worth four credit hours, any course above and beyond the core subjects could not be counted as part of the certificate.

Two of the courses (LI 301, LI 499) are either new formulations (LI301) or new (LI499); appropriate documents are attached for these courses.

Final Project. The Certificate will be completed upon satisfactory completion of the above-named courses plus the capstone: students will be required to write a final paper/essay (ca. 20 pp) on a linguistic subject to be agreed between the student and a linguistics advisor. **In order to write the project students must be registered for LI399 (2 credit hours).** There will be one advisor in Modern Languages and one in English (to be decided); any of the faculty contributing to the teaching of the program is eligible to supervise this final project.

VI. Program Quality. Regarding the numbering of courses, original numbers are retained wherever courses already existed (and prerequisites, etc., as in the catalogue). Thus, although there is no obvious progression from 311 to 312 to 313, etc., as in established *majors*, there is certainly progression in the courses as they proceed from LI301 (or ENG 478) through to LI499 – in number as well as in quality/level of difficulty and sophistication. Entry to the program assumes and requires a level of knowledge or ability in either English or Modern Languages: this certificate will enhance the student's understanding of his/her major discipline (whether in English or Modern Languages), and bring greater understanding of the major means of human communication to students of all disciplines. *NOTE:*

prerequisites for individual courses mean that students of other majors are not at a disadvantage, and will have the minimum required background to study linguistics.

The final project is meant to represent a capstone experience for the student, so that the certificate does not end up being merely an accumulation of courses and credits.

VII. Student Performance. Student performance in each course of the Certificate program is geared to requirements of that course. To remain in the Certificate program, however, the student must maintain a 3.0 average across all certificate courses.

VIII. Curriculum Coordination. Letters of support from the two departments contributing the teaching and administration of this program are attached to this document. (Regarding resources, see next entry)

IX. Resource Coordination. No computer resources beyond those which are at the disposal of the two departments and all potential students are currently required. In terms of library resources, a number of excellent linguistics journals are held and available to students and staff; however, it will be necessary to purchase a few standard linguistics texts – shared between the two departments this should be a very minor expenditure of funds.

X. Program Staffing. The entire program will be staffed by existing members of the faculty.