



September 10, 2008

Kathleen Hallihan
Arts & Sciences Curriculum Office
CAMPUS

Dear Kate,

I am requesting, on behalf of the Department of Linguistics, that Linguistics 595 *Undergraduate Research Seminar in Linguistics*, currently required for all linguistics majors, be changed so that it is only required for honors students.

The course was developed to offer undergraduate students the opportunity to complete an intensive research experience in linguistics under the guidance of a faculty mentor. However, many of our non-honors students prefer to take linguistics courses that do not involve a heavy research component and so are less enthusiastic about taking the research seminar. Consequently, the Ling595 classes have been comprised of highly motivated honors students as well as considerably less motivated non-honors students. This mix has not allowed instructors to challenge students as much as would be desired. By making the course *required* only for honors students and an *elective* for non-honors majors, we believe that we will be able to better serve our students. Further, given the growth of our major since the course was first developed, requiring it of all students is unfeasible if we want to continue limiting the class size to 15 students.

It is important to note that the requested change will not affect the honors program in linguistics; the requirements and 50 credit hours will remain the same.

Honors Linguistics Major: 50 credit hours
(15 hours) Ling500 (phonetics), Ling 502 (syntax), Ling 503 (phonology)
(10 hours) Two additional core classes
(10 hours) 2 higher level classes in a single content area
(5 hours) Ling595(research seminar)
(10 hour) electives

The 45 credit hours associated with the non-honors major will also remain unchanged since while Ling595 will be eliminated, there will be one additional elective, as laid out below.

Current Linguistics Major: 45 credit hours
(15 hours) Ling500 (phonetics), Ling 502 (syntax), Ling 503 (phonology)
(10 hours) Two additional core classes
(5 hours) Ling595(research seminar)
(15 hours) 3 electives

Proposed Linguistics Major: 45 credit hours

(15 hours) Ling500 (phonetics), Ling 502 (syntax), Ling 503 (phonology)

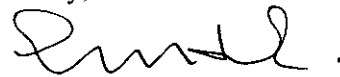
(10 hours) Two additional core classes

(20 hours) 4 electives

We feel that the proposed change to the linguistics major will allow our honors students to develop their research skills and, at the same time, provide the same opportunity to non-honors students interested in research.

Please don't hesitate to contact me or Dr. Julie McGory (jmcgory@ling.osu.edu), Linguistics Undergraduate Program Coordinator, if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth Hume", followed by a period.

Beth Hume
Professor and Chair