

1. Undergraduate Minor Program in Linguistics (modification)

The current linguistics minor program includes 1 introductory course; 2 core courses; and 2 electives:

- A. One prerequisite course
LING 2000-Introduction to Language in the Humanities
- B. Two major core courses
 - a. LING 4000-Introduction to Linguistics (to be taken first)
 - b. One of:
 - LING 4100-Phonetics
 - LING 4200-Syntax
 - LING 4300-Phonology
- C. Two elective courses from all 2000-level and above linguistics courses not taken to fulfill another major requirement.

The proposed linguistics minor program includes 1 introductory course; 1 core course; and 3 electives:

- A. One prerequisite course
LING 2000-Introduction to Language in the Humanities
- B. One major core course from
 - LING 4100-Phonetics
 - LING 4200-Syntax
 - LING 4300-Phonology
 - LING 4400-Semantics
- C. Three elective courses from all 2000-level and above linguistics courses not taken to fulfill another major requirement.

2. Rationale:

We have proposed changes to the linguistics major that parallel changes to the linguistics minor. For the major and the minor, we propose that LING 4000 not be required as part of the core course set and LING 4400, Linguistic Meaning, become an essential part of the major or an optional core course for the minor. The major change proposal is under consideration in the ASC Curriculum Office pending similar changes within the linguistics minor.

LING 4400 is a new course developed to reflect the linguistics department strengths in semantics. We currently have three faculty members whose primary area of expertise is semantics, which means that we are in the position to regularly offer an undergraduate course in semantics. Two of these faculty, Drs. Judith Tonhauser and Craige Roberts, developed LING 4400 to fill the critical gap in our 4000-level series in this core theoretical area. The Ph.D. program in linguistics was recently modified to include a semantics core requirement and we feel that it is important that this focus be reflected in the undergraduate major and minor programs as well.

Removing LING 4000 from the minor (and major) requirements is deemed necessary for multiple reasons. While transitioning to semesters, LING 4000 was included to provide a bridge between the prerequisite introductory course (LING 2000) and the three 4000-level core courses in linguistics: phonetics, phonology, and syntax. Students have found these courses especially

challenging and LING 4000 was included to provide additional foundational material to prepare students for the rigor of these courses. Unfortunately, this program change created unforeseen problems. This requirement can result in students needing an additional semester to complete their major (and minor) requirements. With Ling 4000 being a prerequisite for the additional core course(s), students must postpone taking core courses for an additional semester.

Student involvement in research is delayed until both introductory courses (LING 2000 and LING 4000) and an additional core course are completed. Students are typically expected to have completed at least one core course before they can participate in research, which means that students are only able to become involved in research after three semesters in the minor (and major). We have many research opportunities for undergraduate minors in our program and the proposed change would allow our minors to become involved in research after only two semesters in our program (i.e., as early as sophomore year for some students).

In addition to these unforeseen problems, our initial reasons for proposing the addition of an advanced introductory course are now of less concern. Conversion to semesters is proving to be beneficial to student success in the major core classes. The introductory class which introduces students to the fundamental areas of linguistics can now provide sufficient preparation for the core courses because students have more time to absorb the foundational content they need to succeed in the core set. As a result, we feel that there is no need for LING 4000. Semester conversion has remedied this problem.

LING 4000 was converted from LING 601 under the quarter system. LING 601 (and 4000) was designed for graduate students in programs other than linguistics as well as honors and advanced undergraduate linguistics students. During semester conversion, we renumbered the course to 4000 to place it in line with LING 4100, 4200 and 4300. The course content for 4000 is the same as the former 601 and it was an oversight of ours to limit the class to undergraduate students. We therefore propose that Ling 4000 be renumbered to LING 5000 and be offered as intended to both undergraduate and graduate students as an elective. With regards to linguistics majors and minors, LING 5000 can replace LING 2000 as the prerequisite introductory course with permission. It cannot be used to complete a major core course or elective.

3. Implementation Date: Spring Semester, 2014.

4. Modified Description of the Minor

Each linguistics minor involves five linguistics courses (15 credit hours). If one of these courses is considered to be part of the student's major, then only four linguistics courses are required. Each minor includes an introductory course, Linguist 2000. After this, students take one of Linguist 4100 Phonetics, 4200 Syntax, 4300 Phonology, or 4400 Linguistic Meaning. With the advisor's permission, the student may substitute a corresponding 5000-level course. This leaves three additional courses to be chosen in consultation with the advisors in both the Major and Minor departments.