



September 30, 2025

To the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee:

On Tuesday September 2, 2025, the Arts and Humanities Subcommittee 2 reviewed a request from the Departments of Linguistics and Philosophy to establish a new AI, Language and Mind Certificate.

As described in the proposal, the certificate will “provide students from across the University and outside the University the opportunity to complete a non-technical but otherwise comprehensive program of study of artificial intelligence that is fundamentally interdisciplinary, engaging with multiple perspectives from different fields across the arts, sciences, and humanities.” The AI Language and Mind Certificate will afford “students the opportunity to explore issues regarding the myriad relationships between AI, language, and mind. Some of these issues are longstanding ones regarding the nature of mind – e.g. what consciousness is, and whether thinking machines are possible. Other issues concern the potential scientific implications of AI technologies for the scientific study of human language and cognition. Still others concern the practical implications of these technologies for various domains of human endeavor.”

Upon completion of the certificate, students will be able to:

- Compare and contrast extant theories of human language comprehension and production with AI models of natural language processing.
- Explain the relationship between extant theories of human mind and general cognition and extant models in AI.
- Describe and critically assess claims regarding the implications of AI research for claims about mind and language.
- Explain the potential practical implications of AI technologies for various domains of human linguistic and cognitive activity, such as those which occur in science and business.

The proposal notes that most universities approach AI certificates through computer science or scattered cognitive science electives, without a focused study of language, mind, and ethics. The proposed certificate would uniquely integrate AI with human linguistic and cognitive processing, offering students an innovative, interdisciplinary curriculum and a distinctive credentialing opportunity.

A&H Subcommittee 2 voted unanimously to approve the request with four contingencies, which have been subsequently and satisfactorily addressed. The proposal is now advanced to the ASCC with a motion to approve.

Sincerely,

David J. Staley, PhD
Associate Professor of History
Chair, A&H Subcommittee 2