

# APPLIED LINGUISTICS

Laurel Brook, Tomson Hall 368  
507-786-3383  
brookl@stolaf.edu  
wp.stolaf.edu/linguistics

Because language is so fundamental to everything that we do, an understanding of linguistics is part of a well-rounded liberal arts education. In addition, the study of linguistics prepares students for careers and advanced work in fields such as anthropology, business, communications, computer science, education, English as a second language (ESL), world languages, journalism, neuroscience, speech and hearing sciences, philosophy, psychology, and other fields requiring analytical, communication, and research skills. Studying linguistics enhances a student's understanding of how language is organized and how it functions. The applied linguistics program offers a concentration that encompasses a wide variety of disciplines and perspectives on language. With a concentration in applied linguistics, students have the opportunity to explore the interdisciplinary nature of the study of language and linguistics as well as interact with and learn from others with similar interests.

## Overview of the Concentration

Applied linguistics encompasses all areas related to the scientific study of the nature, structure, and function of language. Applied linguistics treats language both as a fundamental human faculty and as a changing social institution. The field of linguistics includes the relationship between language and logic, the underlying structures of the brain, social implications of language, language acquisition (including bilingualism and second-language acquisition), psychology of language, philosophy of language, dialects and dialectology, language and literature, the history and development of specific language families, human-machine interaction, artificial intelligence, and global communication and understanding.

## Intended Learning Outcomes for the Concentration

### Special Programs

In addition to taking courses, students can gain experience in the field and pursue special areas of interest in several ways. Full-time internships may be arranged during January term. Internship possibilities include working in bilingual education, language immersion, or ESL programs in schools; assisting in language research laboratories; and exploring the world of publishing. Internships are valuable for confirming one's academic interest in applied linguistics, learning new skills, and gaining paraprofessional field experience.

Independent study and research projects, usually completed during the junior or senior year, allow students to explore topics in greater depth than is possible in a regular course. In recent years, topics have included the study of American sign language, Spanish language immersion programs at the elementary school level, and the translation of psychological tests.

Students may also pursue their study of linguistics through off-campus coursework in conjunction with St. Olaf's study abroad and away programs in locations as diverse as England, France, Germany, Norway, the People's Republic of China, Russia, Scotland, Spain, and Tanzania.

## Requirements

### Requirements for the Concentration

Code	Title	Credits
LNGST 250	English Language and Linguistics	1
Four approved departmental offerings (with the requirements that students take no more than two of these four courses within the same department and that two of these four courses must be at the 200 or 300 level).		4
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>5</b>

Students wishing to receive credit toward the concentration through independent study, independent research, or internships should consult with the director of applied linguistics.

## Courses

### LNGST 250: *English Language and Linguistics*

Students learn about and analyze the English language, beginning with the building blocks of language: morphology, syntax, semantics, and phonetics/phonology. Students also explore the ways humans acquire language, social and geographical influences on English, and major changes during the history of the English language. The course serves as an introduction to the applied linguistics concentration and fulfills the linguistics requirement of the Communication Arts and Literature license.

**Prerequisite:** WRIT 120 or equivalent.

### LNGST 294: *Academic Internship*

### LNGST 298: *Independent Study*

### LNGST 301: *Germanic Multiethnolects-A Story of Birth*

"Multiethnolects" is a collective term for urban contact languages that develop in multiethnic neighborhoods. Students learn to analyze the language structure of multiethnolects, the role of language in social groups, and how people express their identities through language. They also investigate perspectives on multiethnolects from outside the speech community, e.g., how attitudes towards "non-standard" languages influence public debates, and how those debates on language are used as a battleground for resistance against societal change. Offered periodically in the spring semester.

**Prerequisite:** LNGST 250 or equivalent.

### LNGST 394: *Academic Internship*

### LNGST 396: *Directed Undergraduate Research*

This course provides a comprehensive research opportunity, including an introduction to relevant background material, technical instruction, identification of a meaningful project, and data collection. The topic is determined by the faculty member in charge of the course and may relate to his/her research interests. Offered based on department decision. May be offered as a 1.00 credit course or .50 credit course.

**Prerequisite:** determined by individual instructor.

### LNGST 398: *Independent Research*

Independent research is offered for students dedicated to an in-depth research experience. In conjunction with a faculty supervisor, a student conceives and performs a research project leading to the production of a major piece of work such as a research paper or poster presentation. Independent research requires permission of a supervisor and completion of an independent research form available at the Registrar's Office or its Web site.

## Other Approved Courses

ASIAN 126 Language in Japanese Society

ASIAN 244 Language and Race in Japan and USA

ASIAN 282 Second Language Acquisition and Pedagogy in an Asian Context

CSCI 121 Principles of Computer Science and PHYS 130 Analytical Physics I, or CSCI 251 Software Design and Implementation (only one of these *CSCI121/PHYS130, or CSCI251 will apply to the concentration*)

CSCI 276 Programming Languages

CSCI 333 Theory of Computation

CSCI 379 Foundations of Artificial Intelligence

EDUC 245 Teaching and Learning English Grammar (0.50)

EDUC 250 Second Language Acquisition

EDUC 321 Teaching of Reading, 5-12 (0.50)

EDUC 345 Teaching of Communication Arts/Literature, 5-12

EDUC 348 Assessment of ESL, K-12

GERM 245 Shifting Borders: Mapping Linguistic Landscapes in N Germany (study ab)

GERM 272 Turning Points in German History (only when topic is "History of German Migration")

GERM 273 German Media History and Media Literacy

GREEK 231 Intermediate Greek

GREEK 253 New Testament Greek

GREEK 275 Homer and Greek Epic

LATIN 231 Intermediate Latin

LATIN 235 Medieval Latin

LNGST 396 Directed Undergraduate Research

MUSIC 263 Lyric Diction I (0.25) and MUSIC 264 Lyric Diction II (0.25) (must complete both to count as one)

NORW 244 The Sámi: Traditions in Transition (Taught in English)

NORW 260 Introduction to Germanic Linguistics (Taught in English)

NORW 372 Topics in Norwegian Literature/Culture (only when topic is "TV & Språk")

NORW 396 Directed Undergraduate Research (only when topic is "CAT Tools for Norwegian")

NORST 396 Directed Undergraduate Research (only when topic is "No Compromise")

PHIL 231 Philosophy of Mind

PHIL 240 Formal Logic

PHYS 252 Musical Acoustics

PSYCH 222 Psychology of Hearing

PSYCH 237 Cognitive Psychology

PSYCH 339 Cognitive Neuroscience

PSYCH 341 Infant Behavior and Development

PSYCH 393 Advanced Research Collaborations (when topic is Linguistic in nature and in consultation with director)

PSYCH 396 Directed Undergraduate Research (when topic is "Research in Auditory Cognition")

SPAN 270 Spain's Cultural and Linguistic Legacy (study abroad) (when taught by Maggie Broner)

SPAN 274 Contemporary Issues in the Spanish-Speaking World (when taught by Maggie Broner)

SPAN 276 Spanish as a First and Second Language

SPAN 311 Language in Society

Other courses may be approved in consultation with the director of applied linguistics.

## Faculty

### Program Director, 2025-2026

#### Rika Ito

Professor of Asian Studies  
sociolinguistics; language ideology, language in media; Japanese

#### Anne G. Berry

Instructor of Writing; Assistant Director of Multilingual Student Language Support  
linguistics; English as a second language

#### Maggie A. Broner (on sabbatical 2025-26)

National Endowment for the Humanities Professor of Romance Language  
Hispanic linguistics; culture; second language acquisition

#### Floencia Foxley

Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics  
Greek drama and social history; classical languages and literature

#### Jamison García Ramírez

Instructor of Romance Languages - Spanish  
Hispanic sociolinguistics; sociophonetics; Caribbean Spanish; queer linguistics

#### Anne H. Groton

Professor of Classics  
Greek and Roman drama; classical languages and literature

#### Kari Lie Dorer

Professor of Norwegian and Race, Ethnic, Gender and Sexuality Studies, King Olav V Chair of Scandinavian-American Studies  
Norwegian language and culture; applied linguistics; Sami studies; Nordic film

#### Jeremy L. Loebach

Associate Professor of Psychology

cognitive neuroscience; speech and hearing sciences; psycholinguistics

**Karen E.S. Marsalek** (on sabbatical 2025-26)

Professor of English

medieval and early modern literature, especially drama; history of the English language

**Américo Mendoza-Mori**

Assistant Professor of Romance Languages - Spanish

bridging of literary, linguistic, and cultural studies with a focus on Latin America, U.S. Latinidad, and Indigenous communities, particularly Quechua

**Peter Moench**

Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics

Greek lyric; Greek and Roman epic; classical languages and literature

**Nora Vosburg**

Assistant Professor of German

Germanic linguistics, language contact, heritage languages

**Ying Zhou**

Associate Professor of Asian Studies

second language acquisition and language pedagogy