LINGUISTICS

FACULTY

Alan Bale, Associate Professor and Honours Advisor
Alan.Bale@concordia.ca, FB-1000.07, ext. 2336. *Research Interests:* semantics, syntax, morphology, history of linguistics, philosophy of science, logic and other mathematical structures, relevant for linguistic theory.

Mark Hale, Professor
Mark.Hale@concordia.ca, FB-1000.09, ext. 2758. *Research Interests*: Indo-European linguistics (especially syntax), Oceanic linguistics (especially Micronesian), and general diachronic phonology/syntax (and their interface).

Dana Isac, Associate Professor
Dana.Isac@concordia.ca, FB-1000.13, ext. 2489. *Research Interests*: comparative syntax of Romance languages, syntax and semantics of nominals, negation, modality and clause typing.

Madelyn Kissock, Associate Professor
Madelyn.Kissock@concordia.ca, FB-1000.18, ext. 2311.
Research interests: range of issues in syntactic, phonological, and acquisition theory, especially focusing on Dravidian languages.

Charles Reiss, Professor
Charles.Reiss@concordia.ca, FB-1000.11, ext. 2491. *Research Interests*: phonology, cognitive science, phonetics, morphology, historical linguistics.

Sigwan Thivierge, Assistant Professor
sigwan.thivierge@concordia.ca, FB-1000.17, ext. 5159. *Research Interests:* syntax, morphology, Algonquian and Kartvelian linguistics, agreement and person hierarchy effects.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Linguistics is the scientific study of the human language faculty. Teaching and research in the Linguistics programs focus on two areas: linguistics as a branch of cognitive science, encompassing fields such as syntax, phonology and language acquisition; and the nature of language change, with particular emphasis on the Indo-European language family.

The **LINGUISTICS program (60-credit Honours and 42-credit Major)** is varied and diverse, ranging from topics of a broad philosophical, sociological and historical nature to the minutely detailed analysis of specific data. The program endeavors to strengthen and refine students' intellectual skills through in-depth training in the writing of grammars and formulation of rules and by introducing them to the rich tradition of linguistic scholarship, encouraging their participation both in current theoretical controversies as well as in the critical examination and discussion of acknowledged masters of linguistic thought.

The **HONOURS program** in **Linguistics** in particular is designed to provide our students with a thorough foundation for graduate study. Areas of emphasis are accordingly the standard subfields of the discipline: phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, typology, fieldwork, etc. The interaction of theoretical courses, data-oriented courses and courses in historical and comparative linguistics (both Indo-European and non-Indo-European) forms a diverse and substantial foundation for the exceptional student who hopes to do graduate work in comparative Indo-European or in any other area of linguistics. There is also a 24-credit **MINOR** in Linguistics.

21 Core Program
21 LING 200^3, 222^3, 315^3, 335^3, 371^3, 372^3, 373^3

60 BA Honours in Linguistics:
   Honours Advisor: Dr. Alan Bale

21 Core Program
3   Credits chosen from LING 322^3, 353^3, 380^3
3* LING 330^3, 361^3, 421^3
12 Credits chosen from LING 415^3, 435^3, 471^3, 472^3, 473^3
6   Credits chosen from LING 425^3, 436^3, 475^3, 477^3
12 Additional LING credits
3   LING 490^3
*   Students may substitute CLAS 201 or 203 for this requirement.

42 BA Major in Linguistics
21 Core Program
3* Credits chosen from LING 330^3, 361^3, 421^3
6   Credits chosen from LING 415^3, 435^3, 471^3, 472^3, 473^3
3   Credits chosen from LING 425^3, 436^3, 475^3, 477^3
9   Additional LING credits
*   Students may substitute CLAS 201 or 203 for this requirement.

24 Minor in Linguistics
6   LING 200^3, LING 222^3
18 credits in Linguistics

2024 – 2025 Offered Courses

LING 200 *Introduction to Linguistic Science* (3 credits)
This course provides an introduction to the principles of general linguistics for beginners in the field. There is an emphasis on synchronic linguistic analysis, with a brief examination of historical and comparative linguistics.

LING 222 *Language and Mind: The Chomskyan Program* (3 credits)
This course uses language as a tool to examine the workings of the human mind. It approaches the study of language from the perspective of generative grammar as developed by Noam Chomsky and his collaborators. It deals with patterns of linguistic structure, rather than content or meaning. The goal of this course is to develop an understanding of the field of cognitive science (the study of knowledge and the mind/brain) and determine how linguistics fits in with disciplines like the study of vision, auditory perception and reasoning.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for this topic under a LING 398 number may not take this course for credit.

LING 298 *Language, Reasoning and Artificial Intelligence* (3 credits).
This course explores the relationships between language, reasoning, and artificial intelligence, especially as it relates to Large Language Models (LLMs) like ChatGPT. The course will discuss empirical studies in cognitive science, particularly linguistics, that provide a window into how people process language and use it to reason about the world. In parallel, it will also discuss recent developments in Natural Language Processing and artificial intelligence (e.g. LLMs). The course will explore whether the scientific methods commonly employed within cognitive science can be used to compare and contrast the linguistic knowledge and reasoning capabilities of human minds and LLMs. This is an introductory course. No previous knowledge of linguistics, cognitive science or artificial intelligence is required.

LING 300 *Sociolinguistics* (3credits)
This course studies the beliefs, interrelationships, and values of societal groups as reflected in language.

LING 315 *Syntax* (3 credits)
Prerequisite: LING 200 with a grade of C or higher. This course introduces students to syntactic theory in the generative tradition. Topics include structure-building operations, constituency, a variety of movement phenomena, and the relationship between the lexicon and syntactic computation. The focus is on contemporary theoretical frameworks but the course also includes some discussion of how these developed from earlier theories.

LING 322 *Linguistics and Cognitive Science* (3 credits)
Prerequisite: LING 222 or equivalent. This course situates generative linguistics in the cognitive sciences by providing a survey of relevant topics from psychology, artificial intelligence, computer science, ethology, and philosophy.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for this topic under a LING 398 number may not take this course for credit.

LING 330 *Sanskrit* (3 credits)
This course provides an introduction to the fundamentals of Sanskrit grammar. After developing a foundation, students are presented with a selection of short, original texts to read and translate.

LING 335 *Historical Linguistics* (3 credits)
Prerequisite: LING 200 with a grade of C or higher. This course provides a survey of the primary tools and methods of historical linguistics. Change and mechanisms of change at the various levels of the grammar (phonological, morphological, and syntactic) are surveyed. The comparative method, including both subgrouping and reconstruction, are treated in detail.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for LING 420 may not take this course for credit.

LING 353 *Psycholinguistics* (3 credits)
Prerequisite: LING 200 or equivalent; or permission of the Department. This course treats current issues in the experimental evaluation of linguistic theories, presenting both methodological concerns and empirical results. Topics covered include sentence processing, speech perception, lexical access and language development.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for this topic under a LING 398 number may not take this course for credit.

LING 371 *Semantics* (3 credits)
Prerequisite: LING 200 with a grade of C or higher. This course introduces the basic notions required for formal analysis of meaning within a theory of language. The central objective is the development of a system for the representation of the logical structure of natural language. Contemporary works in linguistic semantics are critically examined.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for LING 320 may not take this course for credit.

LING 372 *Descriptive and Instrumental Phonetics* (3 credits)
Description of speech sounds in articulatory terms. Identification and description of sounds that occur outside the Indo-European family of languages. Description of speech sounds as to their acoustic qualities: frequency, amplitude, pitch, stress. Interpretation of sound spectrograms.

LING 373 *Phonology* (3 credits)
Prerequisite: LING 200 with a grade of C or higher. This course examines the fundamentals of distinctive-feature analysis as developed by Jakobson, Chomsky, and Halle. Theoretical concepts and notational techniques are emphasized. Students receive extensive training in data analysis and rule writing.

LING 380 *Morphology* (3 credits)
Prerequisite: LING 373 or equivalent. This course consists of a survey of linguistic morphology, the study of word structure, and the tools used to perform morphological analysis. The course also gives some consideration to the issues relating to a theory of morphology.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for this topic under a LING 398 number may not take this course for credit.

LING 415 *Advanced Syntax* (3 credits)
Prerequisite: LING 315 with a grade of C or higher. This course considers current developments in the field of syntactic theory and their application to phenomena such as control, movement out of islands and binding.

LING 421 *Non-Indo-European Structures* (3 credits)
Prerequisite: LING 315, LING 373. This course is intended to give the student an in-depth acquaintance with the structure of a language which differs markedly from that of familiar Indo-European languages. The course involves working with a native speaker and/or from textual material.

LING 425 *Language Acquisition and Universal Grammar* (3 credits)
Prerequisite: LING 315, 373. This course presents a survey of theoretical and empirical issues in the study of first language (L1) acquisition by children. Particular attention is paid to the role of Universal Grammar and innateness in explaining L1 acquisition, as well as to the significance of fundamental theoretical notions such as the competence/performance distinction.

LING 436 *Indo-European Linguistics* (3 credits)
Prerequisite: LING 335 with a grade of C or higher; and LING 330 or LING 361 with a grade of C or higher. Students who have completed CLAS 201 or CLAS 203 with a grade of C or higher are permitted to substitute the LING 330 or LING 361 prerequisite requirement. Detailed study of the synchronic and diachronic grammars of one or more Indo-European dialects essential to the reconstruction of the proto-language. Extensive readings are undertaken in both original texts and in scholarly contributions to their elucidation. Emphasis is placed on current issues and research in the field.

LING 471 *Advanced Semantics* (3 credits)
Prerequisite: LING 371 with a grade of C or higher. This course explores advanced topics in the relationship between syntactic form and linguistic meaning. The course concentrates on formal analysis of linguistic meaning in the tradition of Model Theoretic Semantics. Students are required to read original journal articles in semantics as well as other source material that cover current areas of active research.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for this topic under a LING 498 number may not take this course for credit.

LING 472 *Advanced Phonetics* (3 credits)
Prerequisite: LING 200 with a grade of C or higher, and LING 372 with a grade of C or higher. Advanced study of speech processes. Topics may include waveform and spectral analysis, models of speech recognition, speech development, atypical speech and the relationship between production and perception and phonology.

LING 473 *Advanced Phonology* (3 credits)
Prerequisite: LING 373 with a grade of C or higher. This course treats current issues in the theory of phonology, such as syllable structure, stress computation, vowel harmony and tonology. Critical readings from the current theoretical literature form the basis for discussion and study.

LING 477 *Syntax-Semantics Interface* (3 credits)
Prerequisite: LING 315, LING 371 with a grade of C or higher. This course discusses the interaction between syntactic structure and semantic interpretation. The course focuses both on identifying those aspects of structure and interpretation which are related (and on the mechanisms that mediate between the

two) and on identifying the areas in which mismatches between structure and interpretation are found (and on possible accounts of these mismatches).

LING 498 *Phonology and Morphology of Quebec French* (3 credits)
Prerequisite: LING 373 or Permission of the Department. This course examines the phonology and morphology of varieties of French spoken in Quebec (QF), both on their own terms and in comparison with the structure of European varieties. Topics covered will include segment inventories, assibilation, vowel laxing, vowel harmony, gemination, and the clitic system. In addition to describing traits of QF, we will also introduce tools of linguistic analysis that allow us to understand the dialects in the context of a general theory of human language.

LING 498 *Computational Methods in Linguistics* (3 credits)
Prerequisite: LING 373 or Permission of the Department. This course surveys formal and computational methods related to language research. Topics include set theory, finite state transducers, and probability theory as they relate to linguistic theory. We will use Python for hands-on exercises to understand these concepts (no prior Python experience is needed). We will also touch on industrial applications that build on these concepts, including natural language processing (NLP), automatic speech recognition (ASR) and text-to-speech (TTS).

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For full program information, please consult the UG Calendar, which remains the only legally binding document on all programs and requirements at Concordia.
https://www.concordia.ca/academics/undergraduate/calendar/current/section-31-faculty-of-arts-and-science/section-31-060-department-of-classics-modern-languages-and-linguistics.html

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LINGUISTICS STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
The Linguistics Students Association offers a number of services for linguistics students. The LSA also hosts a series of linguistics talks each semester. All students enrolled in Linguistic courses are members and are invited to participate in LSA activities. For more information: https://www.linguisticsstudentassociation.org/

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM
http://international.concordia.ca

Career Advising and Professional Services (CAPS)
https://www.concordia.ca/students/success/career-planning.html

For more information or to arrange an appointment for academic advising

Email: sandra.woywod-page@concordia.ca
Website: http://www.concordia.ca/artsci/cmll.html