

# Linguistics at Western



## What is Linguistics?

Linguistics is the study of the structures and uses of language. Linguists study every aspect of language including: language acquisition, language processing in the brain, speech sounds, word structure, sentence structure, the organization of conversations, how we make meaning with language, how we play with language, how languages change over time, variations in how people speak the same language in different ways, and language disorders. Linguistics is concerned with describing the rule-governed structures of languages and determining the extent to which these structures are universal or specific to particular languages or social contexts.

## Why Study Linguistics at Western?

The study of linguistics is essential for anyone interested in a particular language or in a discipline with a focus on language in general. Students in many different fields of study find that linguistics makes an interesting and engaging elective or optional course. It is excellent preparation for law school or journalism, for example. Linguistics courses are especially helpful for careers in language teaching (such as a Bachelors of Education, or TESL certification), in communicative disorders (including both Audiology and Speech Pathology), in translation and in interpreting.

The inter-faculty Program in Linguistics at Western allows students to combine the study of linguistics with any other subject area. Courses in linguistics that are currently taught in a number of departments in the Faculties of Social Science and Arts & Humanities can be counted towards a Major or a Minor in Linguistics. Western also offers an Honors Specialization in Linguistics for students interested in pursuing graduate studies.

## Program Highlights

### Academic Excellence

- Students work with world-class researchers in their field
- Well-rounded, comprehensive education
- Excellent preparation for graduate studies, professional programs or work force

### Diversity & Collaboration

- Students and faculty from varying experiences and backgrounds
- Various methods used including experimental, theoretical and clinical
- Our programs are highly interdisciplinary, collaborative and welcoming

### Community

- Smaller program equals individual attention for students
- Strong alumni network around the world

### Career Preparation

Linguistics graduates have transferable skills that allow them to succeed in a wide variety of environments including: education, law, publishing, library science, social services and language-related fields such as communications, natural language processing, voice analysis, research on language, second language teaching, and communicative disorders.



## Meet Jake

“Through Western, I went to Montreal to work with Malagasy speakers from Madagascar. This experience taught me the whole research process from doing background research, to carrying out the experiment and looking at data. I really had no experience before, but I’ll be able to bring the tools I’ve gained to any future research project.”

- Jake Aziz

Honors Specialization in Linguistics,  
Major in Spanish Linguistics



## Career Opportunities

- Speech Pathology and Speech Therapy
- International Business, Law and Politics
- Publishing, Broadcasting and Journalism
- Libraries, Archives and Museums
- Advertising and Audio-visual production
- Artificial Intelligence and Natural Language Processing
- Language Teaching, Interpretation, Translation

# Sample Courses in Linguistics

The following courses can be counted towards one of these modules:

- Minor in Linguistics
- Major in Linguistics
- Honors Specialization in Linguistics

Year 1	
Anthropology 1027A/B	Introduction to Linguistics
Linguistics 1028B	Linguistics: Applications and Extensions
Year 2	
Linguistics 2242A/B	Phonetics
Linguistics 2244A/B	Second Language Acquisition
Anthropology 2251F/G	Language, Gender and Sexuality
French 2806A/B	General Linguistics in French: From Sound to Meaning
Spanish 2214A/B	Comparative Grammar of English and Spanish
Psychology 2134A/B	Psychology of Language
Year 3	
Anthropology 3339F/G	Language Variation and Change
Anthropology 3237A/B	Field Techniques
Anthropology 3343A/B	Language Revitalization in Practice
French 3830A/B	Phonetics and Phonology in French
Spanish 3303A/B	The Structure of Spanish
Philosophy 3260F/G	Theories of Meaning
Psychology 3140F/G	Bilingualism
Year 4	
Anthropology 4412F/B	Language and Power
Spanish 4412F/G	Spanish in Contact
Communication Sciences and Disorders 4411A/B	Introduction to Speech and Language Disorders

For further information regarding undergraduate programs in Linguistics at Western, please visit [uwo.ca/linguistics/](http://uwo.ca/linguistics/) or contact one of the Co-Directors:

Students in the Faculty of Social Science:  
[linguistics-ssc@uwo.ca](mailto:linguistics-ssc@uwo.ca)

Students in the Faculty of Arts & Humanities, and other faculties:  
[linguistics-ah@uwo.ca](mailto:linguistics-ah@uwo.ca)



Western  
Social Science



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Arts & Humanities