

**DRAFT** PROPOSAL FOR LINGUISTICS MINOR DEGREE  
AT MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE  
September ##, 2009

**BACKGROUND**

The present proposal for a minor in Linguistics follows two previous proposals: one dated April 13, 2005 and a supplemental proposal dated December 7, 2007. Previous proposals were not acted on due to both circumstance and limited teaching resources at Middlebury College. Subsequent developments such as recent faculty hires with linguistics expertise in several departments and programs (Italian, Arabic, Spanish), past, present and future course offerings, affiliation with the Monterey International Institute (in particular with the Graduate School of Translation and Interpretation and Language Education), as well as increasing student demand, provide compelling reasons to request that Middlebury College begins to offer the proposed minor in the fall of 2010. The faculty members that support this proposal hope that a minor in Linguistics would lead to the establishment of major degree in Linguistics in 2014.

**PROPOSAL**

On behalf of faculty members in several Foreign Language Departments such as Spanish, Italian, German and Chinese, in the the department of Sociology/Anthropology, the department of Philosophy, and Programs such as Education Studies and Arabic, and in collaboration with MIIS, this committee proposes that a linguistics minor degree be approved for official course and matriculation starting in September of 2010.

The proposal for a Linguistics minor assumes course requirements that are outlined below. Students will be able to fulfill some of the required courses at the Middlebury College campus. Other courses will be offered to students through a variety of venues such as Study Abroad at international universities, the Summer Language Schools and also, through joint teaching with MIIS colleagues in applied linguistics.

**NEED**

The need for a linguistics program at Middlebury reflects both a demand and a capacity for incorporating linguistics at the college in two ways: on the one hand, as an interdisciplinary offering for the college at broad, and on the other, within the established language program. Providing a theoretical as well as an applied underpinning for language learning is a welcome complement to the current Foreign Languages curricula. In addition, we have had students from disciplines other than languages (anthropology, teacher education, psychology, and others) that for years have requested the opportunity to study linguistics and receive a comparable degree reflecting the courses offered and subscribed.

**OBJECTIVES**

The purpose of the requested minor degree is first of all to recognize the level of coursework undertaken by Middlebury students who are motivated to supplement their majors with a valued higher education discipline. Further objectives include: a) the creation of an interdisciplinary/liberal arts program and, perhaps, a major in Linguistics; b) enhancement of Middlebury's language teaching reputation; c) affirmation of Middlebury's faculty hirings with linguistics expertise; and, d) in future, provide graduate courses through our affiliation with the Monterey Institute.

Another fundamental objective of this proposal is to lay the groundwork for an integrated 4+1 degree in language education with MIIS. In this sense, a minor in Linguistics will allow that Middlebury College and Monterey work together to establish a joint BA-MA in Foreign Language Teaching. Students who obtain a Linguistics minor, provided that they take a set of courses to meet MIIS requirement, will be able to opt for an accelerate entrance into the MIIS Master in Foreign Language Teaching (MFLT) and complete the MA Program in one year.

## IMPLEMENTATION

With the official approval of a linguistics minor, the course list outlined in accompanying materials will offer a planned program of introductory and advanced courses for students interested in the degree. This interdisciplinary minor is planned for both language and non-language majors.

Through departmental queries and acknowledgement of the proposed courses (Fall, 2009 thru Spring, 2014), current and future degree requirements can be met through:

1. A minimum of five courses: two introductory courses (100 level) plus three courses at the 200, 300 or 400 level. Of these five courses, at least the two introductory ones will be taken in Middlebury.
2. Students planning on getting a joint BA-MA degree with MIIS, will be required to take at least one course in the following three areas:
  - a. Language analysis
  - b. Language acquisition
  - c. Sociolinguistics
3. Linguistics minors may be required to take one course through the study abroad program or through MIIS (onsite or collaboratively at Middlebury).

Course listings for linguistics include Middlebury UG, MIIS Grad, Study Abroad, and Summer Language Schools offerings (see attached).

## MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE FACULTY IN LINGUISTICS (FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENTS)

List of Middlebury faculty who will teach or have taught linguistics courses:

ARABIC: Usama Soltan – Introduction to Linguistics (100); The Unity and Diversity of Human Language (100)

CHINESE: Hang Du – Chinese Sociolinguistics (200)

GERMAN: Florence Feiereisen – The Structure of German (300)

ITALIAN: Andrei Barashkov – Introduction to Romance Linguistics (200); History of Italian Language (400)

SPANISH: Ana Martinez-Lage – Language Politics (300 or 400), Introduction to Bilingualism (100), Second Language Acquisition (100 or 200) and Foreign Language Teaching (100)

Antje Mutendam – Introduction to Spanish Linguistics (300); Linguistic Variation (400); Spanish in the United States (300);

## MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE FACULTY IN OTHER DEPARTMENTS WITH INTERESTS IN LINGUISTICS

SOCIOLOGY/ANTHROPOLOGY: Michael Sheridan – Language and Power (300)

PHILOSOPHY: John Spackman – Philosophy of Language (300)

ENGLISH: Antonia Losano – Advanced English Grammar and Rhetoric (200)

WRITING PROGRAM: Shawna Shapiro - Intro to Linguistics (100), Second Language Acquisition (200), Sociolinguistics (of English) (200)

EDUCATIONAL STUDIES: Claudia Cooper – Discourse Analysis (200)

Some of these faculty and projected courses are found on the Linguistics Schedule 2009-2014 accompanying this proposal.