

Minor in Linguistics
Middlebury College, Dec. 7 2007

1. Should Middlebury College offer a minor in Linguistics?
2. What should the minor look like?
3. Do we have the resources to do it?

Background:

April 2005: a proposal for a Linguistics Minor was submitted to the EAC. Arguments included in the proposal:

- Demonstrable demand among students (regularly offered courses, thesis, independent scholars).
- Strong interdisciplinary benefit of a linguistics minor.
- The existence of linguistics programs (minor and majors) at several comparable U.S. colleges.
- Absence of a formally structured linguistics minor creates a gap in the foreign language curriculum at Middlebury.
- Presence of faculty in linguistics in several departments (Spanish, German, Chinese) that would make the program feasible.
- Strong interest and support from other departments outside the FL Division.

Structure of the minor (from the April 2005 proposal)

1. The linguistics minor will comprise five courses: two requirements (LING 0101 and LING 0102, see descriptions below) and three electives (LING 0201, LING 0202, and LING 0300).
2. LING 0201 and LING 0202 (or the equivalent) may be taken abroad. LING 0300 must be taken at Middlebury College.
3. Students who want to start a linguistics minor must be at least at the intermediate level of language study at Middlebury College (as defined by each language department). Students may take concurrently LING 0102 and an intermediate language class
4. All linguistic minors must study abroad at least one semester at a C.V. Starr School.

Proposed course descriptions (from the April 2005 proposal)

Requirements (to be taken at Middlebury College before going abroad)

LING 010. Language and culture. This course studies the relationship between language and its use within specific cultures. It begins with a discussion of the relationship between language and thought, and it expands onto a discussion of four major issues: language change, language policy, language acquisition, and linguistic diversity.

LING 0102. Language analysis. This course is an introduction to the analysis of language. It provides the methodological and analytical tools used in the different linguistic disciplines. It provides an overview of syntax, phonetics/phonology, morphology, semantics, and pragmatics through the study of specific topics in historical linguistics, synchronic linguistics, and applied linguistics.

Electives

Level 0200. Thematic (survey) courses (sample of potential courses)

1. Applied linguistics. The discipline of applied linguistics is at the crossroads of language study applied to problems in everyday life. By tracing the evolution of the discipline and its early attachments with language teaching and further independence from it, the course focuses on second language acquisition and its relationship to language teaching methodologies.
2. Historical linguistics. This course examines how languages have evolved through time. The topics of study include: the origin of language, genetic linguistics, laws of linguistic evolution, comparison of language families, and language extinction.
3. Language and education
4. Linguistic anthropology
5. Language and literature
6. Language and philosophy

Level 0300. Advanced thematic courses (sample of potential courses)

1. The Romance languages.
2. The Germanic languages.
3. Design and evaluation of teaching materials in foreign languages
4. Language policy in Canada and the United States

The current situation:

- Sustained interest in linguistics on the part of students (Fall 2006 course: *Unity and Diversity of Human Language* (INTD0111) 29 students registered. Spring 2007 course: *Introduction to Linguistics* (INTD0112) 39 students registered).
- Continued presence of faculty in several departments who offer courses in linguistics.
- Affiliation with Monterey Institute of International Studies.
 - Graduate School of Languages and Educational Linguistics. (See list of courses available).
 - M2 Program Committee: strong interest in making the connection in the area of Linguistics.
 - Semester away: 5 students max. per semester; max. of 3 courses.

MONTEREY INSTITUTE

MONTEREY INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

An affiliate of Middlebury College

TEACHING DEGREES & CERTIFICATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Required Courses

Selected Electives

REQUIRED COURSES

ED 420 Principles and Practices of Language Teaching

Provides an overview of language teaching and learning principles from both historic and current perspectives. Illustrates application of teaching principles through practical examples.

ED425 Introduction to Classroom Observation

Develops skills in classroom observation and an understanding of observation as a fundamental professional development and research activity.

LIN 430 Language Analysis

Serves as an introduction to linguistic analysis. Includes projects based on fieldwork in phonology, morphology, syntax, discourse, and pragmatics. Discusses importance of language awareness. Includes pedagogical strategies for consciousness-raising.

ED 440 Educational Research Methods

Introduces social science research design, descriptive and analytic procedures, basic statistics, and their application to research on language learning and teaching.

LIN 470 Sociolinguistics

Introduces the interplay between language and society. Discusses regional and social dialects as well as the role of linguistic attitudes and language variation in language learning and teaching.

ED 520 Curriculum Design

Explores areas of theory, research and practice that have a bearing on curriculum and syllabus design. Leads students to develop their own curriculum design project. Prerequisite: Principles and Practices of Language Teaching.

Prerequisite: ED 420

LIN 530 Structure of English (TESOL)

Examines the syntax and discourse of modern English for ESL and EFL teaching. Spotlights practical applications for the classroom. Prerequisite: Language Analysis

Prerequisite: LIN 430

ED 540 Language Assessment

Considers issues in language testing including reliability, validity, test bias, and ethics. Examines differences and similarities among placement, proficiency, achievement, aptitude, and performance testing. Explores alternative evaluation procedures. Prepares students to evaluate tests and to develop original language tests. Prerequisites:

Language Analysis and Educational Research Methods.

Prerequisite: LIN 430 and ED 440

ED 620 Practicum

Provides students with an opportunity for supervised teaching experience in ESL or foreign language classes. Discusses classroom-centered research; reading, writing, listening, and speaking activities; professional development; materials development; and reflective teaching. Prerequisites: all other required courses.

Prerequisite: all other required courses.

LIN 630 Second Language Acquisition

Surveys, in seminar format, research in second-language learning relating to language teaching and learning. Discusses the role of affective variables, interaction, learner strategies, and learner factors in the language acquisition process. Prerequisite: Language Analysis

Prerequisite: LIN 430. LIN 440

ED 650 Portfolio Preparation

Consists of a series of workshops leading to the integration of issues and ideas in the MA program, and to the development of a portfolio of work.

LIN531 Pedagogical Grammar in Foreign Language Teaching (TFL)

Develops formal and functional skill in teaching the target language through the design of communicative activities and lesson plans, the development of explicit and implicit teaching strategies, and the investigation of technology and web-based resources in the target language. Students gain a solid grasp of pedagogical grammar in their target languages.

Prerequisite: LIN430

SELECTED ELECTIVES

ED 564 Introduction to Language Program Administration

Presents a practical overview of problems, situations, and issues occurring in the management of language programs.

ED 662 Language Teacher Education

Investigates issues related to teacher training, education and development. Examines various philosophies and models of pre-service and in-service programs for training language teachers, thus building professional skills for students to be competent and confident teacher educators.

CALL 572 Using the Internet for Language Teaching

Examines the Internet as a teaching tool, a unique communication device, and a cultural resource. Includes the use of online journal articles, online teaching/learning material, online examples of how the Internet is being used to teach languages.

ED 562 Teaching of Reading

Explores reading, including traditional ESL and English approaches. Examines reader response theory and discourse analysis for understanding aspects of written text and learners' reactions to it. Practical applications included.