

UConn | COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

COMMITTEE ON CURRICULA AND COURSES

Proposal to Add a New Graduate Course

Last revised: September 24, 2013

1. Date: 18 April 2014
2. Department requesting this course: Cognitive Science Program
3. Semester and year in which course will be first offered: Fall 2014

Final Catalog Listing

Assemble this after you have completed the components below. This listing should not contain any information that is not listed below!

COGS 5120. Structure, Acquisition and Processing of Language

3 credits. Seminar. Permission of the instructor is required.

Selected topics in syntax, semantics, phonology, morphology.

Connections to current research in language acquisition, sentence processing, neurogenic disorders.

Items Included in Catalog Listing

Obligatory Items

1. [Abbreviation](#) for Department, Program or [Subject Area](#): COGS
2. [Course Number](#): 5120
3. Course Title: Structure, Acquisition and Processing of Language
4. [Number of Credits](#) (use digits, "3" not "three"): 3
5. [Course Description](#) (second paragraph of catalog entry):

Selected topics in syntax, semantics, phonology, morphology.

Connections to current research in language acquisition, sentence processing, neurogenic disorders.

6. [Course Type](#), if appropriate:
☐ Lecture ☐ Laboratory ☒ Seminar ☐ Practicum

Optional Items

7. [Prerequisites](#), if applicable:
8. [Recommended Preparation](#), if applicable:
9. [Consent of Instructor](#), if applicable: *Consent of Instructor*
10. [Exclusions](#), if applicable:
11. [Repetition for credit](#), if applicable:

12. S/U grading:

Justification

1. Reasons for adding this course:

This is one of several newly developed graduate courses in the neurobiology of language. The intent of these courses is to prepare students to investigate the human capacity for language in collaboration with other students and faculty across a number of distinct UConn doctoral programs: Linguistics; Physiology & Neurobiology; Speech / Language / Hearing Sciences; and within Psychology, the programs in Behavioral Neuroscience, Clinical Psychology, Developmental Psychology, and Perception / Action / Cognition.

The impetus for this effort at interdisciplinary collaboration is a recent IGERT grant from the National Science Foundation to (PI) Jim Magnuson (Psychology-PAC), with Co-PIs Carl Coelho (SLHS), Ken Pugh (Psychology-PAC / Haskins Laboratories), Holly Fitch (Psychology-BNS), and William Snyder (Linguistics).

One near-term goal is the creation of a Graduate Certificate Program in the Neurobiology of Language. The proposed course would be one of the requirements for the certificate.

2. Academic merit:

The course is designed to meet the needs of students in the aforementioned program in the neurobiology of language. For students in doctoral programs other than Linguistics, COGS 5120 will provide an intensive introduction to contemporary theoretical linguistics, with an emphasis on primary data. For students in the Linguistics Program, COGS 5120 will provide an introduction to experimental and clinical research outside the Linguistics Department, especially in the areas of child language acquisition, on-line sentence processing, and neurogenic language disorders. For all of the students, the course will provide background they need in order to engage with current research on language across a number of distinct disciplines.

3. [Overlapping courses:](#)

The course most similar to the one proposed here is LING 5500:

LING 5500 - ADVANCED INTRODUCTION TO SYNTAX

Concepts and tools of current syntactic theory. Syntactic features, lexical and functional categories, representation of phrase structure, argument structure, Case, movement, locality.

Unlike LING 5500, however, COGS 5120 will be specifically tailored to the needs of graduate students in the Neurobiology-of-Language Program. Where LING 5500 emphasizes the background knowledge needed in order to take more advanced syntax courses in the Linguistics Program, COGS 5120 will emphasize connections of linguistic theory (including syntax, semantics, phonology, and morphology) to related research in other disciplines – including, in particular, psychology and communication disorders. The emphasis will be on preparing doctoral students from Linguistics and related fields to engage in mutually beneficial collaborative research that crosses traditional disciplinary boundaries.

Note that it would be quite reasonable for a student to take both LING 5500 and COGS 5120.

4. Number of students expected: 15

5. Number and size of sections: One section.

6. [Effects on other departments:](#)

We do not foresee significant effects on other departments or programs.

7. [Staffing:](#)

At present William Snyder, Professor of Linguistics, is available to teach or co-teach COGS 5120. In the longer term, staffing could involve other faculty in Linguistics, possibly in a team-teaching arrangement with someone from Psychology or SLHS.

8. [Dates approved](#) by

Department Curriculum Committee: (COGS Steering Committee)

April 22, 2014

Department Faculty: (N/A)

9. Name, Phone Number, and e-mail address of principal contact person:

William Snyder, 860-486-0157, william.snyder@uconn.edu

Syllabus

A [syllabus](#) for the new course must be attached to your submission email.

The attached syllabus was used in Fall 2013, when the proposed course was offered under variable-topics course numbers in Linguistics and Psychology, and was co-taught by Professors Whit Tabor (Psychology-PAC) and William Snyder.

Additional Approval

New graduate courses must also be approved by the Graduate Faculty Council.