

## 1. Interest to Engineers

This track will be interesting to engineers because language is a source of endless fascination and speculation for people around the world. All humans, and the societies and cultures they are members of, make use of complex language. It's a universal. At the same time, languages seem so obviously different from each other. Language has been the subject of formal human inquiry for more than 3000 years. The modern field of Linguistics, drawing on this rich tradition and combining it with the tools and knowledge provided by the natural sciences and humanities, seeks to deepen understanding of this uniquely human phenomenon. The study of language is additionally appealing because it sits at the intersection of the humanities and sciences.

Students who take the courses proposed for this GE track will be exposed to a wide variety of perspectives on language, language structures, and their relationship to areas such as literature, cognition, physiology, social structures, history, politics, and the media.

The courses in this track will appeal to engineering students because they will learn how linguists form testable hypotheses about the nature of language and its relationship to individual cognition, culture, and society. Students will also learn about the data-seeking techniques and kinds of evidence that are brought to bear in testing such hypotheses. At the same time, students will learn about how language and social categories are related to one another.

## 2. Course Options in Proposed GE Track

The courses for the proposed Language, Mind, and Society GE track are:

Linguistics 1

Linguistics 3

Linguistics 20

(Linguistics 11-proposed for development with a Teagle grant)

## 3. GE Status of Proposed Track Courses

The courses proposed above for the GE track are all approved GE courses. We list below the GE requirements that the courses satisfy. (As noted above, Ling 11/Sociolinguistics is a course under development and for which we have applied for a Teagle Grant. We give below the anticipated GE requirements that this course will satisfy.)

Ling 1/Introduction to the Study of Language (5 units)

Satisfies: (a) Arts and Humanities: Philosophical and Linguistic Analysis

(b) Scientific Inquiry: Life Sciences

Ling 3/American Sign Language: Culture and Structure (5 units)

Satisfies: (a) Arts and Humanities: Literary and Cultural Analysis

(b) Arts and Humanities: Philosophical and Linguistic Analysis

Ling 20/Introduction to Linguistic Analysis (5 units)

Satisfies: Arts and Humanities: Philosophical and Linguistic Analysis

Ling 11/Sociolinguistics (proposed): the Scientific Study of Language and Society (proposal 5 units)

Proposed to Satisfy: (a) Arts and Humanities: Philosophical and Linguistic Analysis

(b) Society and Culture: Social Analysis