

THE DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE, LINGUISTICS & LITERATURE

MA Linguistics

Introduction/Objectives

The MA Linguistics is a taught programme that is intended to guide students more fully into the field of linguistics and to enable them to acquire an in-depth understanding of the subject and its relevance to linguistic and cultural research, translation, and language teaching across the major official languages of the Caribbean region.

Candidates can follow one of 4 concentrations in the MA Linguistics programme: - Applied Linguistics; Descriptive Linguistics (part-time only), Sociolinguistics, or Caribbean Lexicography.

By the end of this programme students should be able to:

DESCRIPTIVE LINGUISTICS

1. Demonstrate an insight into and understanding of the development of linguistic theory from Socrates to the present by writing critical analyses of the process;
2. Analyse the theories of several personalities who have made a contribution to modern linguistics in order to apply their theories to contemporary language issues;
3. Formulate and practice the fundamentals of linguistics through exposure to modern syntactic, morphological, semantic and phonological theories;
4. Analyse linguistic theories in order to discover new ideas and acquire knowledge of the interrelations between the various modules of grammar; and
5. Use the knowledge gained in the study of the fundamentals to pursue research in any of these frameworks.

APPLIED LINGUISTICS

1. Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of the general principles of language teaching methodology and the linguistic theories that underpin them by developing programmes that use a variety of teaching strategies;
2. Show an understanding of the language situation in the Caribbean by suggesting solutions to teaching/learning issues arising out of the peculiar situation based on the principles of applied linguistics;
3. Apply the principles of first and second language acquisition to the teaching of English and foreign languages;
4. Develop approaches for teaching English as a second language / second dialect in the Caribbean; and
5. Use critical and participatory approaches to language teaching and research that provide solutions to problems that arise in the language classroom.

SOCIOLINGUISTICS

1. Define and interpret basic concepts of theoretical importance in sociolinguistic research, such as language, dialect, speech community, linguistic repertoire, linguistic variable, social variable, communicative competence, etc.;
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2. Display an in-depth knowledge of the contributions of researchers such as Gumperz, Hymes, and Labov to developments in sociolinguistic theory by applying their ideas in carrying out research projects in Caribbean societies.
3. Demonstrate a sound knowledge of the principles of language planning, both status planning and corpus planning, in an analysis of the language policies of Caribbean nations; and
4. Apply language planning principles to individual Caribbean territories and formulate language policies for the territories concerned.

CARIBBEAN LEXICOGRAPHY

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the principles involved in the study of the Caribbean lexicon across the three major official languages of the region, English, Spanish and French by creating linguistic glossaries;
2. Identify the major sources of lexical items in all three languages and apply the knowledge gained to account for certain linguistic peculiarities in Caribbean Creole languages;
3. Apply their understanding of the linguistic substrata of the Caribbean lexicon in addressing problems of both English and foreign language teaching and learning in Caribbean schools;
4. Inventory Caribbean culture and the Caribbean environment in the three major official languages of the region through the compilation of word lists and glossaries;
5. Express Caribbean reality in Caribbean terms in any one, two or all three of the major official languages particularly in the areas of translation, such as labelling of items peculiar to the region, etc.; and
6. Elucidate the concept of Caribbean linguistic and cultural identity through reference to the study of the Caribbean lexicon across the three major official languages of the region.

Entry Requirements

Applicants should have at least a Second Class honours degree or equivalent in the discipline in question from a recognised tertiary institution.

Applicants who have graduated from the UWI must have passed at least eight semester-long courses in the relevant discipline in Years II and III of the BA programme with grade B or better. (Other applicants should hold an equivalent qualification.)

Applicants who do not satisfy the above requirements may be allowed to take a Qualifying Examination which may consist of one, two or three courses chosen from Levels II and III of the BA programme to be passed with grades of B or better.

Programme of Study/Course of Study

Students are required to gain 40 credits through successful completion of 6 courses and a Research Paper. Full-time candidates are required to complete the 6 courses during their first two semesters of study, while part-time candidates are required to complete the 4 courses during their first two semesters of study and 2 courses during the first semester of their second year of study.

Descriptive Linguistics Concentration

Candidates must select 3 courses from the Descriptive Linguistics series including LING 6005 which is

compulsory, and three (3) additional courses from the planned offerings or as determined by the Department.

Applied Linguistics Concentration:

Candidates must take LING 6005 which is compulsory, at least 3 courses from the Applied Linguistics series including LING 6701 which is also compulsory, and up to two (2) additional courses from the planned offerings or as determined by the Department.

Sociolinguistics Concentration:

Candidates must take LING 6005 which is compulsory, at least 3 courses from the Sociolinguistics series, and up to two (2) additional courses from the planned offerings or as determined by the Department.

Caribbean Lexicography Concentration:

Candidates must take LING 6005 which is compulsory, at least 3 courses from the Caribbean Lexicography series, and up to two (2) additional courses from the planned offerings or as determined by the Department.

Postgraduate courses in another discipline may be substituted, where appropriate and subject to approval, for up to two (2) prescribed courses. Independent Reading Courses may also be substituted, in special circumstances and subject to approval, for up to two (2) prescribed Courses.

A supervisor is appointed once the candidate reaches the Research Paper stage of the programme.

Independent Reading Courses

Candidates for the MA degree may, only in special circumstances, substitute up to two (2) Independent Reading Courses. This is contingent upon the availability of staff to direct such courses as well as the approval of the Department. To this end, candidates should first identify and consult with a potential Director for the project.

Independent Reading Courses may be based upon extant courses (in which case the course content, the reading list, the methods of assessment, etc. may be slightly altered) or may be designed to suit the special needs of the candidate. Any such proposal must be related to the major focus or foci of the MA degree of the discipline in question and / or should be compatible with the resources and expertise available in the Department.

In the case of the latter, students, in consultation with the proposed Director, must write a proposal providing the following information:

- **RATIONALE:** an explanation of how the material of the proposed course forms a coherent focus of study, and an outline of the objectives thereof.
 - **ASSESSMENT:** a list of the format, number, and length of assignments to be submitted to the
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Director.

- CONTACT SCHEDULE: a statement of the frequency and length of time you and your Director will meet (e.g once per week for one hour).
- READING LIST: this list should follow the guidelines prescribed by the MLA HANDBOOK and should be divided into *Required* and *Recommended* readings.

The proposal is to be submitted to the proposed Director who will then formally pass it on, indicating his/her approval, to the Department's Coordinator of Graduate Studies.

Research Paper

Full-time candidates are also required to complete a Research Paper (15,000-20,000 words, exclusive of notes and bibliography) by the end of the academic year. Part-time candidates are required to complete their Research Paper by the end of their second year of study.

The Research Paper is worth 10 credits for the MA Linguistics.

Upon completion of their coursework (if not earlier), candidates should submit a brief written proposal (including a title) to the Coordinator of Graduate Studies. Once the proposal has been approved, a Supervisor is appointed to guide the candidate in his/her research. Candidates are required to meet with their Supervisors a minimum of once per semester. It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that this minimum is met.

Research Papers which are not presented in accordance with these guidelines in the Graduate Studies Thesis Guide will not be accepted for examination.

Duration

Full-time candidates must complete all requirements within twelve (12) months of the start of the programme, and part-time candidates must complete the same requirements within twenty-four (24) months.

LIST OF COURSES

Compulsory for all programmes

LING 6005 Theoretical Linguistics Development

Descriptive Linguistics Series

LING 6001 Phonetics and Phonology

LING 6002 Morphology

LING 6003 Syntax

LING 6004 Semantics

Applied Linguistics Series

- LING 6101 Applied Linguistics Development
- LING 6102 First and Second Language Acquisition
- LING 6103 English Language Teaching
- LING 6104 Teaching Second and Foreign Languages
- LING 6105 Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)
- LING 6701 Applied Linguistics Research (compulsory for Applied Linguistics programme)

Sociolinguistics Series

- LING 6301 Sociolinguistic Theory
- LING 6302 Sociolinguistics of Society
- LING 6303 Language Variation and Change
- LING 6704 Sociolinguistics Methodology

Caribbean Lexicography Series:

- LING 6603 Caribbean Lexicography
- LING 6604 Historical Survey of Caribbean Languages
- LING 6605 Approaches to the Standardization of Caribbean Languages
- LING 6607 Caribbean Creoles: Phonology and Orthography and Teaching of English and Foreign Languages in Caribbean Schools
- LING 6608 The Study of the Caribbean Lexicon as an Aid to Translation
- LING 6609 Caribbean Linguistic and Cultural Identity through the Caribbean Lexicon

Special / Interdisciplinary Topics

- LING 6601 Caribbean and Creole Linguistics
- LING 6602 Language Planning

Reading Courses

- LING 6801 Independent Reading Course I
- LING 6802 Independent Reading Course II

Compulsory all concentrations (10 credits)

- LING 6599 Research Paper
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