

# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S. 83-47

## MEMORANDUM

To..... SENATE

From..... SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

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DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES,  
Subject..... LITERATURES AND LINGUISTICS -  
PROPOSED NEW COURSE LING 419-3

.....  
Date..... MAY 16, 1983

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of May 3, 1983 gives rise to the following motion:-

MOTION:

"That Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.83 - 47, the proposed

New course LING 419-3 - The History of Linguistics"

Subject to approval of the course by Senate and the Board, the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies approved waiver to permit first offering of this course for Fall, 1983.

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL FORM1. Calendar Information

Abbreviation Code: LING Course Number: 419 Credit Hours: 3 Vector: 3-0-0

Department: Languages, Literature & Linguistics

Title of Course: The History of Linguistics

## Calendar Description of Course:

History and the tradition of linguistic investigation. The history of linguistics and history of ideas.

Nature of Course Lecture

## Prerequisites (or special instructions):

LING 220. Recommended: Latin 100, Philosophy 344.

What course (courses), if any, is being dropped from the calendar if this course is approved: None

2. Scheduling

How frequently will the course be offered? annually

Semester in which the course will first be offered? 83-3

Which of your present faculty would be available to make the proposed offering possible?

Bursill-Hall, Bartlett, Roberts

3. Objectives of the Course

Since the subject matter of the course includes a survey all of linguistic thought from classical antiquity to the recent past, this course will provide students with a broad historical perspective on the field of linguistics and its relationship with other disciplines, particularly philosophy and psychology.

4. Budgetary and Space Requirements (for information only)

What additional resources will be required in the following areas:

Faculty None

Staff None

Library None

Audio Visual None

Space None

Equipment None

5. Approval

Date: March 31 / 83 April 26, 1983

[Signature]  
Department Chairman

[Signature]  
Dean

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Chairman, SCUS

1. Introduction:  
History and the tradition of linguistic investigation.  
The history of linguistics and the history of ideas.
2. Classical Antiquity:
  - a) Greece: Plato, Aristotle, Stoics, Dionysius, Thrax, Apollonius, Dyscolus.
  - b) Rome: Quintilian, Donatus, Varro, Priscian.
3. Middle Ages:
  - a) Early Middle Ages: Grammar and the Liberal Arts;  
Grammar and the medieval paradigm.
  - b) High Middle Ages: William of Conches, Peter Helias,  
Roger Bacon, Robert Kilwardby.  
Modistic and Nominalist grammarians.
4. Renaissance:
  - a) Humanist grammarians: Linacre, Sanctius, Guarinus.
  - b) Rise of vernacular grammars: Scaliger, Dante, Nebrija.
  - c) Language pedagogy: Melanchthon, Ramus, Palsgrave.
5. Philosophical Grammar:
  - a) Royal Society: Bacon, Wilkins
  - b) Port-Royal: Cordemoy
6. General Grammar:
  - a) Encyclopédie: Beauzée, DuMarsais, Condillac.
  - b) Leibniz: Harris, Monboddo, Horne Tooke, Vico, Herder.
7. Philology:
  - a) Comparative Philology: Grimm, Rask, Bopp.
  - b) Energeia and Ergon: von Humboldt, Schleicher.
  - c) Neogrammarians: Brugmann, Verner, Leskien, Paul.
8. Eve of Modern Times:
  - a) Dialect geography: Gillieron, Schuchardt.
  - b) Opponents of neogrammarians: Vossler, Croce.
  - c) Pre-structuralists: Jespersen, Bühler
  - d) Phoneme theory: Baudouin de Courtenay, Kruszewski.
9. Conclusion  
Recommended text: R.H. Robins, A Short History of Linguistics

Additional Reading: Historiographica Linguistica  
Studies in the History of Linguistics  
Historiography of Linguistics (2 vols)  
CTL XIII  
Traditions and Paradigms (ed. Dell Hymes).  
History of Linguistic Thought & Contemporary  
Linguistics (ed. H. Parret).

RATIONALE: Proposal for New Course - Linguistics 419

The History of Linguistics is now accepted as a bona fide part of General Linguistics; this course will therefore fill a serious gap in our present undergraduate programme. The course will be an account of earlier attempts to explain how language works and a description of the inter-weaving of language study with other disciplines at various stages in its long history. Language has been the subject of enquiry ever since man became conscious of his intellectual environment and this course should help us to realise that our predecessors were often much more competent than we had thought, and we can therefore learn from their successes as much as from their failures. Because linguistics is very much a weather-vane of intellectual change, a course such as this can be considered a valuable contribution to the history of ideas; because linguistics is the study of that most human of phenomena, i.e. language, this course can equally well be considered a most important contribution to the humanities.