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**MEMORANDUM**

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**ATTENTION** Senate **DATE** February 15, 2024  
**FROM** Mary O'Brien,  
Chair of Senate Graduate Studies  
Committee (SGSC)  
**RE:** Program Changes

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**For information:**

Acting under delegated authority at its meeting of February 6, 2024, SGSC approved the following curriculum item, effective **Fall 2024**:

**Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**  
Department of Linguistics

- 1) Program Change: Linguistics MA

## Memo

**Attention** Mary O'Brien, Dean of Graduate Studies

**From** Kate. Slaney, Associate Dean, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, FASS

**cc**

**Subject** Items for SGSC

**Date** October 15, 2023

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Dear Mary,

The FASS GSC met for our semesterly meeting on October 10, 2023. Due to disruptions from the TSSU labour dispute, over half our committee members did not attend the meeting (either in person or via the Zoom option that was provided). As such, we did not have quorum and were not able to vote on items that were submitted for approval from four FASS graduate programs. In order to ensure that these items may be considered by the Senate GSC in a timely manner and because none were likely to have met with significant resistance, I am approving the following course and calendar changes:

- ~~1. Department of Gerontology – Calendar Course Change  
Course description change for GERO 803~~
2. Department of Linguistics – Calendar Course Change  
Eliminating three required courses (LING 800, 801, and 851) for the MA Linguistics program to add flexibility to two recently added program streams
- ~~3. Department of Psychology – Calendar Course Change  
a) Add PSYC 809 Advanced Topics in Applied Psychology (Course Topic: Pediatric Neuropsychology) as an option for the two-area course requirement for the Clinical Neuropsychology track students  
b) Change the pre-requisite course requirements of PSYC 809 – Advanced Topics in Applied Psychology~~
- ~~4. School of International Studies – Program Deletion – Latin American Studies Graduate (LAS) Certificate~~

~~The LAS GC has not received students since Fall 2020 and there are no active students in the program~~

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Calendar and course change forms attached.

Please add these items for consideration at the next SGSC meeting.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K Slaney', written over a horizontal line.


Kathleen (Kate) Slaney  
Associate Dean, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies,  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
Simon Fraser University

/nf

To: FASS Graduate Studies Committee  
From: Linguistics GSC  
Re: Minor Linguistics MA program change  
Date: September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The following program changes have been approved by the Department of Linguistics and are forwarded to the FASS Graduate Studies Committee for approval. These curriculum items should be effective for Fall 2024. Please include them on the next FASS GSC agenda.

We intend to add flexibility to the streams by not making LING 800, 801, and 851 required. That is, we are acknowledging that there are many potential areas of linguistics where students may specialize in, and so we are adding flexibility for them to complete the MA.



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Linguistics Graduate Studies Chair, Henny Yeung

[Ling\\_gsc@sfu.ca](mailto:Ling_gsc@sfu.ca)

## Calendar Entry Change for Linguistics Master of Arts

<p>Summary of change: Currently, there are three courses required for the MA, but we are going to make these courses optional instead of required.</p>
<p>Rationale for change: The context of these changes is that our MA program recently introduced project- and course-based streams in addition to our (previous) thesis-based stream in Fall 2023. First, we wish to provide more flexibility in the scheduling of courses. With current course requirements, we will struggle to mount enough unique graduate courses to accommodate multiple cohorts in project- and course-based streams. These changes would allow all faculty to contribute more equally to graduate training. Second, we also wish to increase flexibility for graduate student training in our MA program, as our students now have more diverse post-degree career goals. For example, some students may wish to concentrate on preparation for quantitative careers (data science / tech careers, or PhD study in applied programs), while other students may want to focus on writing and analytic training in other courses (for language policy careers, or PhD study in theoretical linguistics programs). All admitted MA students are expected to have foundational undergraduate coursework in linguistics, and so these changes will mean that students are given a choice about whether to deepen their prior training, or instead, develop breadth. To ensure that MA students (in all streams) therefore choose courses that will meet their professional goals, 5 credits of professional development (to develop a clear plan post-degree) are still required, and all MA students will continue to be assigned a faculty advisor who can ensure that students select courses to gain strong training within our field that is still, nevertheless, suited to their individual career aspirations.</p>
<p>Effective term and year: Fall 2024</p>
<p>Will this change impact current students? If yes, what is the plan for current students? No</p>

FROM	TO
[...]	[...]
Program requirements	Program requirements
This program offers a thesis option, project option, and course work option for a minimum of 35 units.	This program offers a thesis option, project option, and course work option for a minimum of 35 units.
Students must complete	Students must complete
<del>LING 800 – Phonology (3)</del>	LING 880 - Advanced Linguistic Research for Professional Development (3)
<del>LING 801 – Syntax (3)</del>	LING 890 - Graduate Seminar I (1) *
<del>LING 851 – Research Techniques and Experimental Design (3)</del>	LING 891 - Graduate Seminar II (1) *

<p>LING 880 - Advanced Linguistic Research for Professional Development (3)  LING 890 - Graduate Seminar I (1) *  LING 891 - Graduate Seminar II (1) *  and requirements for one of the options below</p> <p>Thesis Option  LING 898 - MA Thesis (18)  and <del>one</del> additional graduate <del>course</del>**</p> <p>Project Option  LING 893 - Linguistics MA Project (6)  and <del>five</del> additional graduate <del>courses</del>**</p> <p>Course-based Option  and <del>seven</del> additional graduate <del>courses</del>**</p> <p>* LING 890 and LING 891 should be completed in the first year of program enrollment.</p> <p>** <del>must be approved by the supervisor.</del> Only one directed research course allowed.</p> <p>[...]</p>	<p>and requirements for one of the options below</p> <p>Thesis Option  LING 898 - MA Thesis (18)  and <b>12</b> additional graduate <b>units</b>**</p> <p>Project Option  LING 893 - Linguistics MA Project (6)  and <b>24</b> additional graduate <b>units</b>***</p> <p>Course-based Option  and <b>30</b> additional graduate <b>units</b>***</p> <p>* LING 890 and LING 891 should be completed in the first year of program enrollment.</p> <p>** Only one directed research course allowed. <b>At most three units can come from outside the Department of Linguistics at Simon Fraser University with the approval of the student's supervisor and graduate chair.</b></p> <p>*** <b>Only one directed research course allowed. At most six units can come from outside the Department of Linguistics at Simon Fraser University with the approval of the student's supervisor and graduate chair.</b></p> <p>[...]</p>
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