



جامعة الإمام عبد الرحمن بن فيصل  
IMAM ABDULRAHMAN BIN FAISAL UNIVERSITY

Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University

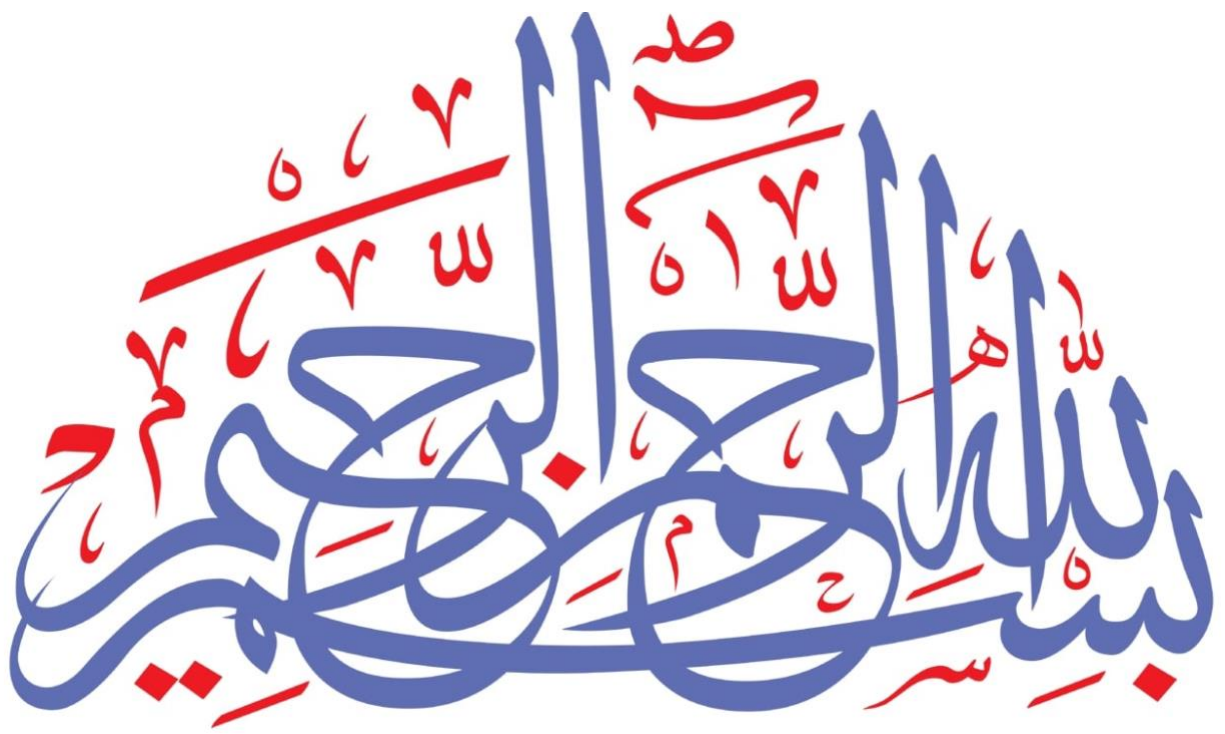
College of Arts

Department of English

Master of Arts in English Linguistics

Student Handbook

Coursework Guide



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## Section I: Overview of Master of Arts in English Linguistics

This handbook provides students with useful information to students regarding the linguistic master's degree programs offered by the Department of English (DOE). This Handbook was designed to achieve the following objectives:

1. to provide students with necessary information about the available graduate program options, policies, regulations, requirements, and respective responsibilities of students and faculty.
2. to provide students with guidance during the journey and a source to refer to when necessary.
3. to guarantee that students are well-informed to make the right decisions and seek help when needed.

### Tracks of Master of Arts in English Linguistics

The Department of English linguistic master's degree program offers two tracks:

1. The General Linguistics track is designed to provide courses in core areas of linguistics.
2. The Sociolinguistics track is designed to provide courses in core areas of linguistics with more focused courses on sociolinguistics.

### Master of Arts in English Linguistics Identification Information

Program Name	Master of Arts in English Linguistics
Qualification Level	Master, Level 7
System of Study	Coursework and Thesis
Mode of Study	On Campus
Number of Hours	30 hours
Program Location	College of Arts, Al-Rayan Campus

### Program Mission Statement and Goals

#### Mission Statement

To provide high quality education and scientific research in the various areas of Linguistics to enrich language studies that serve the community. The program was designed to achieve the following goals:

1. Providing broad theoretical and practical knowledge of linguistics.
2. Preparing postgraduate students to conduct innovative research in the field of linguistics.
3. Enriching universities, at local and regional levels, with highly qualified academics and researchers in the field of linguistics who are able to serve society in different areas.

## Professional Opportunities

Graduate students pursuing an MA in (socio)linguistics are interested in a variety of language-focused career paths. Among them are:

1. academics & university faculty members specialized in Linguistics.
2. research assistants in various fields of Linguistics.
3. linguists in language planning institutions such as King Salman International Arabic Language Academy; and King Abdullah Bin Abdelaziz International Centre for Arabic Language Service.
4. other professions requiring analytical, linguistic, or writing skills.

## Program Learning Outcomes

### *General Linguistics Learning Outcomes*

General Linguistics	
Knowledge and Understanding	
K1	Discuss essential linguistic concepts, terminology, and theories.
K2	Demonstrate knowledge of relevant research methods in the different linguistic fields.
Skills	
S1	Critically assess various data within their cultural and linguistic contexts utilizing different linguistic theories.
S2	Conduct research to address various linguistic inquiries.
S3	Demonstrate communicative competence in written linguistic research and oral presentations.
S4	Use technology to process linguistic data for research purposes.
Values	
V1	Apply academic ethical standards in their research practices.
V2	Effectively collaborate in research projects or groups.
V3	Effectively manage a task or activity with high autonomy.

### *Sociolinguistics Learning Outcomes*

Sociolinguistics	
Knowledge and Understanding	
K1	Discuss essential sociolinguistic concepts, terminology, and theories.
K2	Demonstrate knowledge of relevant research methods in the different sociolinguistic fields.
Skills	
S1	Critically assess various data within their sociocultural and linguistic contexts utilizing different linguistic theories.
S2	Conduct research to address various sociolinguistic inquiries.
S3	Demonstrate communicative competence in written sociolinguistic research and oral presentations.
S4	Use technology to process sociolinguistic data for research purposes.
Values	
V1	Apply academic ethical standards in their research practices.

V2	Effectively collaborate in research projects or groups.
V3	Effectively manage a task or activity with high autonomy.

## Master of Arts in English Linguistics Study Plan

As noted earlier, the program study plan applies a blended system of courses and thesis and has two tracks: General Linguistics and Sociolinguistics. The maximum number of years of the program is four years. Each year has two terms. The program courses are administered in the first year. General courses are provided in the first term, whereas major-specific courses are provided in the second term. Upon the completion of the courses, students embark on preparing the thesis in a field of their major. The 30-hour credit program are to be completed as follows:

- ✓ 4 General compulsory courses in the first term (12 hours)
- ✓ 3 Major-specific compulsory courses in the second term (8 hours)
- ✓ 2 Elective courses in the second term (4 hours)
- ✓ Thesis in the second year (6 hours)

The Two-Year Plan (see [Appendix A: Short course description](#))

Year	Term	Course Title	Course Code	Credit Hours
First	1 <sup>st</sup>	Phonetics and Phonology	ENGL550	3
		Morphology and Syntax	ENGL551	3
		Semantics and Pragmatics	ENGL552	3
		Methods of Research	ENGL553	3
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Language in Society	ENGL554	3
		1 compulsory major course		3
		1 compulsory major course		2
		1 elective major course		2
Second	3 <sup>rd</sup> + 4 <sup>th</sup>	Thesis	ENGL570	6

### Compulsory Courses

#### Compulsory Courses of General Linguistics

Course Code	Course Title	Credit Hours
ENGL555	First and Second Language Acquisition	3
ENGL556	Issues in Translation	2

#### Compulsory Courses of Sociolinguistics

Course Code	Course Title	Credit Hours
ENGL562	Language Contact	3
ENGL563	Seminar in sociolinguistics – Fields methos	2

## Elective Courses

### Elective Courses of General Linguistics

Course Code	Course Title	Credit Hours
ENGL557	Topics in Psycholinguistics	2
ENGL558	Second Language Teaching Methods	2
ENGL559	Translating Text Types	2
ENGL560	Language and Culture	2
ENGL561	History of Linguistics	2

*Note:* Student should study a total of 4 hours

### Elective Courses of Sociolinguistics

Course Code	Course Title	Credit Hours
ENGL564	Dialectology	2
ENGL565	Language and Gender	2
ENGL566	Style Shifting and Code Switching	2
ENGL560	Language and Culture	2
ENGL561	History of Linguistics	2

*Note:* Student should study a total of 4 hours

## Master of Arts in English Linguistics Faculty Members

No	Names	Rank	Areas of Research	Emails
1	Prof. Munira Alazraqi	Professor	Sociolinguistics	<a href="mailto:malazraqi@iau.edu.sa">malazraqi@iau.edu.sa</a>
2	Dr. Ahlam Alharbi	Associate Prof.	Linguistics	<a href="mailto:amalharbi@iau.edu.sa">amalharbi@iau.edu.sa</a>
3	Dr. Ghada Alkwaihis	Assistant Prof.	Syntax	<a href="mailto:galkuwaihes@iau.edu.sa">galkuwaihes@iau.edu.sa</a>
4	Dr. Areej Albawardi	Assistant Prof.	Applied Linguistics	<a href="mailto:aalbawardi@iau.edu.sa">aalbawardi@iau.edu.sa</a>
5	Dr. Nada Alkhatib	Assistant Prof.	Applied Linguistics	<a href="mailto:nalkhatib@iau.edu.sa">nalkhatib@iau.edu.sa</a>



## **Section II: Academic Policies and Regulations**

### **Admission Requirements**

Admission to the program is subject to the Higher Education requirements of the Saudi universities and the admission requirements approved by the Department of English Board:

1. BA degree in English Language from any university approved by the Ministry of Higher Education with a minimum grade of B.
2. Passing additional complementary courses in linguistics in accordance with rules.
3. Minimum score of (6) in IELTS or any other equivalent test.
4. Passing the written test and the interview conducted by the Department.

For more information, prospective students are recommended to read [the postgraduate handbook](#) designed by the Deanship of Postgraduate Studies.

### **Student Rights and Responsibilities**

Graduate students at Imam Abdulrahman bin Faisal University enjoy a number of [rights and responsibilities](#). They have the right to:

1. protection of privacy and confidentiality of information.
2. a prompt response to inquiries.
3. have access to support services.
4. be informed and updated on rules and regulations.
5. have reasonable accommodation if you have any disability.
6. be appointed an advisor, a mentor, and a supervisor.
7. be provided with the necessary resources to meet the program requirements.

Equally important, students are responsible for:

1. upholding the highest ethical standards of IAU and abiding by the rules and regulations concerning student conduct.
2. staying informed concerning rules, regulations, requirements, procedures, and information published in handbooks, email announcements, or online.
3. meeting minimum requirements of the degree and deadlines.
4. providing accurate information.
5. seeking help when needed in a timely manner.
6. any consequences or resulting from students' actions or lack of action.
7. keeping the department informed of the problems that they face during any stage of the program.

## **Academic Advising**

Academic advising offers necessary support for students during their academic journey in order to ensure their attainment of the study plan requirements within the time framework available for them.

### ***Responsibilities of Academic advisor***

1. Ensure that students are aware of all higher studies rules, regulations and relevant information and have access to them.
2. Offer academic advice.
3. Introduce students to assessment methods and course grades distribution.
4. Guide students to familiarize themselves with the terms related to offered courses titles (study levels, specializations, and compulsory courses).
5. Follow up on the progress of students, monitor their GPA and advise students with low GPA and make them aware of the regulations.
6. Writing reports for each student to be submitted to the head of the department.

For academic advising to attain its fruits, students have a significant role to play in the process. Student must take responsibility for monitoring his/her academic progress and asking for help and guidance when needed.

For more information, students are recommended to read [the academic advising guidebook](#) designed by the Deanship of Postgraduate Studies.

## **Grievance Policy**

Students may file a grade grievance by filling out the Grievance Application (Form 7) that is obtained from the Central Exam Unit on their campus. Students cannot file more than two grievances each term. Students who have three declined grievances are not eligible to file new grievances.

## **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the act of attributing someone else's ideas or words to one's own without citation or referencing. It is considered a punishable and prosecutable intellectual crime. To check and detect plagiarism, all research papers or theses need to be submitted via plagiarism detection software such as Turnitin or iThenticate. An established score threshold of 20% maximum on the similarity report is allowed. Projects with plagiarism percentages above 20% may **not be accepted** and students will be given a chance to re-submit their projects after doing the required modifications. Exceptions may apply as there are certain sections of a research papers or projects that can show high similarity when submitted to Turnitin/ iThenticate, for example, Material and Methods sections from the same discipline. However, when interpreting the similarity report, assessors should be able to determine whether the student has simply copied or edited another writer's text,

or whether the student has written their own text that may coincide with already existing content. If the research is determined to lack originality or if it is not the work of the student herself, the Head of the Department will generate a report, and the matter will be addressed by the Disciplinary Committee at the college.

## **Section II: Student Supports**

### **Departmental Scholarships**

Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University offers a number of scholarships for postgraduate students:

#### ***Excellence Scholarships***

They are allocated for Saudi students who have an outstanding academic record, in accordance with paragraph (A)/article (13) of the administrative and financial regulations of graduate studies programs.

#### ***Scholarships for Social Insurance Dependents***

They are allocated for Saudi students who cannot afford to pay the full program fees, according to paragraph (A)/article (13) of the administrative and financial regulations of graduate studies programs. This scholarship covers 25% of the program's tuition fees.

#### ***Scholarships for IAU staff and their dependents (First-degree relatives)***

They are allocated for IAU staff and their first-degree relatives to enhance their academic capacity and skills, in accordance with paragraph (A)/article (13) of the administrative and financial regulations of graduate studies programs. This scholarship covers 35% of the program's tuition fees.

#### ***Special Scholarships***

They are allocated for dependents of martyrs and those injured while performing a national duty and cover 50% of the program's total tuition fees, in accordance with paragraph (A)/article (13) of the administrative and financial regulations of graduate programs.

To learn more about eligibility requirements and the application process, please go to [Scholarships for Graduate Students](#).

### **University Fund Opportunities**

The Deanship of Scientific Research at Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University manages a number of internal funding and grant opportunities. Among them is a grant program for postgraduate students' research projects. For more information, please visit [the grant program for postgraduate students' research projects](#).

### **Counselling Services**

Counseling services at IAU are designed as an integral part of students' total educational program and academic experience to achieve success. Academic counseling is an essential part of

counseling that is available both in person and remotely. More information is available under [academic advising](#).

Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University has a well-established [University Counselling Center \(UCC\)](#) to provide comprehensive counseling services. Intellectual, emotional, academic, educational, psychological, and social services are provided to students. The center provides individual counseling, group counseling, consultation, psychological assessment, outreach services, crisis intervention, and psychiatric services. The campus of the College of Arts has a center, which can be easily accessed. The Department of English expect students to seek out both advising and counseling when needed. It is their responsibility to identify their needs and seek help and support.

## **Library Resources**

The Deanship of Library Affairs at Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University offers a number of academic learning resources. It provides online access to books, databases, and academic journals. It also offers a series of academic workshops. In addition, the smart library app, [BrowZine](#), gives instant access to many helpful resources. To learn more about the available learning resources, you can visit the [library website](#).

## **Section III: Degree Requirements**

To be awarded the degree, students have to meet all the requirements of the degree, namely, course requirements, academic publication requirements, and thesis requirements. In this handbook, course requirements are discussed below. For other requirements, please see the student's handbook ([Thesis Guide](#)).

### **Course Requirements**

To fulfill the course requirements, students are required to pass 24 credit courses, of which 20 are compulsory and 4 are elective, with a minimum grade of C in each course and a minimum grade of B or above for grade of all the courses counted toward the degree. students must have a C average on the courses to fulfill their degree requirements.

## Appendices

### Appendix A: Short Course Description

#### *Compulsory Courses (both tracks)*

Course Code	Course Title	Credit Hours
<b>ENGL550</b>	<b>Phonetics and Phonology</b>	<b>3</b>
<p>The course is an extensive overview of the concept of Phonetics &amp; Phonology. It mainly gives a brief historical overview of the 1970s linguists like Alan Sommerstein, Paul Kiparsky, and Morris Halle. It mainly presents a view of the phonology of English as a linguistic subsystem, separate from other components of the grammar that transforms an underlying phonemic sequency according to rules and produces as its output the phonetic form that is uttered by a speaker. The course deals with Chomsky's early theories of language by adding a clearly articulated theory of phonology to previous work which focused on syntax. The course will also demonstrate some influence on subsequent work. Derivatives of the theory have made modifications by changing the inventory of segmental features, considering some to be absent rather than having a positive or negative value, or adding complexity to the linear, segmental structure. Some major successor theories include autosegmental phonology, lexical phonology and optimality theory.</p>		
<b>ENGL551</b>	<b>Morphology and Syntax</b>	<b>3</b>
<p>This course introduces the students to the main concepts in morphology and syntax and applies these concepts to English words and structures. The course examines the internal structure of words and the rules by which word formation takes place and provides a thorough study of English grammar from a formal perspective. It examines the relationship between syntax and morphology by considering the effects that some morphological processes have on syntax. The morphology part of the course focuses on basic distinctions in word structure, such as the different types of morphemes and word formation processes. The syntax part of the course introduces parts of the Minimalist approach - the current widely used syntactic theory. It also considers the phrase structure properties of English and studies the Government-and-Binding Theory of the Principles-and-Parameters approach to human language. It focuses on the different properties of main and embedded clauses, discusses movement operations, such as Yes/No – and Wh-questions, passives, and raising constructions, and it looks into selected further properties of issues related to clauses and nominals.</p>		
<b>ENGL552</b>	<b>Semantics and Pragmatics</b>	<b>3</b>
<p>Meaning is central to the study of language. Semantics and pragmatics deal with different aspects of meaning. In semantics we study the intra-linguistic meaning of words and sentences; in pragmatics we investigate the functions of utterances in discourse. The aim of this course is to introduce students to basic concepts in semantics and pragmatics. Initially we examine dilemma of meaning, meaning relations, lexical relations and the techniques of componential analysis. The limitations of 'logical' approaches then lead us to consider cognitive approaches to word meaning, which accommodate phenomena of vagueness and semantic 'fuzziness'. Within the overall framework of cognitive semantics, we will explore a number of themes including prototype theory, metaphor and figurative language and sentence meaning. In the second half of the course, the students will be introduced to basic concepts in pragmatics. Topics will include</p>		

context, ambiguity, speech acts theory, conversational implicature, indirectness, relevance theory and theories of politeness.		
<b>ENGL553</b>	<b>Methods of Research</b>	<b>3</b>
This course is to give the students background information and the application of how to do a research paper on Applied Linguistics starting from the research question up to the quantitative as well as qualitative analyses of data. It also gives an extensive technique of how to organize and process data using corpus methods in linguistics.		
<b>ENGL554</b>	<b>Language in Society</b>	<b>3</b>
This course covers some aspects of the relationships between language and society in different speech communities. It introduces students to examine sociolinguistic variation in linguistic choices and their relationships to such aspects of social variation as region, socio-economic background, attitude, gender, age, and ethnicity. The course also investigates diglossia with specific emphasis on the Arabic language. Finally, it examines the areas of language change and language planning and invites students to consider research areas in the field of sociolinguistics.		

***Compulsory Course (General Linguistics Track)***

<b>Course Code</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
<b>ENGL555</b>	<b>First &amp; Second Language Acquisition</b>	<b>3</b>
This course provides a general introduction to theories and approaches in first and second language acquisition and introduces students to research in the field. In particular, the course provides students with an understanding of Universal Grammar (UG), behaviorism, interactionism, and frequency-based perspectives of language acquisition. Internal and external factors that influence the course of first and second language development are explored.		
<b>ENGL556</b>	<b>Issues in Translation</b>	<b>3</b>
The course is an introduction to the field of translation studies, dealing with different theories of translation with special emphasis on the linguistic theory of translation, the equivalence theory of translation and the interpretative theory of translation, basic approaches to translation as a process and as a product, in addition to principles and techniques of translation, with special emphasis on translation as a process and a product, translation as an interlingual communication, translation assessment, translation as a problem and solution, terminology and Arabization.		

***Elective Course (General Linguistics Track)***

<b>Course Code</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
<b>ENGL557</b>	<b>Topics in Psycholinguistics</b>	<b>2</b>
Psycholinguistics extensively introduces the main areas of main mechanisms involved in natural language processing, the main theories of language learning with emphasis on the mentalist approach. It also reviews selected areas of language pathology. The course also reviews the psychological nature of concepts, semantic representation, linguistic primitives and the relationship between understanding and interpretation. It also covers areas of first as well as second language acquisition, language transfer, interlanguage, and learner's attitude towards learning a second language.		
<b>ENGL558</b>	<b>Second Language Teaching Methods</b>	<b>2</b>



<p>This course links theory with practice in teaching the four skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing with vocabulary and grammar incorporated. Language learning objectives and outcomes are based on a student learning orientation aimed at developing communicative competence in contexts that are socially and culturally relevant. The course also aims at developing and enhancing students' theoretical and practical understanding of the concept of communicative competence and of the concept of language testing which have led to several developments of both a theoretical and applied nature.</p>		
<b>ENGL559</b>	<b>Translation Text Types</b>	<b>2</b>
<p>This course provides a comprehensive introduction to translating different text types, classification of these types, the theoretical framework upon which classification of such texts should be based and the methods to be utilized in dealing with these texts in the translation-practicing context. It investigates the determining factors for text classification such as “the social factor”, and the various methods of text analysis, interpreting and translating. It provides students with an integrating approach encompassing insights from a number of linguistic theories and translation theories. Consideration is given to the ways in which trainee translators’ sensitiveness to the text type reflects their effective practice. Illustrations of specific points are drawn from Arabic and English translation where appropriate.</p>		
<b>ENGL560</b>	<b>Language and Culture</b>	<b>2</b>
<p>This course covers some aspects of the relationships between language and culture in different societies with a view to shedding light on cross-cultural similarities and differences. It will introduce students to examine variation in linguistic choices and their relationships to such aspects of culture as social identity and role, belief and value systems, etc. The course will also investigate the ways language may reflect how speakers perceive the world and categorize experience. Finally, it will examine cross-cultural similarities and differences in all these areas, and their contribution to better cross-cultural understanding.</p>		
<b>ENGL561</b>	<b>History of Linguistics</b>	<b>2</b>
<p>This course presents the history of enquiry into language as practiced within the discipline of linguistics, with due attention to relevant epistemological and methodological issues. It focuses on main trends in linguistic theory and philosophy of linguistics from ancient times through advent of transformational-generative grammar.</p>		

***Compulsory Courses (Sociolinguistics Track)***

<b>Course Code</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
<b>ENGL562</b>	<b>Language Contact</b>	<b>3</b>
<p>This course examines a wide range of language contact phenomena from sociolinguistic perspective, and survey current approaches to all of the major types of contact-induced change. It will consider the social aspects of the contact situation and how they affect the outcomes, with special attention to the general processes and principles that are at work in all cases of language contact.</p>		
<b>ENGL563</b>	<b>Seminar in Socio-linguistics field Methods</b>	<b>2</b>

This seminar provides an overview of research and readings related to qualitative and quantitative sociolinguistics, and the frameworks and methods of analysis that sociolinguists working in this area have developed. Some of the major findings of sociolinguistic research on the nature of linguistic variation and its relation to language structure will be discussed. The frameworks of analysis to be considered include the Labovian model and related approaches, as well as the implicational model. The class will be conducted in seminar-style, with students leading discussion of key publications on various instances of contact-induced change and mixture.

***Elective Courses (Sociolinguistics Track)***

<b>Course Code</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
<b>ENGL564</b>	<b>Dialectology</b>	<b>2</b>
This course is considered a branch of sociolinguistics that helps students to study the systematic variants of language. Students will be able to differentiate between dialects of English and language itself depending on certain factors.		
<b>LNGL565</b>	<b>Language and Gender</b>	<b>2</b>
This course is an introduction to the large body of literature on Language and Gender within Sociolinguistics. Students will investigate how language in use mediates, and is mediated by, social constructions of gender and sexuality. Emphasis is placed on the history of research in language and gender, which contains distinct phases and movements in the field, and will culminate in a current discussion of the state of language and gender research today. Particular attention will be paid to the evolution of feminist theory, ideology, hegemony, performativity, and the "borders" of gender identities. Students will read scholarly articles and write data-driven research write-ups that clearly relate fieldwork experiences to language and gender theory.		
<b>ENGL566</b>	<b>Style Shifting and Code Switching</b>	<b>2</b>
This course is considered a branch of sociolinguistics that helps students to study the nature and function of style shifting & Code-switching. Students should know and understand the nature and function of style shift and code-switching as widely manipulated phenomena, used by bi-or multilingual speakers in a variety of social and learning contexts to achieve a special desired effect. This process simply means the replacement of a word or phrase from one language with a word or phrase from another or shifting from one variety to another within the same language.		
<b>ENGL560</b>	<b>Language and Culture</b>	<b>2</b>
This course covers some aspects of the relationships between language and culture in different societies with a view to shedding light on cross-cultural similarities and differences. It will introduce students to examine variation in linguistic choices and their relationships to such aspects of culture as social identity and role, belief and value systems, etc. The course will also investigate the ways language may reflect how speakers perceive the world and categorize experience. Finally, it will examine cross-cultural similarities and differences in all these areas, and their contribution to better cross-cultural understanding.		
<b>ENGL561</b>	<b>History of Linguistics</b>	<b>2</b>
This course presents the history of enquiry into language as practiced within the discipline of linguistics, with due attention to relevant epistemological and methodological issues. It focuses		

on main trends in linguistic theory and philosophy of linguistics from ancient times through advent of transformational-generative grammar.