Professor: Diane Ohala  
Email: ohalad@u.arizona.edu  
Projects and interests:  
1) Work on the Language Acquisition Archival Project. Transcribing and digitizing data from preschool-aged children. One of the aims of the current project is to maximize the data so that all aspects of language development may be studied. Familiarity with phonetic transcription is a plus but not required.  
2) Work on linguistics outreach both on campus and in the broader community. Share how fun linguistics is with current and prospective students and the general public in an accessible and engaging way. This project also provides opportunities for current undergrads to get to know one another and to create transparency in the degree process. Creativity encouraged, organizational skills a plus.

Professor: Massimo Piattelli-Palmarini  
Email: massimo@u.arizona.edu  
Projects and interests:  
1) Biological foundations of language, in particular language pathologies (e.g., aphasia, dyslexia, Williams Syndrome, the case of “savants”), the genetics of language (in particular the gene FOXP2), neural correlates of language.  
2) Language evolution (especially non-adaptationist/non-functionalist approaches), aspects of syntax that cannot be explained by the use of language in communication, Minimalism and optimal solutions in biology.  
3) Deep formal invariants of language. Fibonacci numbers in syllables, prosody and syntax. The syntactic tree as the optimal solution to the problem of minimizing dependencies while allowing expansion. Scaling laws in evolution or brain structure and organization, with interesting consequences for language.

Professor: Heidi Harley  
Email: hharley@u.arizona.edu  
Projects and interests:  
Work on Hiaki (Yaqui), a language spoken in Arizona and Northern Mexico (especially happy to work with any students who are members of the Pascua Yaqui tribe and are interested in learning more about their heritage language).  

Professor: Andy Wedel  
Email: wedel@email.arizona.edu  
Projects and interests:  
Work on the evolution of language sound systems over time, primarily using phonetic data from experiments and language corpora. Previous independent studies have involved learning to use various software packages to annotate and analyze experimental phonetic data.  
Qualifications: No prior qualifications are required beyond responsibility and interest.

Professor: Adam Ussishkin  
Email: ussishki@u.arizona.edu  
Projects and interests:  
Experiment design, item selection, and running experiments.  
Qualifications: Passing grade in LING 314 or LING 315.

Professor: Natasha Warner  
Email: nw Warner@u.arizona.edu  
Projects and interests:  
1) Revitalization of Mutsun, a Native American language with no living speakers, to develop teaching materials (written or audiovisual) for use by the community. Students can be involved in writing the textbook, dubbing movies, etc.  
Qualifications: LING 201 or LING 210.  
2) Work on speech production and perception (phonetics lab). How do we understand casual speech, even though the sounds we think we’re hearing are rarely there? Students make acoustic measurements of natural and careful speech, or help with perception experiments to look at how listeners process reduced speech.  
Qualifications: LING 314. Students who speak Spanish fluently would be especially helpful, but Spanish is not required.

Professor: Ofelia Zepeda  
Email: ofelia@u.arizona.edu  
Projects and interests:  
Work on the Tohono O’odham language spoken in Arizona and northern Sonora, Mexico. I am interested in working on projects with students in any area of O’odham linguistics, language, literature and culture. My primary focus is on applied aspects of language research. My other area of study is in language revitalization and documentation, and I would be interested in working with students wanting to learn more about revitalization through the American Indian Language Development Institute (http://aildi.arizona.edu/). I am open to having students work on projects within AILDI as well. I welcome the opportunity to work with students in developing research projects in any of the mentioned areas.

Frequently asked questions

What is the difference between independent study and directed research?  
Independent study can be at all levels (100 to 400 level), while directed research is only upper division (300 to 499). Independent study is for a Pass/Fail grade, while directed research is for a regular letter grade. They are otherwise basically the same.

How do I register for either one of those?  
You should first email the professor you would like to work with. You should then take a copy of “independent study proposal form” to them and have them sign it. This form is emailed to the underlying listserv before every semester. (You can also find it online). You should finally take this form to Shayna Walker in Comm 103B.
Professor: Diana Archangeli  
Email: dba@u.arizona.edu  
Projects and interests:  
TONGUE-TRACING SOFTWARE. We are developing software to automatically trace the contour of the tongue from a grainy black-and-white image, using machine learning algorithms. We are now at the stage of determining what combination of inputs for training gives the best results. Participants in this project will work as part of a team to prepare input data, and design and run the training/testing protocol variations, complete with careful documentation.  
Qualifications: All positions are for independent study and/or volunteers. No previous experience required. Minimal background: LING 201; LING 314 preferred.

Professor: Thomas Bever  
Email: tgb@u.arizona.edu  
Projects and interests:  
A variety of opportunities for independent study, work-study, and research assistantships. Research involves experimental studies of language comprehension, vision and spatial reasoning. Specific ongoing projects include studies of:  
1) Reading and language understanding in Chinese  
2) Learning different kinds of artificial languages  
3) Neurological functioning during normal language behavior. Students work closely with Dr. Bever and graduate students and are encouraged to develop their own project within the framework of one of the labs; this often leads to an honors thesis, sometimes to a conference presentation or publication.

Professor: Andrew Carnie  
Email: carni@u.arizona.edu  
Projects and interests:  
1) SCOTTISH GAELIC DESCRIPTIVE SYNTAX PROJECT. Students will work on entering original field data into a database and/or assist in the editing of sound files.  
2) SCOTTISH GAELIC PHONOLOGY AND PHONETICS PROJECT. Students will work on data processing on a number of experiments analyzing aspects of the phonology of Scottish Gaelic.  
3) ANY PROJECT (of student's choice) on syntax, morphology, or semantics.

Professor: Amy Fountain  
Email: avf@u.arizona.edu  
Projects and interests:  
1) Various projects on the documentation and teaching of endangered languages. Recent projects include developing web-delivered courses on language documentation, maintenance and revitalization for endangered language communities.  
2) Various projects relating to the pedagogical uses of technology for the teaching of languages and linguistics.  
3) Any topic (of the student's choice) in the area of prosodic phonology, language documentation, morphophonology, or the study of endangered languages.

Professor: Sandiway Fong  
Email: sandiway@u.arizona.edu  
Projects and interests:  
1) Work on verifying the operation and corpora for an existing Government and Binding (GB) parser.  
2) Computation and Minimalist parsing. Implementation of additional phenomena in the probe-goal model. A prototype computer implementation is available.  
3) Semantic inference and processing with WordNet. New projects possible.  
4) Arabic language treebank construction. Funding available.  
5) Annotator and web programming opportunities. Funding available.

Professor: LouAnn Gerken  
Email: gerken@u.arizona.edu  
Projects and interests:  
In the Tweety Lab, we use preference tasks with 6- to 18-month-olds to ask what knowledge of their native language infants and children have, and what they can learn about a new language in a very short time. We also use production tasks to study the linguistic and psychological factors at work when 2- to 4-year-olds produce words and sentences.

Professor: Mike Hammond  
Email: hammond@u.arizona.edu  
Projects and interests:  
1) SPAN Lab. Work on designing and running experiments, doing statistical and/or acoustic analysis, etc. Projects concern phonological processing and speech perception.  
2) Phonology. Students can work on various phonological topics, especially those dealing with English, syllables, stress, or OT. Appropriate coursework for the project required.  
3) Computational linguistics. Appropriate coursework for the project required.  
4) Welsh and Scottish Gaelic. Work on projects to do with the phonology of these Celtic languages.  
5) Poetic meter and language games. Projects to do with the phonological implications of poetry and language games.

Professor: Simin Karimi  
Email: karimi@u.arizona.edu  
Projects and interests:  
Any topic in syntax, especially:  
1) Focus constructions in different languages.  
2) Complex verb constructions: combination of a light verb and a non-verbal element in various languages.  
3) Verb-second phenomena in Germanic languages.  
4) The interaction of word order and definiteness.  
5) Properties of 'free word order' languages (Japanese, Korean, German, Hindi, Russian, Persian, etc.).  
6) Arbitrary control; obligatory and non-obligatory control.  
Qualifications: 201, and ideally 300 or 310.

Professor: Janet Nicol  
Email: nicol@u.arizona.edu  
Projects and interests:  
1) Research on how people produce and understand language, focusing on second language learners and bilinguals.  
2) Research on word learning by second language learners (mechanisms of, and variables that optimize, word learning). How we do research: There are three basic types of methods.  
(a) Subjects read sentences while we use a device that tracks their eye-movements, or records their brainwaves.  
(b) Subjects create sentences (which are tape-recorded and analyzed), or have them read or listen to sentences and respond by pressing a computer key or making a judgment.  
(c) We teach people new words (pairing a new label with a picture) and then test them by having them label the picture.

Professor: Stacey Oberly  
Email: soberly@u.arizona.edu  
Projects and interests:  
1) SOUTHERN UTE VIDEO DOCUMENTATION PROJECT: Work with sound/video files. Southern Ute is a severely endangered language spoken in Colorado and Utah.  
2) Any projects (of student's choice) regarding the acoustic description of languages.  
3) Any projects (of student's choice) that focuses on immersion methods/technology used for Language Revitalization (eager to work with students from tribal communities).  
4) Any projects (of student's choice) that focuses on immersion methods/technology used for Language Revitalization (eager to work with students from tribal communities).

Professor: Robert Henderson  
Email: ling.ugadv@gmail.com  
Projects and interests:  
1) Any topic in formal semantics, pragmatics, or philosophical logic.  
2) Any topic concerning the documentation and description of Mesoamerican languages.  
3) PLURAL ACTION AND ARGUMENT STRUCTURE PROJECT. Students will either help (i) conduct experiments on the interpretation of collective, distributive, and pluractional expressions in English, or (ii) build a database of pluractional effects on argument structure based on previous typological and descriptive literature.  
4) Uspeanteke Phonology and Phonetics Project. Students will work on processing and analyzing data from narratives and experiments to answer questions about various prosodic phenomena of the Mayan language Uspeanteke.