



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Language Sciences

Living Language: Science and Society

APSC 402 | ASTU 402 | FRST 402 | LFS 402 | LLED 402 | CORH 402

An interdisciplinary course open to all UBCV and UBCO fourth-year undergraduates (and other students with instructor permission).

Fully online in 2025W2 (January – April 2026), WF 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

What is *Living Language: Science and Society*?

It is a three-credit course, and the first ever multi-access-delivered course in Language Sciences – the scientific study of language as it applies to all domains of human life, in the creation and acquisition of spoken language through writing systems, texts of all kinds, arts, culture, science, and technology. *Living Language* is cross-listed in six faculties as APSC 402, ASTU 402, FRST 402, LFS 402, LLED 402 at UBC Vancouver and CORH 402 at UBC Okanagan. Enrolment for this course will be limited to 40 students. The course will be delivered fully online.

Who is it for?

The course is designed for upper-level undergraduate students in any discipline and from any Faculty of UBC-V and UBC-O who are interested to learn more about how language works, what it does, and why learning this will give you a deeper understanding of not only your other courses, but also help prepare you for the various directions you might go after UBC. There are no pre-requirements, other than a commitment to deep intellectual exploration, a willingness to be challenged, and a readiness to reflect on what you have learned in your discipline through the lens of language.

What will you be doing?

Living Language is an interdisciplinary course in which students—individually and in groups— will examine, integrate and apply their subject-specific knowledge using the framework of the language sciences, with a focus on topics of real-world importance. Through the course, students will lead their own exploration of language as it applies to all domains of human life, from the creation and acquisition of spoken language to writing systems, texts of all kinds, arts, culture, science, and technology. Student reflections include both individual written and oral work, small group discussions and constructive critique of one another's work, as well as assignments in which students work in interdisciplinary groups to address specific questions of problems.

Who is teaching it?

The course will be co-taught by Professor [Bryan Gick](#) (Linguistics, UBC-V) and Professor [Elena Nicoladis](#) (Psychology, UBC-O). Stimulating guest lectures from language leaders across campus and the wider community will expose you to a range of perspectives and will help illustrate the central role of language in everything we do.

"The course was nothing like any other course I'd taken before – collaborative in nature, interesting, inspiring, and engaging. The fact that major assignments were open to creative interpretation made things wonderful."

- Feedback from Student Evaluation of Teaching, 2018W



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What is the course format?

We are anticipating the course will be taught fully online in 2025W2 (January – April 2026).

Which course code should I register in?

Depending on your situation and program, you may choose to register for the course in your home Faculty or through another Faculty. The course can be counted as an unrestricted elective for **all** UBC undergraduate programs and for specific program requirements as outlined below.

APSC 402

Eligible to be counted as a Humanities and Social Sciences elective for B.A.Sc. programs

ASTU 402

Eligible to be counted as an elective, and for upper-level and outside credit requirements for B.A. and B.F.A. programs

FRST 402

Eligible to be counted as a Forestry elective for B.Sc. in Forest Sciences program

LFS 402

Eligible to be counted as a restricted elective for B.Sc. in FNH, Nutritional Sciences Major

LLED 402

Eligible to be counted as an elective for Diploma in Literacy Education

Eligible to be counted as an elective for Diploma in Teaching English as a Second Language

CORH 402

Eligible as to be counted as an elective for students at UBCO.

My Faculty doesn't cross-list the course. Can I still register?

Yes! Students from the **Faculty of Science** and the **Vancouver School of Economics** are encouraged to register in ASTU 402 to meet their programs' elective and Arts credit requirements. Students from **Sauder School of Business** can register in any course code to meet their non-Commerce elective requirement.

More questions about registration?

Please consult with your Faculty or departmental advisor to choose the appropriate registration option for you.

Learn more at languagesciences.ubc.ca/course



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Research Excellence Cluster