

Institute for Forensic Linguistics, Threat Assessment  
and Strategic Analysis, Hofstra University



**FIVE-DAY INTENSIVE FORENSIC LINGUISTICS COURSES**

**Summer: *ONLINE IN REAL TIME***

July 29-August 2, 2024 Monday-Friday 10:30-4:30 Eastern Time

**Fall: *ON HOFSTRA CAMPUS IN NEW YORK***

September 23-27, 2024 Monday-Friday 10:30-4:30 Eastern Time

Hofstra offers two different one-week intensive Forensic Linguistics courses. These intensive courses can be taken as

1. non-credit **Professional Development/Continuing Education course** – cost is \$970
  2. **3 graduate or undergraduate credits** – cost is the going per-credit rate
- **2024 Summer**—LING 220/181; Professional Development H2007; Leonard and Fitzgerald. Online in real time.
  - **2024 Fall**—LING 219/181; Professional Development H2006; Leonard and Christensen. In person, on campus.

These are self-standing courses that analyze different cases. Neither is prerequisite for the other.

These intensive courses predate the formal Forensic Linguistics program at Hofstra and are the descendants of the FBI BAU Forensic Linguistics week-long “boot camp” courses that then-Supervisory Special Agent Jim Fitzgerald conceived, organized, and taught (and recruited Rob Leonard to also teach) at Quantico.

The courses were run by the FBI’s Behavioral Analysis Unit (BAU), Critical Incident Response Group, National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime, to teach forensic linguistics to agents of the FBI and other agencies such as the ATF, Secret Service, Capitol Police, agents of allied governments, and others. When Fitzgerald retired from the FBI, he and Leonard moved the week-long intensive course to Hofstra, where it evolved into the two current five-day courses.

There are no prerequisites. The course is aimed at both investigative and legal professionals as well as students. Students taking the course for graduate and undergraduate credit pay the going per-credit rate. For Professional Development/Continuing Education credit, the cost is \$970. To register for Professional Development/Continuing Education, call 516 463 4803 or 516 463 7200.

**Professional Development participants** register for H2006 or H2007 and receive a “Confirmation of Course Completion”. They need only do the readings and fully participate in class activities.

# Institute for Forensic Linguistics, Threat Assessment and Strategic Analysis, Hofstra University

**Credit students** have additional requirements:

Graduate and undergraduate students earn credits upon successful completion of all requirements which include full attendance, participation in classroom team analyses, preparing concept maps of all readings, a summary paper reporting the major cases and themes of the course, and, for graduate students, a case report. Details of requirements, and readings, are sent when a student is enrolled in the class.

Successful completion of all graduate requirements and graduate registration for both LING 219 and LING 220 earn a “Badge in Forensic Linguistic Casework”.

**Warning:** *Some case studies contain strong language, sexual situations, and distressing, violent, and often gruesome details of crimes and pathological motivations that it will not be possible for participants to avoid seeing and hearing.*

## FALL

### FALL FIVE-DAY INTENSIVE FORENSIC LINGUISTICS COURSE

LING 219/181 H2006—International Applications of Forensic Linguistics

On campus.

**Forensic Linguistics in Authorship Analysis; Linguistic Profiling; Discourse,  
Conversation and Pragmatic Analysis in Criminal and Civil Law Case Evidence;  
Threat Assessment, Counter-Terrorism, Intelligence,  
Counter-Intelligence and Law Enforcement  
Hofstra University in the New York City Metropolitan Area**

#### **Instructors:**

**Dr. Robert Leonard**, Professor of Linguistics, heads the Graduate Program in Linguistics: Forensic Linguistics at Hofstra. He also directs the Institute for Forensic Linguistics, Threat Assessment and Strategic Analysis and the Forensic Linguistics Capital Case Innocence Project. The *New Yorker* magazine calls Leonard “One of the foremost language detectives in the country”. A Fulbright Fellow for his doctoral work at Columbia University, he routinely works with the FBI, Joint Terrorism Task Force, Department of Justice, and police, protective services, counter-terrorism, and intelligence agencies throughout the U.S., Canada, the U.K. continental Europe, and Asia, as well as with many defense teams. Other clients include Apple, Facebook, the NYPD Hate Crimes Task Force, and the Prime Minister of Canada.

Leonard’s testimony has been pivotal in investigating and prosecuting several high-profile cases, including the JonBenet Ramsey murder, death threats to judges, to U.S. Congress members, to FBI agents and their families, and the triple homicide of the Coleman family in Illinois, and the recently solved cold-case murder of altar boy Danny Croteau. He has been qualified as a forensic

# Institute for Forensic Linguistics, Threat Assessment and Strategic Analysis, Hofstra University

expert witness in linguistics and language in courts in 15 states and 10 U.S. federal district courts and has also testified before International Tribunals in Washington DC, and Paris.

**Dr. Tanya Karoli Christensen**, Professor at Denmark's University of Copenhagen, teaches forensic linguistics on the undergraduate and graduate levels and is very active in forensic linguistics in the U.S. as well as on the continent of Europe. Professor Christensen works on U.S. and European cases at the highest levels, and recently helped the Danish government secure convictions in cases such as a Syrian Warrior case (a Dane traveling to Syria to fight on the side of ISIS) and a hate crime threat case.

Dr. Christensen initiated the establishment and expansion of forensic linguistic networks among universities and law schools in both the U.S. and Europe, among academics and police, judges, lawyers, and prison correction services, nationally and internationally. Dr. Christensen also works with the Danish National Forensic Center in constructing a database of threats and other criminally oriented communications. She presents and trains extensively in the U.S.—she recently joined Dr. Leonard in giving a forensic linguistics training presentation at the NYPD Detective Bureau Homicide Investigators Course—as well as in Spain, Italy, Germany, Portugal, and Denmark, to scholarly audiences, law enforcement professionals, and the public, and continues to teach police and lawyers.

## About the course

**Warning: *Some case studies contain strong language, sexual situations, and distressing, violent, and often gruesome details of crimes and pathological motivations that it will not be possible for participants to avoid seeing and hearing.***

This course is broadly introductory to the whole field of forensic linguistics. In addition to teaching the investigation of criminal, intelligence, and terrorism cases—major components of which are profiling and authorship—the course discusses foundational linguistic theory, criminal defense strategies, a selection of US civil and criminal cases, the latest ongoing research on threat assessment, and includes European forensic linguistic responses to terrorism, threats, and violence. In addition to lecture and class-based exercises, students will be formed into teams to work on case analyses in and out of class.

Noteworthy are results from Dr. Christensen's major European-US grant to study the genre of threats with an expert group of researchers from Denmark, US, UK, and Germany, as well as close examination of language evidence from several of Dr. Leonard's recent cases not previously discussed publicly, including the Alvarez Cuban Espionage case and the disappearance of Mrs. McCaffrey in South Carolina. These are in addition to other cases worked by Dr. Leonard and Dr. Christensen such as the JonBenet Ramsey Case, Coleman triple homicides, the Facebook Catfishing Executions (the "Facebook Murders"), death threats to sitting judges and to members of the U.S. Congress, Apple vs. Microsoft, Apple vs. Amazon, Brooklyn 911 street assassination, anonymous cybercrime cases, European counterterrorism case, and European threat and extortion letters.

# Institute for Forensic Linguistics, Threat Assessment and Strategic Analysis, Hofstra University

There are no prerequisites. The course is aimed at both investigative and legal professionals as well as students. Students taking the course for graduate and undergraduate credit pay the going per-credit rate. For Professional Development/Continuing Education credit, the cost is \$970.

To register for **Professional Development/Continuing Education**, contact Kathleen A. Montalbano [dcekam@hofstra.edu](mailto:dcekam@hofstra.edu) tel 516 463 4803 or 516 463 7200. The program will be held at Hofstra's Oak Street Center room 0101.

There are several nearby hotels. For example, the Long Island Marriott Hotel is located just east of Hofstra campus, a 6-minute drive away. Their website is: <https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/nycli-long-island-marriott/overview/?scid=f2ae0541-1279-4f24-b197-a979c79310b0>

For more info on the Forensic Linguistics program, go to <https://www.hofstra.edu/forensic-linguistics-master/>. Direct any questions to [ForensicLinguistics@hofstra.edu](mailto:ForensicLinguistics@hofstra.edu).

\*\*\*\*\*

## Summer

**SUMMER FIVE-DAY INTENSIVE FORENSIC LINGUISTICS COURSE**  
LING 220/H2007—U.S. Applications of Forensic Linguistics (synchronous, fully **online** only)

**Forensic Linguistics in Counter-Terrorism, Intelligence, Counterintelligence, Threat  
Assessment, and Law Enforcement**  
Hofstra University in the New York City Metropolitan Area

### Instructors

Robert Leonard and James Fitzgerald are the Directors of the Institute for Forensic Linguistics, Threat Assessment and Strategic Analysis at Hofstra University.

**Dr. Robert Leonard**, Professor of Linguistics, heads the Graduate Program in Linguistics: Forensic Linguistics at Hofstra. He also directs the Institute for Forensic Linguistics, Threat Assessment and Strategic Analysis and the Forensic Linguistics Capital Case Innocence Project. The *New Yorker* magazine calls Leonard “One of the foremost language detectives in the country”. A Fulbright Fellow for his doctoral work at Columbia University, he routinely works with the FBI, Joint Terrorism Task Force, Department of Justice, and police, protective services, counter-terrorism, and intelligence agencies throughout the U.S., Canada, the U.K. continental Europe, and Asia, as well as with many defense teams. Other clients include Apple, Facebook, the NYPD Hate Crimes Task Force, and the Prime Minister of Canada.

Leonard's testimony has been pivotal in investigating and prosecuting several high-profile cases, including the JonBenet Ramsey murder, death threats to judges, to U.S. Congress members, to FBI agents and their families, and the triple homicide of the Coleman family in Illinois, and the

# Institute for Forensic Linguistics, Threat Assessment and Strategic Analysis, Hofstra University

recently solved cold-case murder of altar boy Danny Croteau. He has been qualified as a forensic expert witness in linguistics and language in courts in 15 states and 10 U.S. federal district courts and has also testified before International Tribunals in Washington DC, and Paris.

**James R. Fitzgerald**, retired FBI Chief of Forensic Linguistics and Supervisory Special Agent in the Behavioral Analysis Unit-1: Counterterrorism and Threat Assessment, pioneered and developed Forensic Linguistics for the Critical Incident Response Group, National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime. He is the only fully credentialed profiler and forensic linguist in the history of the FBI. Mr. Fitzgerald focused his efforts on violent crime, counterterrorism, threat assessment, and other forensic linguistics services. He created and developed the CTAD, a one-of-a-kind computer repository for all criminally-oriented communications in the United States. It was Fitzgerald's groundbreaking forensic linguistic work on the Unabomber case that led to the FBI's recognition of the strategic necessity of forensic linguistics, (and prompted his real-life persona to be the central character in the Discovery Channel scripted series *Manhunt: Unabomber*). He was the technical advisor to the TV series *Criminal Minds*, and is the author of a three-book memoir series titled *A Journey to the Center of the Mind*. Fitzgerald co-hosts—with Dr. Raymond Carr—the *Cold Red* podcast, “A true crime podcast series hosted by two of the most well-respected criminal profilers in law enforcement history.” (Leonard guest appears on the Oct 06, 2023 episode.)

## About the course

**Warning:** *Some case studies contain strong language, sexual situations, and distressing, violent, and often gruesome details of crimes and pathological motivations that it will not be possible for participants to avoid seeing and hearing.*

## Cases

Case studies and class participation exercises are largely from those worked by Fitzgerald or Leonard, which include the JonBenet Ramsey Case, UNABOM Case, National Football League Terrorism Threat Case, Philadelphia Bombing Case, Anthrax Case, Daniel Pearl Case, Barbie Doll Case, Washington, DC Sniper Case, UK School Bus Bombing Threat/Extortion Case, Coleman triple homicides, the Facebook Catfishing Executions, and the Hummert Murder Case.

## Course content

A case-based approach to solving legal and law enforcement problems through linguistic analysis:

- Threat Level Analysis: State-of-the-art techniques, based on thousands of FBI cases, assess the probability of harm. How likely is the threat to be carried out? What are the overlaps between Threat Assessment and Forensic Linguistics? How can corpora such as the FBI's Communicated Threat Assessment Database (CTAD) best be used?
- Demographic Linguistic Profiles: Dialectology, sociolinguistics and linguistic variation analyses can indicate a writer's regional and local geographic origin, education level, occupational training, and other demographic features.

# Institute for Forensic Linguistics, Threat Assessment and Strategic Analysis, Hofstra University

- Authorship Analysis: Text comparisons can indicate whether two sets of texts have common authorship. The role of authorship analysis in investigation and litigation is exemplified and discussed through several cases.

Through lecture, case study, and workshop formats, this course elucidates forensic linguistic responses to challenges of:

- Intelligence and Counterintelligence.
- Domestic and foreign terror campaigns.
- Threats to government, officials, workplace, schools, and private individuals.
- Criminal Communications such as extortion, ransom notes, criminal intelligence disinformation, intercepted communications.

## Requirements and credits

There are no prerequisites. Students taking the course for **graduate and undergraduate credit** pay the going per-credit rate. For **Professional Development/Continuing Education credit**, the cost is \$970, and you can register online for the Linguistics summer course H2007:

[https://www.hofstra.edu/academics/ce/ce\\_ibar.cfm?offeringid=357582](https://www.hofstra.edu/academics/ce/ce_ibar.cfm?offeringid=357582)

Any problems, contact Kathleen A. Montalbano [dcekam@hofstra.edu](mailto:dcekam@hofstra.edu)  
(516) 463-4803 or 516 463 7200. Fax: (516) 463-4836

For more info on the Forensic Linguistics program, go to <https://www.hofstra.edu/forensic-linguistics-master/>. Direct any questions to [ForensicLinguistics@hofstra.edu](mailto:ForensicLinguistics@hofstra.edu).