This is not a class about grammar nor the history of the English language, though we’ll likely touch on those. This course is about the nature of language: meaning, structure, variation, and change. We’ll also discuss how language variation helps construct social meaning. You’ll practice analyzing language and challenge your own beliefs about language.

Course Specific Learning Outcomes:

⇒ Display an understanding of human language.
⇒ Recognize the difference between prescriptive and descriptive approaches to language.
⇒ Describe the nature of language variation.
⇒ Use linguistic concepts to solve language problems.
⇒ Analyze natural language, predominantly English.

Regular attendance and enthusiastic participation are required. Expect frequent homework.

Restrictions:
Must have sophomore standing or above.

Required materials: