Student will receive an overview of human language as a social construct. They will discuss multilingualism as a common social characteristic and how multilingualism reflects specific cultures and nations, the effects of diglossia as well as language loss and attrition. They will examine how language history is entwined with cultural history and explore specific case studies of called ethnography of speaking. Language attitudes and the relationship between language and gender are also discussed. Issues of language use, including variation across and between communities (e.g. the different regional and ethnic dialects of spoken English) as well as variation within individuals are examined. From this course, students should begin to develop an understanding of how linguists analyze and describe language empirically, what we "know" when we "know" a language as human beings, how humans use language, and what language can tell us about culture and being human in general.

It will meet with

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