Course Description

This three credit hours course introduces students to some contemporary issues in the field of linguistics. Linguistics has many sub-fields, all of them concerned with understanding some aspect of human languages: their biological and evolutionary roots; the historical changes they have undergone; the conditions under which they become threatened and die; and the many interesting similarities and differences that the world’s 6,800 or so modern languages display. As such, this course will be focused on the cognitive-behavioral and socio-cultural dimensions of language.

What You Will Learn

- How languages are represented in the mind-brain
- How languages are acquired and used
- How human languages compare with animal communication
- How computers recognize speech and translate between languages
- How written and spoken language differ
- How social and regional languages vary
- How cultural issues affect language through identity and power
- How social forces produce language change

Why You Should Enroll

- You will be able to describe common linguistic misconceptions regarding what language is, how languages are learned and how different social groups speak.
- You will be able to demonstrate an awareness of and appreciation for the diversity of the world’s languages and of the human experiences shaped by these languages.
- You will be able to gain recognition of how, and offer explanations for why, socio-cultural processes and relationships, mediated by language practices, vary across geographical contexts.
- You will be able to critically evaluate the ways in which languages relate to social value, prejudice and worldview.

http://www.sc.edu/carolinacore/courses.php