

## ENG 423: Current Issues in Linguistics

The course addresses conceptual and methodological issues in linguistic theory brought into focus by some of the recent developments in the field of Linguistics. The objective is to sensitize students to the place of language in human cognitive and cultural space. The course contents include:

- Conceptualising language, Internalist and externalist approaches to language design
- Language Faculty, Modularity, Optimality of design, Constraints on possible grammars, Interface systems
- Cognitive underpinnings of language, Amodularity, Spatial and temporal cognition, Linguistic mappings, Crosslinguistic Lexicalization patterns, Diachronic shifts
- Multimodal cognition and signed languages
- Bilingual cognitive and linguistic processing
- Language Acquisition, Perceptual grounding and embodiment
- Discourse structure, Rhetorical relations, Metaphor, implicature and Intentionality
- Neurological basis of language
- Cognition and computation
- Linguistic and cultural boundaries, Language and identity, Language in education, Discourse, ideology and control

### Selected Readings:

Chomsky, N. *New Horizons in the Study of Language and Mind*, Cambridge University Press, 2000.

Chomsky, N. *Architecture of Language*, Oxford University Press, 2001.

Fairclough, N. *Critical Discourse Analysis*, London: Longman 1995.

Langacker, R.W. *Foundations of Cognitive Grammar*, vol. 1 and 2, Stanford University Press, 1999.

Talmy, L. *Cognitive Semantics* - vol. 1 and 2, MIT Press, 2003.

### Selected papers from:

1. Cognition
2. Cognitive Science
3. Linguistic Inquiry
4. Lingua
5. Sociology of Language
6. Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience