In this course we will examine discourse as organization of language above the level of the sentence (i.e. in conversations, email, text messaging, letters, stories, literature, lectures, sermons, etc.) and as a means of understanding conventional ways of thinking or talking about the social world (e.g., the discourses of monolingualism and multilingualism). We will look closely at the linguistic devices and markers used to achieve social meaning in talk and writing and explore a range of contexts from classroom interaction and language teaching to online communication and family conversation. Approaches covered in the class will include (but are not limited to) conversation analysis, interactional sociolinguistics, and critical discourse analysis. Students in this class will get hands-on experience with data collection and analysis by engaging in short fieldwork assignments throughout the semester that will lead to a final research paper in which students explore topics of their own interest.