

English 7/8512: Morphology and Syntax

This course on Morphology and Syntax examines how words and sentences are structured, how those structures vary across languages, and how they emerge from usage over time. We begin with foundational concepts from traditional and generative approaches, then we transition to more functional, cognitive, and usage-based perspectives on grammatical patterning. In this way, students develop a grounding in traditionally important perspectives on language structure, as well as familiarity with cutting edge perspectives of linguistic theory.

Students will analyze linguistic data from multiple languages (with an emphasis on English), compare competing theoretical explanations, and explore how frequency, meaning, and context shape grammatical form. Activities include interactive analysis workshops, corpus and discourse-based projects, and critical reading of both classic and contemporary research in syntax and morphology.