

ENGL 3511 Introduction to Linguistics

Why can a period at the end of a text message make someone sound annoyed? Why do some ways of speaking get called “unprofessional,” while others get to count as normal? How are accents different, and why can they be recognized after just a few words?

This course, Introduction to Linguistics, introduces students to the scientific study of language and will help address these questions. Students will learn about how people produce and organize speech sounds (phonetics and phonology) build words and sentences (morphology and syntax) and communicate meanings that go beyond the words they use (semantics and pragmatics). We will also explore how languages change over time, how people use language to express identities and connect with communities, and how language policies affect people’s lives.

Students will work with real-world occurring language data and discover connections between linguistics and other fields, such as education, psychology, and technology. No background in linguistics is required!

Time: Monday and Wednesday, 12:40 – 2:05 PM

Textbook: *Language Files (13th Edition)*. Ohio State University, Department of Linguistics.
9780814258354