

# EN 2403 / AN 2403: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE



## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Language is an integral part of our lives, but many questions we have about language go unanswered. Can animals be taught to use language in the same way as humans? Why do 'knight' and 'knee' start with k's? Why do people who speak the same language have different accents? Why is it so hard to get rid of accents in foreign languages? Is it really easier to learn a second language as a child? This course attempts to answer these questions and others by introducing students to the methods used to study language.

## BY THE END OF THE SEMESTER, YOU WILL:

- understand how language is studied in a wide range of linguistic fields.
- be prepared to examine and question common assumptions and attitudes about language and language use.
- describe the basic trends and ideas associated with the study of language.
- use basic notational conventions and terminology associated with linguistics.
- be aware of academic options in linguistics available at MSU and other universities.

**SPRING 2014**  
**DR. WENDY HERD**  
**MW 2:00 – 3:15 PM**

**\*This course counts as a Social / Behavioral Science toward MSU University Core general education requirements.**

**\*This course counts toward the Linguistics Minor.**