Instructor: Vivienne Fong  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**  
This course explores the structure of language, and how language relates to the mind, to communication, society, and culture, using the scientific mode of inquiry. By examining patterns of sound, form, and meaning at the levels of word, sentence, and text, students will develop an appreciation of the organic way in which these different aspects of language fit together, and the universals of language structure. The study of the social aspects of language will include dialect variation, the status of Standard English, the social uses and meaning of language, and the ways in which languages change over time.

**MODES OF LEARNING AND TEACHING**  
Students should be prepared to form small **affinity groups** to discuss course work, solve problem sets, provide mutual support, and develop a sense of community.

The bi-weekly **lectures** involve active participation in the form of discussions between teacher and students, and amongst students.

Outside of class, students should expect to study systematically on a regular basis, working on solving assigned problems, completing required readings, and preparing for lectures and recitations.

**TEXT**  