

CAS LX 250 Introduction to Linguistics

- What languages have in common** (universals) & how they differ
- The physical matter of language:**
 - + How sounds work in spoken languages (phonetics, phonology)
 - + How language works in other modalities -- written language, sign language
- How words & sentences are structured** (morphology, syntax)
- How meaning is constructed & interpreted** (semantics, pragmatics)
- How languages vary** (idiolects, dialects) & **change** (historical linguistics)
- How language is used in different social settings** (sociolinguistics)

Difference between a cat
and a comma?



One has claws
at the end of its paws;
the other's a pause
at the end of a clause.



- How language is learned** (acquisition)
- Multilingualism & language contact** (pidgins, Creoles)
- How language is produced & perceived** (neurolinguistics, psycholinguistics) **and what can go wrong** (disorders)
- How human language is different from animal communication systems**

No prerequisites

Carries Humanities Division credit

3 Hub units:

Scientific Inquiry I; Global Citizenship and Intercultural Literacy; Critical Thinking