

Meet your course instructor

Hello, and welcome to Linguistics 101,
Introduction to Language! My name is
Jen Smith, and I'm a faculty member in
the Department of Linguistics.



Linguistics may be new to you. It is *the systematic study of human language*. In this course, we'll be looking at questions like these:

- How are the sounds, words, and sentences of language structured in our brains?
- How are the languages of the world different, and how are they similar?
- How is it that young children can learn the intricate details of their native languages so quickly?

You may start to think about the languages you speak, or hear around you, in a whole new way.

Just a little more about me:

I grew up in Vermont and lived in a few other places, including Japan, before coming to North Carolina.

Some of my hobbies are cooking new recipes and playing Irish music.

I love learning languages and doing linguistics—which are not the same thing, as you will soon see!

My research is mainly in the areas of ***phonology*** and ***phonetics***.

You'll know a lot more about what those words mean in just a few weeks, but basically I'm interested in how people pronounce, and mentally represent, the consonants, vowels, and syllables of their language.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch when you have questions. I look forward to having you all in this course!