Course description:
Everywhere, every day, everybody uses language. There is no human society, no matter how small or how isolated, which does not employ a language that is rich and diverse. Language enables us to express our thoughts, ideas and feelings to others and also to understand theirs. Linguistics is the scientific study of this rich and varied human ability. This course will introduce you to the world of linguistics taking English linguistics as an example, but also take an excursion to other languages such as German and Chinese. We will first focus on the core subfields of linguistics: morphology, phonetics, phonology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics. These subfields are not only areas of active research, but also prerequisite to working in a number of other subfields of linguistics which we will cover near the end of the course, including sociolinguistics and contact linguistics. With the support of the basic linguistic terminology that is offered in the course, you will soon be able to comment both on variety between languages, as well as on a single language’s internal structure.

Requirements:
-- regular participation
-- final exam: 90 minutes, multiple choice and written text

Recommended books: