

ENGL4300: Introduction to the Study of Language  
Dr. Lauren Zentz

This course introduces a broad range of approaches to the study of language use, with a goal of exposing students to the many ways in which language is much more than a system for encoding meaning. During the semester, we will discuss topics such as: the structural systems of English and other languages, consisting of: sounds and sound systems (phonetics and phonology), sentence structures (syntax), denotative meanings of words (semantics), and the meanings of all of these categories combined in real situational contexts (pragmatics). We will then move on to topics in sociolinguistics, that is, how people do things with language; the politics of language use and identity; and language acquisition and socialization.