

**ELECTIVE 3<sup>rd</sup> year**

**Larisa Avram**

## **LANGUAGE and MIND**

*Language and Mind* investigates the nature of human language from the perspective of biolinguistics. It links the study of language to other fields, such as neurobiology, psychology, clinical linguistics, with a view to helping students to better understand the nature of language. Though the approach is interdisciplinary, priority will be given to linguistic data and analyses.

The course addresses the following central questions:

- what is the nature of language?
- how autonomous is the language faculty?
- how is language acquired?
- how is language forgotten?

The list of topics includes:

- the innateness hypothesis
- brain organization for language
- the critical period hypothesis
- language acquisition and cognitive development
- language development in a bilingual context
- second and third language learning
- language attrition

**Assessment:** grades will be based on class participation (10%) and 3 quizzes which will each weigh 30% of the final grade. The quizzes will be cumulative but the questions will focus on recent material.

Maximum number of students: 40.