

Elective 2023/2024  
1st semester  
Larisa Avram

## *LANGUAGE and MIND*

*LANGUAGE and MIND* examines the nature of human language from the perspective of biolinguistics, which views language as part of our genetic endowment.

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, the relevance of the study of language to other disciplines as well as the way in which other disciplines can shed light on what is known about language.

### *Topics*

- language as a faculty of the human mind
- the innateness hypothesis
- brain organization for language
- language and the critical period hypothesis
- language acquisition and cognitive development
- language acquisition in a monolingual and in a bilingual context
- language attrition

### *Assessment*

Grades will be based on class attendance and participation (10%) and three quizzes which will each weigh 30% of the final grade. The quizzes will be cumulative but the questions will focus on recent material.

Alternatively, instead of the quizzes, students may choose to write a short paper on one of the topics discussed in class (tutor's approval required).

*Maximum number of students: 45*