This course introduces you to the field of linguistics: the scientific study and analysis of human language. We will begin by learning about the diversity and universal characteristics of human language and in the process address common assumptions about what language is and what it means to our species. We will cover the core subfields of linguistics: phonetics (the study of the perception/production of speech sounds), phonology (the study of sound systems and patterns), morphology (the study of word formation and structure), syntax (the study of sentence structure), and semantics (the study of word and sentence meaning). In the latter part of the course, we will explore how languages are learned both as a first and additional language and how language is related to the brain and how our minds understand and produce language.

In this course you will learn to...

➔ identify and describe the characteristics of language that distinguish it from other forms of communication;
➔ critically assess commonly-held beliefs about language and speak in an informed way about the similarities and differences between languages;
➔ effectively apply methods of linguistic analysis to language phenomena at various levels of linguistic structure and,
➔ apply knowledge of linguistics and language structure to the study of related disciplines.