FREN 7962 - Linguistics and Pedagogy
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Fall 2018: M & W, 1:30 – 2:50 pm, Hodges 434

Linguistics is the scientific study of language. It endeavors to answer the following question: "what is language and how it is represented in the mind?".

> **Applied linguistics** is oriented towards the solution of linguistic problems. It puts theories into practice in areas such as ***foreign language teaching***, language planning and policy, language assessment, conversation analysis, literacies, sign linguistics, language variation, multilingualism, second language acquisition, psycholinguistics, etc.

Course description:

This seminar is designed to address the needs and concerns of students preparing to teach foreign languages. It will also serve in-service Teaching Assistants (TAs) who are seeking to complete and update their knowledge of second-language acquisition and instruction for personal growth and professional development. This course will survey current theory, research, and practices in second and foreign language teaching. It will provide students with a broad overview of language teaching methodology and teaching contexts. The primary purpose of this course is to help new TAs gain confidence and expertise as French instructors. This goal will be accomplished in this course in several ways as detailed below:

- **Acquire knowledge about teaching approaches and methods** by reading the required textbook, supplemented by articles in the foreign language pedagogy and second language acquisition field
- **Develop skills in critical analysis of pedagogical approaches** through one-page commentaries of pedagogical articles, chosen from the list of readings for the course
- **Learn through analysis and practice how to design activities for teaching and testing**, including use of multimedia and the Internet
- **Get feedback on your teaching** from class observations by classmates and by the professor
- **Sharpen observation skills** through self-analysis of videotaped classes and analyses of the classes of others
- **Reflect on your own teaching philosophy** and practices by preparing a teaching portfolio that contains documents related to teaching and your reflections about them
- **Be familiar with proficiency guidelines** used in the United States: the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) and the ones used in Europe with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFRL)