

Explore Linguistics with Robin Barr

American University's Linguist in Residence



CURIOUS ABOUT LINGUISTICS?

WANT TO TEACH ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE?

FIND OUT WHATS INVOLVED WITH OUR COURSE,

TESL-500 PRINCIPLES OF LINGUISTICS

The course begins on Tuesday, May 11th and continues through June 23rd. A three credit course required for all TESOL academic programs, it meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30-8:00 pm.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: What do we know when we know how to talk? Normally, using language is an unconscious activity as walking or chewing gum. This course examines the ways in which the analysis of language reveals a speaker's unconscious knowledge, serving as a "window on the mind." Participants will look at language use, language learning, and language change in order to discover the underlying principles of language: structures of words (morphology), sounds (phonology), sentences (syntax), and meaning (semantics). Data from English and a wide variety of other languages will be collected, examined and analyzed.

THE PROFESSOR: Robin Barr holds a PhD in Linguistics from Harvard with concentrations in both Indo-European and psycholinguistics. Her research on morphology involves the relationship between language learning and language change, and she is always happy to hear of new irregular verbs or refinements for wug-tests. Her daughter has been one of her favorite informants, and students are likely to encounter data from her on their problem sets. Dr. Barr is also an avid amateur oboist.

For more information contact Emily at 202-885-2582 or tesol@american.edu