This is a course where we dive into description and analysis of an understudied language. The course consists of eliciting data and analyzing it. You really need to draw on all the linguistic knowledge you've built up in other classes, because the data isn't neatly packaged in a problem set to lead you to an analysis. There isn't even a grammar of this language, so we the professors don't yet know what the right answers will be! It's a collective discovery.

The course grade is based on two criteria:

Elicitation and class discussion 50%

Students will lead elicitation sessions on Wednesdays. Elicitations must be carefully prepared beforehand, and executed according to provided guidelines. In addition, on Tuesdays students will discuss elicited data and progress towards analyses.

Students will create and share notes on their elicitation session.

Final Paper 50%

Students will write a final paper. For students enrolled in 3020, the paper will be descriptive. For students enrolled in 5020, the paper will combine both description and theoretical consequences.

Approximate Schedule

Week 1: Introduction

Weeks 2-3: Phonetics/Phonology

Weeks 4-5: Morphology

Weeks 6-7: Syntax/Semantics

Week 8: Class Text

Weeks 9-14: Student Project Elicitations