

# Cognitive Approaches to Language



## Cognitive Linguistics

LING 519 · Sherman Wilcox, Ph.D. · M/W 2:00-3:15 pm

Cognitive Linguistics grew out of the work of researchers in the 1970s who were interested in the relation of language and mind. ¶ Rather than explaining linguistic patterns by means of a priori structural properties and cognitive capacities specific to language, cognitive linguists claim that language is based solely on general cognitive and perceptual abilities. ¶ The basic claims of cognitive linguistics are that cognition is embodied, grammar is meaningful, and linguistic structures at all levels are emergent.

The objectives of this course are to (1) introduce the field of cognitive linguistics, (2) survey the basic concepts of cognitive linguistics, such as construal, force dynamics, metaphor, and metonymy, (3) review cognitive linguistic theories such as cognitive grammar, metaphor theory, and mental spaces, (4) explore the application of cognitive linguistics to several related fields. ¶ Readings will come from cognitive linguistic analyses of spoken languages, signed languages, and gesture.