

# Fall HSSP 2008: Introduction to Cognitive Linguistics

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This class will introduce students to a basic concept in Cognitive Linguistics in each class starting with an explanation followed by examples, discussion and activities. While the concepts below have names that may seem vague and possibly even intimidating, we will endeavor to develop an intuitive understanding of them that will relate their relevance to such topics as conversations, stories, politics, etc. These are ideas about ideas, concepts that help us understand how we think and communicate, so we're already familiar with aspects of them in ways that are imperceptible to us because they are abundant in and integral to our cognition. This course seeks to examine what our minds are doing all the time.

1. *Brief overview of the class*: some music, videos and other art to get an idea of what this class will be about.
2. *Frames*: the basic structure of concepts
3. *Prototypes*: simple mental models for concepts
4. *Radial Categories*: groups of related concepts
5. *Conceptual Metaphors*: thinking about one concept with the structure of another
6. *Blends*: thinking about one concept with the structures of other concepts to possibly form a novel concept
7. *Mental Spaces*: a model for the structure of more complex thoughts
8. *Narratives*: considering the structure of stories
9. Sharing ideas and maybe projects.