

# LINGUISTICS 795: MULTIMODALITY IN SOCIAL INTERACTION

Exploring human communication beyond words

Fall 2026

Thursday 4-6:40 PM

Professor Ruey-Juan Regina Wu



As a rapidly expanding frontier across the humanities and social sciences, the study of "**multimodality**" has emerged as a vital research paradigm with deep relevance to many fields. While multimodal theory applies broadly to many domains, this seminar offers a foundational, hands-on introduction to this widely populated paradigm, focusing specifically on **how the body and language are integrated to accomplish social interaction**.

In this course, we explore language as an inherently multimodal phenomenon by grounding our work in **both everyday and institutional settings**. Together, we will unpack the complexities of face-to-face communication, drawing on the insights and methodological tools of **multimodal conversation analysis** and **gesture studies**.

Whether you are looking to **expand your research methods, work with video data for the first time**, or **deeply explore the embodied nature of human communication**, this seminar provides the ideal entry point.

