Modern English linguistics

In this course, ‘discourse analysis’ is understood as a study of language in use. Two major perspectives are adopted here. One concerns the structure of chunks of language larger than the sentence, for instance, pairs of utterances, paragraphs, fragments of conversation. Discourse structure will be analysed in terms of concepts such as moves, turns, overlaps, coherence, and cohesion. Adopting the other perspective, we will attend to some social aspects of discourse such as types of speakers, hearers, audience, politeness, accommodation, and purpose. As part of the latter perspective we will touch upon some major issues in the study of meaning, cultural values, and viewpoints about language and the world.

Obligatory reading: