What does our speech reveal about us, and what can we learn about someone from his or her manner of speaking? Why do we say certain things but not others, and why are some speakers pleasing to us, and others irritating? We will read some sociolinguistic research on conversation as well as short stories that are built around speaking, including the professor's personal favorite, "What We Mean When We Talk about Love," by Raymond Carver. Students will keep a journal of their own speech interactions, thus becoming more aware of the richness of the spoken word.