Human Speech: Mouth, Ear, Mind, and Tech

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The human vocal apparatus—both its physical properties and its cognitive control—has the dual features of being shared by all humans as part of their biological endowment and providing a flexible and robust system for producing the wide diversity of sounds across the languages of the world. This micro-seminar will introduce students to:

1. how humans produce sounds used by the spoken languages of the world,
2. elementary acoustic properties of speech,
3. strategies humans use in perceiving speech sounds and words,
4. some disorders of human speech communication and hearing, and
5. spoken language technologies, including some used in assistive capacities.