How will EIL 486 help you?

The short answer is that as your knowledge of linguistics grows your ability to apply your knowledge to solving practical teaching problems will correspondingly increase.

Why an online course?

If you decide that online learning is for you (and it is as effective as face to face learning) you will discover how easy it is technically to set up on your computer. Needless to say, support will also be available.

Once you are set up, you can study at your own pace, in comfort, in a location of your choosing, with most material directly accessible online.

The course itself embodies best online pedagogical practice with a multiplicity of approaches to learning. The notion of online study being an isolating experience is no longer valid. Indeed, you will become part of a dynamic learning community where emotional support is considered crucial and where intellectual inquiry is continually encouraged, enabled and enhanced.

Because of the regular interaction required by the course, you will always know how you are doing, what you have to do next, and what steps (if any) should be taken when problems arise.

What is the relevance of linguistics to classroom teaching?

The answers to this question are many and varied as can be seen from the sample below.

- Linguistic analysis of the sound system will aid the teaching of pronunciation and speaking.
- Linguistic consideration of grammars will allow students to prioritize prescriptive vs. descriptive grammars with further elucidation of the role of grammar in speaking and writing.
- The relationship between age and methodology of language teaching can be explained.
- Description of social environments and analysis of associated dialects will increase understanding of the place of vernacular dialects in education.
- The crucial relationship of phonology to reading will be elucidated.

The bottom line both literally and metaphorically is that learning to apply knowledge of linguistics to your own specific teaching setting will help make you a more knowledgeable, effective teacher.