Course Title: Languages of the World  
Course Code: LIN 05 W  
Instructor: Dr. Asya Pereltsvaig

Course Summary:  
This is an introductory course whose goal is to familiarize students with the diversity of the world’s languages and what it entails about human history and cognition.

*Please see course page for full description and additional details.

Grade Options and Requirements:
- No Grade Requested (NGR)
  - This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.
- Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
  - Score will be determined by student participation in online discussion and completion of assignments.
- Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)
  - Score will be determined by student participation in online discussion and the grade for the assignments.

*Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.

Tentative Weekly Outline:

Part I: Languages and dialects.
Week 1: Languages on the map. What is a language and what is a dialect? Linguistic landscape of Europe.
Week 2: Linguistic landscape of the Middle East, the Caucasus, and Africa.
Week 3: Linguistic landscape of Asia.
Week 4: Linguistic landscape of Australia, Oceania, and the Americas.

Part II: Why are languages so similar?
Week 5: Language relatedness. Reconstructing language families and their ancestral languages. Tracking human migrations through language.
Week 6: Language contact and borrowing across languages. Linguistic convergence.

**Part III: Why are languages so different?**

Week 7: Sounds of the world's languages.
Week 8: Grammatical categories in the world's languages.
Week 9: Do the words and grammatical categories of one's language determine how one thinks?
Week 10: Syntax of the world's languages. Parametric theory.