



**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.

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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.