INTENDED AUDIENCE: Anyone interested in the topic.

COURSE OUTLINE:
Language learning can be put under three broad perspectives. Some believe language is pairing of lexicon and syntax i.e. of words and the set of rules that defines how we can combine those words most fundamental of these rules are innate i.e. they are already there in the human mind before it is exposed to society. This means there is perhaps an innate Language Faculty. Still others believe that General Cognitive Abilities that account for other kinds of learning can also account for language. There are many others who strongly believe that language is essentially socially embedded and that all learning takes place through social interactions. This course will briefly account for the most convincing position and will argue for it from generative perspective and biological foundations of language. Throughout the course we will try to be familiar with relationship between language and human mind; to understand language as a special purpose cognitive ability; and to understand underlying mental computation for natural language processing.

ABOUT INSTRUCTOR:
Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, IIT Madras

COURSE PLAN:
- Week 1: On Language
- Week 2: Language in Mind
- Week 3: Patterns in sounds and words
- Week 4: Words and sentences
- Week 5: Grammar
- Week 6: Advanced Grammar
- Week 7: Levels of representation and principles of grammar
- Week 8: Language and cognition