INTENDED AUDIENCE: MA, BA, and Research Scholars in the area of language, linguistics, and language teaching

INDUSTRIES APPLICABLE TO: Any company, institute, or organization dealing with language and/or artificial intelligence will value this course.

COURSE OUTLINE:
Language is an integral part of our identity in the sense that it defines our being. This course offers answers to most of the curiosities that comes to our mind when we think about how we acquired the capacity of language as a child. This course leads us into understanding the relationship between language, our mind, and the society that we live in. This course helps us deal with the three major aspects of language namely, structure at the level of sounds, words, and sentences, acquisition or learning of it, and the variations within and among languages.

ABOUT INSTRUCTOR:
Rajesh Kumar is professor of linguistics in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai. He obtained his PhD in linguistics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Prior to joining IIT Madras, he taught at IIT Kanpur, and IIT Patna in India and at the University of Texas at Austin in the USA. He has been a visiting faculty at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai in India. His book on Syntax of Negation and Licensing of Negative Polarity Items was published by Routledge in their prestigious series Outstanding Dissertations in Linguistics in 2006. He is associate editor of the journal Language and Language Teaching. He has been part of the language teaching program at all the institutions he has been affiliated with. The broad goal of his research is to uncover regularities underlying both the form (what language is) and sociolinguistic functions (what language does) of natural languages.

COURSE PLAN:

Week 1: Introduction; What is linguistics? What is language? How do we study language?; Language and arbitrariness, and language and dialect

Week 2: E vs I language, Language as a rule-governed system; Language faculty, Language in human mind; How do we learn language?

Week 3: Language acquisition; Innateness: Some essential concepts; Structure of language at the level of sounds

Week 4: Sounds (vocal apparatus); Places and manners of articulation; Word formation / phonotactic rules; Rules of word formation (singular plural)

Week 5: Sentence: An introduction; Making of a sentence (components); Grammaticality and acceptability

Week 6: Subject and verb in a sentence; Sentence: Objects and verbs; Phrase structure

Week 7: X-bar theory;Specifier and complement; Compliments and adjuncts

Week 8: VP components; Category selections, Selectional restrictions on verbs; Thematic relations

Week 9: Case; Morphological and abstract case; Structural case; Exceptional Case Marking

Week 10: Movement; Motivations for movement; Questions and movement; Passives and NP movement; Movement and raising

Week 11: Binding theory and NP interpretations; Principles of binding theory; Constraints on movements; Structure of language and negation; Negation and negative polarity items

Week 12: Structure, language, cognition and pragmatics; History of generative paradigm in the study of language; Language in society, education, and culture