History of Language Syllabus                         Facilitator: Carol Anthony

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**NOTE**: this class will start 1 week LATE on Jan. 21 as I will not be back from Italy till Jan. 16. Thus it will continue on to March 10 for our last (8th) week.


Note: buy these from the used book selections on Amazon. I also recommend Abe books which sells used textbooks. The *Atlas* is out of print but there are lots available on Amazon. (Do not try to buy the *History* new as it is a college text and they will charge you an enormous amount of money.)

**First week's reading assignment**: *Atlas* pp. 10-30 (“Introduction” and “Development and Spread of Languages” up to “Bilingualism and Multilingualism.”) Reading assignments for the rest of the course will be passed out at the first class and emailed to all other participants.

Topics of lecture and discussion:

Week 1: Jan. 21: What is Language? How, where, and why did it begin? Why don't great apes, etc. speak? How and why do languages change and separate? What are dialects and idiolects and how do they develop?

Week 2: Jan. 28: What are language families and how are they determined?


Week 5: Feb. 18: Outside influences on English: borrowings from Latin, Greek, Norse, French, etc. Vocabulary and pronunciation issues, and those pesky spelling problems.


Week 8: March 10: English in the future: why we are winning. Video on disappearing languages.