

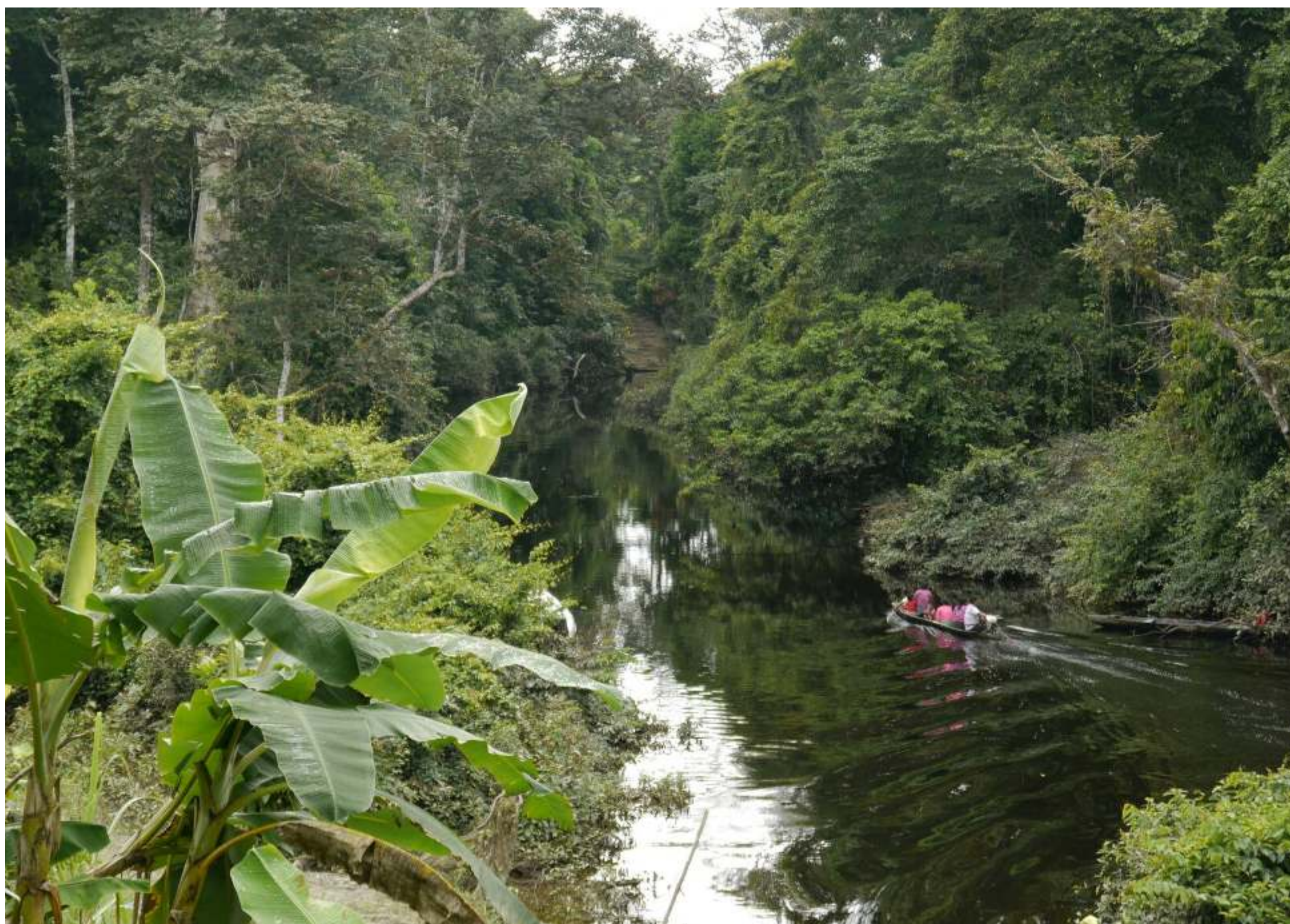


**PUCP**

FACULTAD DE  
LETRAS Y CIENCIAS  
HUMANAS

# The Amazonian Languages

Live Online Course



## SESSION DATES

July 20th - August 26th  
2020



This course is an introduction to the study of the languages of the Amazon. More particularly, it introduces students to the linguistic and cultural diversity found in the Amazonian larger area and provides a case-by-case approach focusing on several languages (and people) from Peru. The course encourages students to discover, discuss and analyze linguistic patterns that occur in different Amazonian languages. When possible, it also draws relations between linguistic expressions and cultural patterns found in this region.

Some classes will have the presence of native speakers of some indigenous languages of Peru who will share their perspective on documenting their languages and discuss the general context in which we do fieldwork. If possible, we will also invite some colleagues to share their research on different Amazonian languages.

- Time period: 16 classes of 3 hours each class
- Session Dates: July 20th - August 26th, 2020 (Monday, Wednesday, Friday)
- Time: 14:00 - 17:00 (UTC-5)
- Credits: 3 credits
- Language of instruction: English
- Registration Deadline: July 13th
- **Program fee: 495 USD**
- Minimum required: 10 students
- Holidays (no classes): July 29th



## Dr. Jaime Peña

He holds a Ph.D. and a M.A. in Linguistics from the University of Oregon. He got his M.A. with a thesis on the Reconstruction of the Peba-Yaguan languages, a small family of which the only extant member is Yagua. His Ph.D. dissertation was a Grammar of Wampis, a language that was previously undescribed. For his dissertation, he was awarded the Mary R. Haas award by the Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas and was a finalist for the Association for Linguistic Typology's Panini Award. He got his B.A. in Hispanic Linguistics and Literature from PUCP, where he also studied at the Master in Linguistics Program. He is currently a professor at the Academic Department of Humanities, PUCP. Jaime Peña is a specialist in Jivaroan and Peba-Yaguan languages with expertise in fieldwork and language description and typology. Apart from his work with Jivaroan and Peba-Yaguan, he is currently leading two different projects: one on Urarina, a language isolate, and the other on Yanesha and Chamicuro, two endangered Arawakan languages. He has presented his works in numerous conferences and published in different books and journals. He is currently revising his Grammar of Wampis for publication. He is a member of several professional societies, such as the Latin American Association of Linguistics and Philology (ALFAL), the Association for Linguistic Typology (ALT), Friends of Amazonicas, and others.



## SESSIONS:

(16 classes of 3 hours each)

### **Week 1:** Introduction to Amazonian studies

- Understanding the Amazon region
- The Amazon as a region of cultural exchange
- Diversity

### **Week 2:** Contact and possible areas

- The Vaupés area
- The Putumayo area
- The Andean-Amazonian continuum

#### Typology of Amazonian languages

- Morphological typology
- Morphological complexity
- Syntactic typology

### **Week 3:** Words

- Words and culture: a foray into the lexical semantics of Amazonian languages (ethnobiological vocabulary, color terms, feelings and others)
- “Wandering” words in the Amazon and what they reveal
- Major lexical classes in Amazonian languages
- Word formation patterns

### **Week 4:** Nominal categorization in the Amazon

- Systems of classification, number and possession
- Classifiers and classes
- Expression of number
- Possession

### **Week 5:** What a verb can convey

- Tense systems found in Amazonian languages
- Aspectual and modality systems
- Other distinctive conceptual categories common to Amazonian languages
- Discussing data from Wampis and Urarina

### **Week 6:** Grammatical representation of events: A view from the Amazon

- Case and argument indexation
- Types of alignment: Accusativity, Ergativity, Split intransitivity
- Inverse systems
- Understanding a language with a complex system for representing events: Wampis

## AT THE END OF THE COURSE, YOU WILL:

- Have a basic understanding of the diversity found in the Amazon region, both cultural and linguistic.
- Be familiar with major typological patterns of linguistic expression found in several unrelated languages spoken in the Amazon.
- Have a basic understanding of possible cognitive and cultural principles underlying linguistic expressions of Amazonian languages.

## Teaching methodology

Classes will combine expository lectures with exercises and discussion of data. For some classes we will invite researchers and speakers of Peruvian languages with whom we will talk about a variety of topics dealing with language documentation and Amazonian linguistics. In addition, we will reserve one class each week for discussing the group's questions and ideas about the specific topics seen during that week. Readings and audiovisual materials will be presented throughout the course.

## Evaluation system and grading scale

- Participation (20%)
- Midterm exam (40%)
- Term paper (40%)

DEFINITION	GRADE (PERU)	GRADE (USA)	ECTS SCALE
HIGH DISTINCTION	18 or more	A+	A
	17	A	A
	16	A-	A
DISTINCTION	15	B+	B
	14	B	B
CREDIT	13	B-/C+	C
	12	C/C-	D
PASS	11	D+/D	E
FAIL	10 or less	F	F

- Only in case of an official cancellation of the course, we will arrange the full refund of the program fee.
- If you are planning to validate the credits with your institution, do not forget to contact your study advisor about the transfer policies and procedures.

## Highlights

- Expert teachers from PUCP with an outstanding academic background and experience.
- Live online classes via ZOOM for a dynamic conversation between teachers and students.
- Courses are taught in English.
- Minimum of 32 hours of academic classes for a deeper understanding of the subject.
- 20 students at most in every course for a better interaction in class.
- Classes will be recorded for a lifetime access.
- Certificate of Attendance and Official Transcript by PUCP
- Follow up and assistance during the whole program.

## Requirements

For this course, we encourage you to meet the following requirements:

- You must have taken a basic Linguistics' course before.
- Be an undergraduate or graduate student or professional interested in history, linguistics, sociology, anthropology or related subjects.
- Our live online courses require you to be online at a specific hour. Pay special attention with the Peruvian time zone (UTC-5).
- Virtual attendance is mandatory for at least 70% of each course's activities. Unjustified absences to more than 30% of the activities will result on not being awarded the course's credits and/or not receiving an official transcript.
- No previous experience in the field study required.

**For more information:**

**Katherine Aguirre**

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Short Courses & Field School Officer