**Category: Computers & Beyond**

**Title: Introduction to Computer Programming for Seniors**

**Instructor: Tom Browder**

**Sessions: Three two-hour classes**

Would you like to become familiar with computer programming to see what your children or grandchildren may be learning in school? Want to learn some computer skills used by the engineers of the Internet?

This short course will introduce you to computer programming (also popularly, but a bit inaccurately, referred to as "coding") using the GNU/Linux operating system (OS), the OS used on most supercomputers and "cloud" services. Using your laptop (or one of the college's Windows PCs) you will boot into a Debian 9 GNU/Linux system and learn the rudiments of command-line execution of various utility programs and special purpose tools like 'ls', 'grep', 'file', etc. Using a text editor, such as 'gedit' or 'vi', you will learn how to write the classic "Hello, World!" program in several programming languages including C, Python, Ruby, Bash, PostScript, and Perl 6. Then you will continue to use the Perl 6 language and learn how to write programs that manipulate files and data in various ways. Finally, you will be introduced to local resources to help you if you want to continue to pursue your newly-found interests. No programming experience is required, but bringing a laptop to class is recommended (the newer the better).

Note you may not recognize some of the terms used above, but they will become second nature to you before the course is over.

The primary reference for this course is the book "Learning to Program with Perl 6: First Steps" by Dr. Juan J. Merelo (available from on-line booksellers in eBook and paperback formats). Other resources include the Perl 6 website at <https://perl6.org> which has the official documentation of the Perl 6 programming language.