

MA Linguistics – Course Descriptions (Semester IV-January – May 2023)

Course Title	Introduction to Sociolinguistics
Course Code	LS 163
Semester	IV
No. of Credits	5
Days/Timings	Monday & Thursday: 9.00 – 11.00 am.
Name of Faculty Member(s)	Dr. Smita Joseph
Course Description: 150/200 words	<p>The course will introduce the key topics in the field. Some of these topics are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sociolinguistic variation,• Style,• Attitudes,• Politeness,• Multilingualism,• Real time and apparent time,• Class,• Networks,• CosP,• Gender,• Language contact. <p>The examples/case studies used to discuss these topics will be taken from varied linguistic and cultural contexts. By the end of the course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Define sociolinguistic variation in their own words,• Identify instances of sociolinguistic variation in their MT,• Discuss and identify the social factors that cause language variation. <p>Core reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meyerhoff, M. (2006). <i>Introducing sociolinguistics</i>. London & New York: Routledge. <p>Additional reading (more readings to be added):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Labov, W. (1972). <i>Sociolinguistic patterns</i>. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.• Gumperz, John, J. (1958). Dialect differences and social stratification in a north Indian Village. <i>American Anthropologist</i>, 60(4), 668-81.
Evaluation	Mid-semester exam: 40% End-semester exam: 60%

Course Title	Semantics II
Course Code	LS 251
Semester	IV
Day/Timings	Wednesday & Friday : 3.00 – 5.00 pm
No. of Credits	5
Course Prerequisites:	LS 151 or equivalent.
Name of Faculty Member(S)	Dr. Utpal Lahiri
Course Descriptions:	<p>This course is a continuation of Semantics I (LS 151), and is intended to give a basic introduction to advanced topics not covered in LS 151. Topics include:</p> <p>Logical Form and Quantifiers Generalized Quantifier Theory Lambda Calculus Adverbial Modification and Event Semantics; tense, aspect Anaphora and Indexicals.</p> <p>Altshuler, D., T. Parsons and R. Schwarzschild (2018). <i>A Course in Semantics</i>. MIT Press. Recommended texts: Chierchia, G. and S. McConnell-Ginet (2000). <i>Meaning and Grammar</i>. MIT Press (2nd Edition) Heim, I. and von Stechow (2007). <i>Notes on Intensional Semantics</i>. Ms., MIT (downloadable)</p>
Evaluation Scheme	40%: Assignments 60%: End semester examination

Course Title	Introduction to Neuro Linguistics
Course Code	LS 291
Semester	IV
Day / Timings	Tuesday & Thursday: 11.00 – 1.00 pm
No. of Credits	5
Name of Faculty Member(S)	Prof. Hemalatha Nagarajan
Course Prerequisites:	Syntax I and Phonology I
Course Descriptions:	<p>This is a course that takes students on a tour through the brain, highlighting the structures that play key roles in language production and perception. It provides a broad and up-to-date introduction to the rapidly developing field of neurolinguistics. It focuses on both first and second language acquisition and hence is of special interest to students of theoretical linguistics and applied linguistics. It is meant for anyone who wishes to have a firm grounding in this area. From hemispheres to neurons, students gain an understanding of how the brain handles grammar, meaning, and sound. They will learn what the information is that makes the processes of speaking and understanding, reading and writing a language possible, how it is acquired, and how and where it is represented in the brain. To understand these aspects, evidence is drawn from linguistics, aphasiology, and cognitive neuroscience.</p>
Evaluation Scheme	Mid term: Final: 40: 60

Course Title	Phonetics: Indian Traditions
Course Code	IND 304
Semester	IV
Day / Timings	Tuesday & Friday : 2.00 – 4.00 pm
No. of Credits	5
Name of the Faculty Member(s)	Dr. Nilakantha Dash
Course Description 150/200 words	<p>The course aims at introducing the students to the oral traditions of vedic chanting and the importance of phonetics.</p> <p>A. <u>Topics for Study</u> :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A brief historical survey 2. Vedic Literature and Vedanga 3. Texts ending with Siksha or Pratisakhya 4. Treatment of <i>savarna</i> in Astadhyayi of Panini. 5. Process of Knowing and speaking 6. Good speaker and bad speaker <p>B. A close reading of Paniniya Siksa and Taittiriya Pratisakhya</p>
Evaluation Scheme	40= Assignment, 60= Written test.

Course Title	Language and Reading Disorders
Course Code	LS 364
Semester	IV
Day / Timings	Tuesday: 2.00 – 4.00 pm Wednesday: 11.00 – 1.00 pm
No. of Credits	5
Name of Faculty Member(s)	Prof. Shruti Sircar
Course Prerequisites:	Morphology I / Syntax I /An Introduction to Language Acquisition
Course Description: 150/200 words	<p>This course has two parts: one dealing with language disorders, and the other with reading related disorders. The first part will look at why it is necessary to study language related disorders like Aphasia and Specific Language Impairment (SLI), and delink them from disorders which pertain to cognition and intelligence such as Down's Syndrome and William's syndrome.</p> <p>The thrust of this part is to argue for the domain specificity of language, and identify the areas/segments of language that language-specific disorders affect.</p> <p>The second part deals with an exploration of how literacy skills develop in children, and relate this development and atypicalities in development and relate them to theoretical models of skilled reading and comprehension. The part also deals with developmental reading problems: developmental dyslexia, surface dyslexia, dysgraphia and comprehension deficits - their diagnosis and remediation.</p>
Evaluation Scheme	3 short tests and a final examination

Course Title	Philosophy Of Language
Course Code	LS 392
Semester	IV
Day / Timings	Monday & Thursday: 2.00 – 4.00 pm
No. of Credits	5
Name of the Faculty Member(s)	Prof. P. Madhavan
Course Description 150/200 words	<p>TOPICS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preliminaries – Meaning in Language, denotation, sense and reference (Frege) 2. Truth and falsity, the law of identity and substitution ‘salvaveritate’ (Leibniz) 3. Russell on Denoting, names and definite descriptions, quantificational logic, the law of excluded middle, meaning of the definite article ‘the’ 4. The prepositional attitudes: Willard Quine, <i>de dicto</i> and <i>de re</i> readings, ways of referring - referential and attributive, Keith Donnellan 5. Naming and necessity – Saul Kripke, circularity in description, analytic truths and contingent truths, necessary truths - a priori and a posteriori, Putnam 6. Name as rigid designator, kind terms 7. Possible worlds: semantics, context and indexicality 8. Donald Davidson’s philosophy of language 9. Early Wittgenstein, <i>Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus</i>: picture theory of meaning, ineffability thesis, distinction between saying and showing 10. Later Wittgenstein - meaning as use, language-game, family resemblance
Evaluation Scheme	40= Assignment, 60= Written test.