MA Computational Linguistics Semester IV - Course Descriptions

Course title	**Minimalism**
Category (Mention the appropriate category (a/b/c) in the course description.)	Existing course without changes
Course code	MALINGC 641
Semester	IV
Number of credits	04
Maximum intake	30 (on first-come-first-served-basis)
Day/Time	Tuesday & Thursday: 11.00 am – 1.00 pm
Name of the teacher/s	Prof M. Hariprasad *Professor, Dept. of Computational Linguistics*
Course description	i) A brief overview of the course This course explores the Minimalist Program (MP), a framework in linguistic theory introduced by Noam Chomsky. Minimalism seeks to uncover the fundamental principles of human language by positing that linguistic systems operate with optimal simplicity, efficiency, and economy. Students will critically examine the conceptual underpinnings of Minimalism, its methodology, and its implications, as well as learn about Minimalist mechanisms such as syntactic structures, movement operations, and the interaction of syntax with other Linguistic Sub Fields. This course is ideal for students with prior knowledge of generative grammar who wish to deepen their understanding of contemporary syntactic theory. ii) Objectives of the course in terms of Programme Specific Outcomes (PSO of the Programme under which the course is being offered): Knowledge and Understanding PO1: Acquire an advanced understanding of theoretical linguistics by mastering the core principles of the Minimalist Program and its role in generative grammar. PO2: Develop procedural knowledge for analyzing linguistic phenomena through Minimalist concepts like economy, simplicity, and movement operations. Skills PO5: Cultivate advanced cognitive and technical skills to analyze syntactic structures across languages using Minimalist tools, synthesizing theoretical insights from primary and secondary sources. PO6: Enhance analytical and critical thinking abilities to evaluate research findings in Minimalist syntax and design

	research questions that align with Minimalist principles. Application PO8: Apply Minimalist principles to analyze data from Indian and other languages, drawing connections between theoretical knowledge and empirical evidence. PO9: Extend understanding of linguistic Minimalism to other disciplines, such as cognitive science and artificial intelligence, by exploring its explanatory potential in these areas. Employability PO13: The course integrates insights from cutting-edge research and interdisciplinary collaborations, preparing students for careers in research, AI, computational modeling, and language technology industries. iii) Learning outcomes— a) domain specific outcomes (objective 1) b) value addition (objective 5) c) skill-enhancement (objectives 2 & 3) d) employability quotient (objective 4)
Course delivery	Lecture Method for all modules
Evaluation scheme (Tentative)	Internal (40%):*Tests/Quizzes* End-semester (60%):Term paper: 30%; Presentation: 30%
Reading list	• Adger, D. (2003). *Core Syntax: A Minimalist Approach*. Oxford University Press. • Boeckx, C. (2006). *Linguistic Minimalism: Origins, Concepts, Methods, and Aims*. Oxford University Press. • Chomsky, N. (1995). *The Minimalist Program*. MIT Press. • Hornstein, N., Nunes, J., & Grohmann, K. K. (2005). *Understanding Minimalism*. Cambridge University Press. • Lasnik, H., &Uriagereka, J. (2002). *A Course in Minimalist Syntax: Foundations and Prospects*. Blackwell. ***In addition to these, students may be required to read and/or present research papers from journals, which will be suggested from time to time.***

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