

**Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur**

**Proposal for a New Course**

**1. Course No:** ENG 7\*\*

**2. Course Title:** DRAVIDIAN LANGUAGES

**3. Per Week Lectures:** 3 (L), Tutorial: 0 (T), Laboratory: 0 (P), Additional hours: (0-2): 0 (A),  
Credits (0\*L+0\*T+3P+A): 5.

**Duration of Course:** Half Semester (Modular).

**4. Proposing Department/IDP:** Humanities and Social Sciences.

**Other Departments/IDPs which may be interested in the proposed course:**

**Other faculty members interested in teaching the proposed course:**

**5. Proposing Instructor(s):** Chaithra Puttaswamy

**Course Objectives:**

1. To introduce the students to the distribution of Dravidian languages in time and space.
2. To describe the distinguishing linguistic features of old and new Dravidian languages and various subgroups.

**Course Template:**

1 The Dravidian Language Family 6 hours

Dravidian languages: geographical locations, demographic information; sub-groups of the Dravidian Language Family, subgroupings by Caldwell, Zvelebil and Krishnamurti, extra Indic affiliations of Dravidian languages, scripts used for writing the languages; Dravidian language family and other language families in South Asia; The proto-Dravidian (PDr): the material and methods for its reconstruction.

2 Structure of Dravidian Languages 12 hours

Phonology: PDr vowels, consonants, phonotactics, morphophonemics (change in the length of verbal stem-final vowels with vowel-initial suffixes); their correspondences in modern Dravidian languages

Morphology: Roots, stems, formatives- structure of roots and formatives, derivational suffixes and nominal compounds; status of adjectives and adverbs as separate word classes, syntactically definable, formation of adjectives and adverbs; clitics

Syntax: Word order in phrases, clauses, sentences; simple, compound, complex sentence, sentence negation, relative-correlative constructions, causatives, reflexivity and reciprocity, anaphora.

3 Impact of Language Contact 3 hours

Lexicon: Borrowings from Indo-Aryan, Perso-Arabic, Portuguese and English; convergence features of South Asia as a linguistic area; impact of Dravidian languages on the neighboring languages.

**Course Readings:**

1. Andronov, M. S. 1970. Dravidian Languages. Moscow: Nauka Publishing House (Central Department of Oriental Literature).
2. Caldwell, R. 1856. A Comparative grammar of the Dravidian family of languages. Madras: University of Madras.
3. Krishnamurti, Bh. 2003. The Dravidian Languages. United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press
4. Krishnamurti, Bh. Comparative Dravidian Linguistics: current perspectives. Oxford University Press
5. Steever, Sanford (ed.). 2019. The Dravidian Languages. London, New York: Routledge
6. Steever, Sanford. 1993. Analysis to Synthesis: The Development of Complex Verb Morphology in the Dravidian Languages. Oxford University Press.
7. Zvelebil, Kamil V. 1990: Dravidian Linguistics- an introduction. Pondicherry: Pondicherry Institute of Linguistics and Culture.
8. Burrow,T. & Emeneau, M.B. 1984: A Dravidian etymological dictionary. Oxford:
9. Ramaswami, N, 1997. Diglossa: Formal and Informal Tamil. Mysore: Central Institute of Indian Languages.
10. Smith, I. 1991. Interpreting conflicting Isoglosses: Historical Relationship among the Gondi Dialects. In Lakshmi Bai and R. Reddy (ed.). Studies in Dravidian and General Linguistics: A Festschrift for Bh. Krishnamurti. Osmania University Publications in Linguistics no. 6. Hyderabad: Osmania University, Department of Linguistics: 27-38.

Dated: December 21, 2025

Proposer: Chaithra Puttaswamy

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

DUGC/DPGC Convener:

**The course is approved / not approved**

**Chairman, SUGC/SPGC**

Dated: