

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: