

MA Linguistics – Semester I - Course Descriptions (1 September – 16 December 2023)

Course Title	Language and Society (Elective)
Course Code	MALING 101
Semester	Semester I
No. of Credits	4
No of students	30
Days & Timings	Tuesday: 3.00 – 5.00 pm Friday: 3.00 – 5.00 pm
Name of Faculty Member(s)	Dr. Smita Joseph
Course Description:	<p>This course is for those students who have not taken any courses in linguistics and/or sociolinguistics but who are genuinely interested in knowing what sociolinguistics is. The course helps the students bridge the gap between this introductory-level course and more advanced sociolinguistics courses. Most of the sociolinguistic research discussed in the course makes use of examples from English since this is a language familiar to most students. However, since most of the students encounter the concepts for the first time, English examples are used in class and through texts, but they are also encouraged to apply the newly acquired concepts in their respective mother tongues. The use of phonetic symbols and technical terms is used minimally.</p> <p>The following modules will be taught in the course: Module 1: What is sociolinguistics? Module 2: Language choice Module 3: Language maintenance and shift Module 4: Language planning Module 5: Ethnicity</p> <p>Reading List</p> <p>Bell, A. (1990). Audience and Referee Design in New Zealand Media Language. In A. Bell and J. Holmes (Eds.), <i>New Zealand Ways of Speaking English</i> (pp. 165-194). Wellington: Victoria University Press. Retrieved from http://en.bookfi.net/book/1419127.</p> <p>Fischer, J. L. (1958). Social Influences on the Choice of a Linguistic Variant. <i>Word</i>, 14(1), 47-56. Retrieved from http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/00437956.1958.11659655?needAccess=true.</p> <p>Hiang, T. C., & Gupta, A. F. (1992). Post-vocalic /r/ in Singapore English. <i>York Papers in Linguistics</i>, 16, 139-152. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/234677933_Post-Vocalic_r_in_Singapore_English.</p> <p>Holmes, J. (2013). <i>An Introduction to Sociolinguistics</i> (4th ed.) London & New York: Routledge.</p>
Evaluation Scheme	End semester exam: 60% Mid semester exam: 40%

Course Title	Phonetics and Spoken English (core)
Course Code	MALNG 111
Semester	I
No. of Credits	4
Days/Timings	Tuesday & Thursday: 9.00 am – 11.00 am
No of Students	30
Name of Faculty Member(s)	Dr. Meena Debashish
Course Description: 150/200 words	This course is designed to introduce the basics of English phonetics, to train students in pronunciation, and to make them aware of the issues of intelligibility, through lecture, tutorial and lab sessions. Some of the topics covered in this course are: the speech mechanism, the respiratory-phonatory-articulatory systems, phoneme vs allophone, the IPA chart, the criteria for description of consonants and vowels (with special focus on English – RP (Received Pronunciation)), phoneme distribution, syllable, word accent, and the prosodic systems of rhythm and intonation.
Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Assessment: 40 % (Quizzes/Assignments/Tests) • Final Assessment: 60 %

Course Title	Basic Issues in Morphology (core)
Course Code	MALNG 131
Semester	I
No. of Credits	4
Days/Timings	Monday & Friday: 11.00 am – 1.00 pm
No of students	30
Name of Faculty Member(S)	Prof. Shruti Sircar
Course Descriptions:	<p>The course will examine morphological phenomena from across the world's languages and try to discuss the relationship of morphology to phonology and other areas of grammar, such as syntax and semantics. The course will help learners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to identify the meaningful subparts of words and perform morphological analysis on unfamiliar languages • to understand the major morphological phenomena found in the world's languages • to analyze morphological and phonological patterns in particular languages, and their interactions • to represent morphosyntactic structure diagrammatically, and comprehend the relationship between such structure and meaning
Evaluation Scheme	<p><i>Internal (40%)</i> Two sit down open-book tests, which will be a mixture of multiple choice, problem-solving and short-answer questions One final project based on original work on some morphological aspect of an understudied language</p> <p><i>External: sit down examination (60%)</i></p>

Course Title	Basic Issues in Syntax (core)
Course Code	MALNG 141
Semester	I
No. of Credits	4
Days/Timings	Wednesday: 11.00 am – 1.00 pm Thursday: 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
No of students	30
Name of Faculty Member(S)	Prof. P. Madhavan
Course Descriptions:	<p>The course begins by introducing the notion of a phrase, discusses the structure of different phrases, along with the basic properties of phrases. Then, descriptive devices like tree diagrams and labelled bracketing are presented; how phenomena like ambiguity can be handled is illustrated. This is followed by an introduction to the Chomskyan programme in Linguistics, as enunciated in the Government and Binding (GB) model. Though it is English data that are primarily dealt with, data from other languages, in particular Indian languages, are also used as and when necessary.</p> <p>Objectives and Learning outcome</p> <p>The course is designed in such a way that the learner, by the time he/she finishes the course, gets a sound understanding of a) the modular structure of Universal Grammar and b) the intricate interaction of the independent modules that outputs all and only sentences of language. The learner is also, in the ideal scenario, not only ready but eager to do the next course in syntax.</p> <p><i>Module 1</i> Phrases and clauses, structure of clauses, constituency tests, PS rules, IC analysis</p> <p><i>Module 2</i> The “mystery” of language acquisition in young children, poverty of stimulus, LAD</p> <p><i>Module 3</i> The Aspects model, the need for multilevel approach to syntax,</p> <p><i>Module 4</i> Universal Grammar, the Principles and Parameters model, projection principle, theta criterion, X-bar theory, case filter, government, PRO and control theory, Binding Principle</p>
Evaluation Scheme	40 % internal & 60 % final Three tests will be given, and the best two performances will be counted for the internal grade. The final exam will be a three-hour sit-down exam.

Course Title	Introduction to Natural Language Processing (Elective)
Course Code	MALING 181
Semester	I
No. of Credits	4
Days/Timings	Monday & Wednesday: 9.00 – 11.00 am
Name of Faculty Member(S)	Prof. M. Hari Prasad / Dr. Atreyee Sharma
Course Descriptions:	<p>This course deals with a wide range of topics in natural language processing, including word and sentence tokenization, text classification and sentiment analysis, spelling correction, information extraction, parsing, meaning extraction, and question answering.</p> <p>The course also introduces computational models.</p>
Evaluation Scheme	Home works: Midterm: Final