

# SASLI 2012

## SYLLABUS FOR ELEMENTARY TAMIL 2012

Monday June 18, 2012 – Friday August 10, 2012

**Course:** Elementary Tamil  
**Instructor:** Dr. J. Arun Raja Selvan  
**Instructor Office Hours:** Tuesday and Thursday 2PM- 3 PM  
 #322 Ingraham Hall.  
 (Otherdays by prior appointment)  
**Instructor Contact Information:** Phone: 630-770-9205 (mobile) *No SMS!*  
 Email: [arunrajaselvan@hotmail.com](mailto:arunrajaselvan@hotmail.com) or  
[drarun@sitaprogram.org](mailto:drarun@sitaprogram.org)

### Objective/Goals:

At the end of the first semester, students would have mastered the Tamil syllabic writing system and would have learned the skills needed to exchange greetings, talk about their identity, name a number of familiar objects and be able to carry out day to day conversations in Tamil. They should be able to speak in past, present and future tenses and be proficient in using impersonal, finite and non-finite verb forms. Moreover, a good control of Tamil case markers and post positions will also be evident.

At the end of the second semester, they will display a good proficiency in their speaking and writing abilities. They will be able to handle a variety of communicative tasks such as describing daily activities, interests, personal and social needs such as food, travel and lodging with ease and confidence. In addition, they will also be capable of asking a variety of questions to obtain information to satisfy basic needs. They will be able to speak and write comfortably by linking sentences into a connected discourse of paragraph length. Their linguistic quality and quantity will be similar to the attributes described for Intermediate Mid Level speakers by ACTFL (American Council for Teaching of Foreign Languages).

### Structure/Schedule:

A tentative timetable given below. A detailed weekly schedule will be communicated to the students. Please know that the schedule is subject to change and also that it can be altered based on the pace of learning and requirement.

	1	2	3	4
<b>Monday</b>	<i>Lesson</i>	<i>Textual Grammar</i>	<i>Situational Conversation</i>	<i>Newspaper/Magazine Reading</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<i>Lesson</i>	<i>Textual Grammar</i>	<i>Conversation</i>	<i>Oral Presentation</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<i>Conversation</i>	<i>Listening (Film songs / serial/ Radio plays)</i>	<i>Lesson</i>	<i>Film Viewing</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	<i>Lesson</i>	<i>Textual Grammar</i>	<i>Pronunciation Practice / Tutorial</i>	<i>Film Viewing</i>
<b>Friday</b>	<i>Quiz / Test</i>	<i>Conversation</i>	<i>Vocabulary</i>	<i>Language Lab</i>

**Content:**

**Lesson:** Students should read the materials before coming to class. Materials will be given at the beginning of the session. Students should note down their questions and new vocabulary and structures for class discussion.

**Textual Grammar:** Exercises will be given which will cover the new grammatical structures and syntax learned in the prepared reading class. Students are expected to finish the exercises in the class and generate more sentences based on the new structures. They are strongly encouraged to use the new structures with their classmates.

The teacher will also introduce new grammar and review old grammar in the class. Things like Tamil very conjugations, case markers, post positions, pronouns, tense and PNG suffixes, conditionals, reported speech, progressive and perfect tenses will be reviewed/taught and home work sheets will be given regularly.

**Situational Conversation:** Students will be given a handout containing a conversational piece. They are required to take note of the new vocabulary and structure and practice them before class. In the class, students will do the conversation by adopting role-plays. The teacher will correct pronunciation, intonation, pause and stress to fine-tune their spoken language.

**Conversation:** A topic for each class will be assigned before and students are asked to gather vocabulary relating to the assigned topic. They are also expected to make sentences and frame questions (in Tamil) relating to the topic, before coming to class. In the class, the students will ask questions and involve in conversation in Tamil.

**Oral Presentation:** This is an important class to develop the students' speaking ability and to build up confidence in this skill. Students will choose a topic and prepare for an oral presentation on that topic. They are encouraged to be creative when they prepare the presentation. They will have to give their presentation in the class which will be recorded for review in the next class.

**Listening:** The topics to be covered in the class will primarily be, but not limited to, the pieces of conversations given in Jim and Raja Conversations book. In addition, popular Tamil film music, popular Tamil TV serials and radio plays. New vocabulary and structure encountered will be reviewed intensively and exercises will be given at the end of the class. Subject to the facilities available at UW's language lab, the Jim and Raja Conversations can be heard, practiced and reviewed in the lab to improve listening and speaking skills.

**Film Viewing:** Students will watch a chosen Tamil film before coming to class. Students are required to watch the film and observe the language being used in real life situations. The film will be reviewed in the class and a few phrases, constructions and utterances will be highlighted for memorization. They are encouraged to watch certain part of the film again to see the 'language in action' and create a context where they will be able to use them again for practice. Tamil cultural elements that appear in the film will be explained and discussed.

**Pronunciation Practice /Tutorial:** Reading materials will be given to be practiced in the class to improve Tamil pronunciation. This class will also be utilized to tutor the students individually, clarify

the doubts and to give issue-specific drills to improve their language. Students are strongly encouraged to come up with questions for this class and should feel free to get their doubts cleared.

**Vocabulary:** Vocabulary list on a certain topic will be given to the students or required to be compiled by the students before the class. Students should learn the vocabulary and are required to make sentences of their own and frame questions using the words in the list. Students will then be asked to gather synonyms and antonyms for each word given in the list to broaden their vocabulary.

**Journal Writing:** Beginning third week, students are required to write journals every day and present their journals in class for review and peer-learning. This will strengthen their reading and writing abilities, besides expediting their learning.

**Quiz / Test:** There will be quizzes every week and there will be at least two tests – one at the end of the first session (13 July 2007 ?) and one at the end of the second session (10 Aug 2007 ?). There may be two smaller tests before the final tests each session. The quizzes will cover the items learned in that particular week and may also involve speaking and listening as well. The tests will have four components (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing) and will cover the items finished in that particular session.

#### **Class Materials:**

##### **Required Text Books:**

1. **A Basic Tamil Reader and Grammar Volume I: Readings**  
K.Paramasivam and James Lindholm  
Tamil Language Study Association  
Evanston, Illinois. (available with CD)
2. **A Basic Tamil Reader and Grammar Volume II: Annotations**  
K.Paramasivam and James Lindholm  
Tamil Language Study Association  
Evanston, Illinois
3. **A Basic Tamil Reader and Grammar Supplement: Translations**  
K.Paramasivam and James Lindholm  
Tamil Language Study Association  
Evanston, Illinois
4. **The Jim and Raja Conversations (with CD)**  
E. Annamalai  
Tamil Language Study Association, Evanston, Illinois

##### **Dictionary:**

1. **English-Tamil Dictionary**  
A. Chidambaranatha Chettiyar  
University of Madras, Madras
2. **Kriyavin Tarkala Tamil Akarati (Tamil-Tamil-English)**  
Cre-A, Chennai.
3. **Tamil-English Dictionary**  
Johann Philip Fabricius  
Asian Educational Services, Madras

**Reference and Other:**

**1. A Grammar of Modern Tamil**

Thomas Lehmann

Pondicherry Institute of Linguistics and Culture, Pondicherry.

2. <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/plc/tamilweb/>

3. <http://www.carla.umn.edu/LCTL/materials/tamil/intermediateTamil.html>

4. <http://www.thetamilanguage.com>.

**Materials to be provided:** Hand outs

**Audio:** Jim and Raja Conversations and audio files for situational conversation class

**Grading:**

<b>Grading</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Quizzes	15
Spoken/Oral Proficiency	10
Class Participation and contribution	20
Homework	15
Midterm Test	20
Final Test	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

**Grading Scale:**

The following grading scale will be used to determine the final course grade

<b>A+ 98+</b>	<b>B+ 87-89</b>	<b>C+ 77-79</b>	<b>D+ 67-69</b>	
<b>A 93-97</b>	<b>B 83-86</b>	<b>C 73-76</b>	<b>D 63-66</b>	<b>F Below 59</b>
<b>A- 90-92</b>	<b>B- 80-82</b>	<b>C- 70-72</b>	<b>D- 60-62</b>	

## Attendance Policy:

Daily attendance and active participation in class are necessary and expected. Learner's active participation and creativity is very crucial for language development and will be accessed on a daily basis. The following criteria will be used to determine the grade. One mark will be taken off for absences.

10 Always well-prepared; is attentive and volunteers often; tries to use Tamil with classmates and instructor; makes most out of each activity; shows resourcefulness and imagination in using the language; responds to and engages classmates in a respectful manner; remains open-minded towards target culture; very highly motivated and never tired of using language; smiling and flexible

08 Usually well-prepared; is attentive and volunteers occasionally; tries to use Tamil with classmates and makes some effort to engage fellow students; completes exercise with some imagination and resourcefulness; shows some development of cultural sensitivity; motivated and not often tired of using language

06 Adequately prepared and attentive and often waits to be called upon; needs to be reminded to use Tamil outside and with classmates; responds and completes exercises with minimal imagination; does not engage in language use beyond the minimum requirements for an assignment

04 Not adequately prepared and completes assignments just for the sake of doing it; often needs to be reminded to use language outside; completes exercise with no imagination; shows low energy and laziness in using language

02 Usually unprepared; makes little effort to participate or complete exercises; rarely tries to use Tamil outside of class and with classmates; sluggish and shows no interest; complaints a lot

00 Makes no contribution to class whatsoever; is not on task; looks 'blind' in class; yawns, talks, appears irritated and hostile

## Cell Phone and Computer Use in the Class:

Except for emergency reasons, cell phones should not be used in the class. Similarly, using computers for activities not relating to class requirements are discouraged. No face book or email in class !

## Requirements/Homework:

### Assignment and Home work:

Assignment, Journal writing and homework are crucial components for learners overall language development. Assignments can require them to prepare for some oral presentation, translation exercise and a conversational piece to practice language. Drill to review grammar, pronunciation, vocabulary, structures will also become an integral part of homework. Students should submit the home work sincerely on the due dates. One mark a day will be deducted for late submissions and any assignment late by more than two days will not be graded.

### Oral Presentation and Language Use:

This is a very vital component for developing functional aspect in language use. The students are expected to put sincere and original effort to develop presentations and should aim for native speaker-like pronunciation, intonation and stress. The presentations should be creative, natural, unhampered, smooth and substantial. Grading will be done largely based on the scheme mentioned in the previous section. Missed presentations can not be made up.

## **Academic Integrity:**

Please keep in mind that language learning is a long-term process and necessarily involves making mistakes from time to time. Do not expect it to pop up suddenly in your mind, instead. Initially, you need to put more effort to familiarize yourself with the new (and often alien) structures, formations, vocabulary and sounds and will have to work hard to retain them in your mind. Since you are going to learn a language that is not related to your mother tongue, the differences will be more and so are difficulties. Your instructor is there to help you along the way, but ultimately the effort must come from you to make the experience worthwhile and fun. You are one in a few, or perhaps the only one, in your home school to have gotten this opportunity to learn this ancient language. Welcome to this new world. Please feel free to contact professor if you have any question or doubt. Good Luck!

**McBurney Disability Resource Center:** The McBurney Center is available for all students at the University of Wisconsin. The Center offers a wide array of services for students with Disabilities. If you are in need of any of the services provided by the Center, please feel free to contact the McBurney Center staff directly. For a list of the services provided, please visit the website: <http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu/services/>

Contact information for the McBurney Disability Resource Center:

905 University Avenue  
Madison, WI 53715  
608-263-2741 (phone)  
263-6393 (tty)  
265-2998 (fax)  
mcburney@uwmadmail.services.wisc.edu

**Student Code of Conduct:** The student Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures for the University of Wisconsin is available on the website listed below: <http://www.wisc.edu/students/conduct/conduct.htm>

This document outlines the rules and regulations regarding your student rights and responsibilities while a student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. It states that "Academic misconduct is an act in which a student:

- seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation;
- uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise;
- forges or falsifies academic documents or records;
- intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others;
- engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student's academic performance;
- assists other students in any of these acts."

Please see the website listed above for further information.