

ELEMENTARY TAMIL 2015 SYLLABUS
 SASLI 2015, UW-Madison
 Monday June 15, 2015 – Friday August 07, 2015

Instructor: Victoria Gross
 Classroom Location: Van Hise 483
 Instructor Office Hours: Tue, Wed, Thurs: 2PM- 3 PM and by appointment
 Office: Van Hise 1244
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Objective/Goals:

At the end of the first semester (month), students will have mastered the Tamil syllabic writing system, and will have learned the skills necessary to exchange greetings, name a number of objects, ask basic yes or no questions, and carry out simple everyday conversations in Tamil. They will be familiar with past, present and future tenses and be proficient in using impersonal, finite and non-finite verb forms. They will successfully employ Tamil sentence structures, case markers, and post positions.

At the end of the second semester (month), students will be proficient 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. They will be able to employ compound verbs and verb combinations. They will be able to pose complex questions, and deal with numbers in Tamil. They will be able to speak and write comfortably by linking sentences into connected discussions of paragraph length. Importantly, they will also be proficient in their levels of aural and literary comprehension.

This is an intensive language course. It is your full time job for the summer. You will be expected to attend every class. You will have approximately 4 hours of homework everyday. You must check your email everyday. Please provide me with the email address that you use. You will be expected to perform reading and writing assignments, as well as practice speaking and listening skills during your independent study.

Class Schedule: M-F 4 hours/day, from 8:30AM – 1PM with a short break. A rough class schedule for the beginning of the summer is given below. The first week will be primarily devoted to learning the Tamil script, syllabic writing system, and sounds. **As the class progresses, changes to the structure and schedule will be gradually implemented. I reserve the right to change the content (assignments and structure, NOT GRADING STANDARDS) of the syllabus, and will provide you with the weekly plan by Thursday night the week prior.**

	1	2	3	4
Monday	Textbook Reading	Grammar Lesson	Grammar/Vocab Drills	Conversation Practice
Tuesday	Textbook Reading	Grammar Lesson	Grammar/Vocab Drills	Writing Assignment
Wednesday	Textbook reading	Listening Comprehension	Language Lab	Film Viewing
Thursday	Oral Presentation	Grammar Lesson	Conversation Practice	Review
Friday	Quiz/Test	Listening Comprehension	Language Lab	Pronunciation Practice

Week 1

	1	2	3	4
Monday	Introductions, Syllabus, logistics, individual learning goals	The alphabet vowels writing practice	Words and phrases for introduction	Consonants writing practice
Tuesday	Quiz on vowels	Consonants writing practice	Combining vowels and consonants	Conversation practice
Wednesday	Quiz on consonants	Combination vowel/consonant writing practice	Vocabulary	Language lab – Jim and Raja Conversations
Thursday	Grammar Lesson – A=B sentences	Writing practice	Conversation Practice	Review
Friday	Quiz on vocabulary	Textbook Reading 1	Textbook Reading 1	Pronunciation/Conversation Practice

Curriculum Details:

Reading: Students should read the materials, which will primarily come from our textbook, before class. We will also read some short stories for a more current vision of the sociocultural milieu in the Tamil-speaking world. Students should note down their questions, new vocabulary and structures for class discussion. During class, we will read the text as a group; each student will have the opportunity to read aloud.

Grammar Lesson: I will cover new grammatical structures and syntax, which will mostly be drawn from our readings. I will also provide exercises for practice, which you will perform in class. You will generate sentences based on the new structures both orally and in writing. The first five-ten minutes of grammar lesson will be reserved for reviewing material from previous grammar lessons. Items such as Tamil verb conjugations, case markers, post positions, pronouns, tense and PNG suffixes, conditionals, reported speech, progressive and perfect tenses will be reviewed/taught and homework sheets will be given regularly.

Grammar/Vocab Drills: Drills provide students the opportunity to master new grammatical structures and vocabulary introduced in other lessons and homework. I will provide a worksheet for each drill lesson, which you will employ to orally practice grammar constructions and vocabulary. You will work in pairs, repeating the drills in order to become fluent in the content. I will attend to each pair, ensuring that their drills are performed sincerely and correctly.

Conversation: A topic for each class will be assigned during the previous class, and you will be asked to gather vocabulary relating to the assigned topic. You will be expected to make sentences and frame questions (in Tamil) relating to the topic, before coming to class. In the class, you will ask questions and generate conversation in Tamil.

Writing Assignment: During this lesson, I will provide students with a subject that they must write about. I will circle the room answering all questions pertaining to your writing. The last 30 minutes of the lesson will be devoted to reviewing the assignments orally.

Listening Comprehension: It is imperative that students understand Tamil in addition to speaking it. During listening comprehension, I will speak casually, read aloud, or play a recording. Students will listen and then answer questions about the passage in writing and then orally.

Language Lab: The “Jim and Raja conversation” exercises will be practiced in the lab. Students have to bring their Jim and Raja book and CD and repeatedly listen to the conversational exchanges and practice repeating them in the lab sincerely. This class is primarily aimed at practicing and internalizing utterances in spoken Tamil, in addition to learning intonation, stress and accent patterns in the spoken language.

Film Viewing: Students will watch a Tamil film during or after the class hours. A certain part of the film will be reviewed in the class and a few phrases, constructions and utterances will be highlighted for memorization. Students are encouraged to watch certain parts of the film again to see the ‘language in action’.

Oral Presentation: This is an important class to develop your spoken ability and to build up confidence in your speaking skills. You will choose a topic and prepare for an oral presentation on that topic. You are encouraged to be creative when you prepare your presentations. You will have to give your presentation in the class.

Pronunciation Practice: Reading materials will be given to be practiced in the class to improve Tamil pronunciation. This class will also be utilized to tutor you individually, clarify the doubts and to give issue-specific drills to improve your abilities. You are strongly encouraged to come up with questions and should feel free to get their doubts cleared.

Quiz / Test: There will be quizzes every week and there will be at least two tests – one at the end of the first session (semester), and one at the end of the second session (semester). The quizzes will cover the items learned in the previous week, as well as some cumulative materials. Both of the end-of-session tests will be cumulative.

Class Etiquette:

- 1. Be on time (classes starts at 8:30am)**
- 2. Turn in your homework on time.**
- 3. Participate in discussions and activities.**
- 4. Be respectful of other students and avoid distracting them and hindering their opportunity to learn.**
- 5. No laptops unless otherwise specified.**
- 6. Do not record the class video /audio devices.**
- 7. Mute your cellphone or digital phone during the class time.**
- 8. Do not text with your cell-phone or digital devices during the class time.**

CLASSROOM ATMOSPHERE:

SASLI is committed to creating a diverse and welcoming learning environment for all students, and has a non-discrimination policy that reflects this philosophy. Disrespectful behaviors or comments addressed towards any group or individual, regardless of race/ethnicity, sexuality, gender, religion, ability, or any other identity or community are deemed unacceptable in class, and will be addressed by the instructor or referred to the Academic Director.

Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student’s legal name. We will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun.

Class Materials:

Required Text Books:

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

Dictionaries:

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

Other Suggested Materials (not required, but useful to some students):

1. A Grammar of Modern Tamil
Thomas Lehmann
Pondicherry Institute of Linguistics and Culture, Pondicherry.
2. Web Assisted Learning and Teaching of Tamil
University of Pennsylvania, PA
<http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/plc/tamilweb/>
3. Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition(CARLA)
University of Minnesota
<http://www.carla.umn.edu/LCTL/materials/tamil/intermediateTamil.html>
4. Conversational Tamil
K.Karunakaran
Centre for South and Southeast Asian Studies
University of Michigan

Materials to be provided: Handouts

Audio: Jim and Raja Conversations and audio files

Grading:

Task	Percentage
Quizzes	15
Oral Proficiency	15
Class Participation	15
Homework	15
Midterm	20
Final Test	20

Grading Scale:

A 90-100	BC 67-73	F 54 or less
AB 83-89	C 61-66	
B 74-82	D 55-60	

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. The following criteria will be used to determine the grade.

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

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; shows no interest

00 Makes no contribution to class whatsoever; is not on task; looks ‘blind’ in class; talks during lessons

Requirements:**Assignments and Homework:**

Assignments 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. Drilling to review grammar, pronunciation, vocabulary, structures will also become an integral part of homework. Students should submit the homework on the due dates. One mark a day will be deducted for late submissions and any assignment late by more than three days will not be graded.

Oral Presentation and Language Use:

This is a very vital component for developing functional language use. You are expected to put sincere and original efforts into developing 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.

Learning a Foreign Language:

Please keep in mind that language learning is a long-term process and necessarily involves making mistakes. Do not expect proficiency to suddenly appear in your mind. Initially, you need to apply 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 probably not related to your mother tongue, the challenges will be great. Your instructor is there to help you along the way, but ultimately the effort must come from you to make the experience worthwhile.

Please note that errors are part of the learning process and are to be viewed as natural outcomes of positive encounters with the material learned and acquired in class. Please also be aware that there may be some 'low days' during the learning period in which you will find that learning becomes difficult and stressful. On the other hand, you will also see some 'high' days when you will be amazed to see your ability to produce unbelievable amounts of Tamil with little effort and stress. This swing is very common. Talk to your instructor if you have any concern about your learning. The structure of the class and the style and method of teaching may differ from the language classes you might have had before. Please, be patient with the instructor, your fellow students, and yourself.

Academic Integrity:

There will be zero tolerance for academic dishonesty. Your homework efforts may be collaborative, but **your quizzes and tests must be performed by you alone**. Failure to abide by this rule will result in an "F" on the quiz or test and disciplinary action per the University of Wisconsin-Madison's policies on academic integrity.

University Policies:

SASLI is committed to creating a diverse and welcoming learning environment for all students, and has a non-discrimination policy that reflects this philosophy. Disrespectful behaviors or comments addressed towards any group or individual, regardless of race/ethnicity, sexuality, gender, religion, ability, or any other identity or community are deemed unacceptable in class and will be referred to the Academic Director.

Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. Your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun will be gladly honored.

Students with documented disabilities are encouraged to inform me of their conditions at the beginning of the program (first three days), so that the necessary arrangements for attendance, assignments, tests, etc., can be made in advance in consultation with SASLI administration.

McBurney Disability Resource Center: If you need any disability accommodations you need to register with the McBurney 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. For a list of the services provided, please visit <http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu/services/>

Contact information for the McBurney Disability Resource Center: 702 W Johnson Street, Suite 2104
Madison, WI, 53715 phone: 608-263-2741 text: 608-225-7956 fax: 608-265-2998
mcburney@studentlife.wisc.edu

Rights And Responsibilities Students with disabilities have the right to:

- Full and equal participation in the services and activities of the University of Wisconsin Madison
- Reasonable accommodations, academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids and services
- Privacy and to not have confidential information freely disseminated throughout the campus
- Limit access to confidential records. In doing so, however, students recognize that implementing accommodations may become more difficult
- Information readily available in accessible formats

Students with disabilities have the responsibility to:

- Meet qualifications and maintain essential institutional standards for courses, programs, services, jobs and activities

- Identify as an individual with a disability when an accommodation is needed and to seek information, counsel and assistance as necessary
- Demonstrate and/or document (from an appropriate professional) how the disability limits their participation in courses, programs, services, jobs and activities
- Follow published procedures for obtaining reasonable accommodations, academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids and services, or requesting barrier removal

The University, through faculty and staff, has the right to:

- Establish essential functions, abilities, skills, knowledge and standards for courses, programs, services, jobs and activities or facilities and to evaluate students on this basis;
- Determine the appropriate standards in developing, constructing, remodelling and maintaining facilities;
- Confirm disability status and request and receive current, relevant documentation that supports requests for accommodations, academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids and services;
- Have appropriate staff discuss students and their disabilities in order to implement requested accommodations (particularly instructional accommodations);
- Deny a request for accommodations, academic adjustments or auxiliary aids and services, and/or barrier removal in facilities if the documentation does not demonstrate that the request is warranted, or if the individual fails to provide appropriate documentation;
- Select among equally effective accommodations, academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids and services;
- Refuse unreasonable accommodations, academic adjustments or auxiliary aids and services, and/or facility-related barrier removal requests that impose a fundamental alteration on a program or activity of the university.

The University has the responsibility to:

- Provide information to faculty, staff, students and guests with disabilities in accessible formats upon request
- Ensure that courses, programs, services, jobs, activities and facilities, when viewed in their entirety, are available and usable in the most integrated and appropriate settings
- Evaluate students on the basis of their abilities and not their disabilities
- Respond to requests on a timely basis
- Provide or arrange reasonable accommodations, academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids and services for students with disabilities in courses, programs, services, jobs, activities and facilities
- Maintain appropriate confidentiality of records and communication except where permitted or required by law

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/saja/misconduct/misconduct.html>

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.