

Dept. of Asian Studies
The University of Texas at Austin

TAM 312 K: Syllabus
INTERMEDIATE TAMIL I

MEETING DAYS:

FACULTY: Sankaran Radhakrishnan Ph.D.

Office hours:

Course description:

TAM 312K provides the second year of training in Tamil. The course meets three hours per week and carries three hours of credit. Since the learners already learnt spoken Tamil in the first year, now began to learn Modern Written Tamil and be able to often compare with Spoken forms. Spoken-Written differences will be brought to the learners and worked extensively through plenty of examples and exercises. Specially designed materials help the learners to understand and practice these differences very much. Usually, one hour per week will be devoted to the lesson introduction (core text lessons), one to detailed explanation of the materials in the lesson, and one to reading passages, and conversation. Learners will begin to get complete knowledge of basic and complex structures and their use. For this, variety of interesting exercises, graded compositions, reading comprehensions, listening comprehensions, and translation passages will be used.

Various kinds of graded composition, reading comprehension, and translation passages will be provided. Conversational Tamil also part of the course.

The learner's difficulty in understanding the use of advanced language and its structures and the curiosity in the absence of an immersion environment to know more about the culture is always found among learners. For this, other than the core materials, number of interesting lessons, reading, listening, comprehension, composition, news paper materials will be used as supplementary and remedial materials in the class. In the second level of Intermediate Tamil towards the end, audio materials on different topics about Tamil culture, language, games, historically important places, dances, folk traditions, etc., are used. Tamil movies, clips, slides, pictures, transparencies, videos on culture, art, architecture, etc. will also be used in both semesters.

Objectives (for Second year Tamil-two semesters):

Learner is:

-able to handle most uncomplicated communicative tasks and social situations. Can initiate, sustain, and close a general conversation with a number of strategies appropriate to a range of circumstances and topics to some extent. Vocabulary development helps to avoid hesitation in using language to form connected discourse in simple narration and/or description.

-able to sustain understanding over longer stretches of connected discourse on a number of topics pertaining to different times and places. Gain skills to grasp main ideas and/or details.

-able to understand simple texts dealing with basic personal and social needs. Get some main ideas and information from texts featuring description and narration.

Reading practice will be given to read text several times for understanding.

-able to meet most practical writing needs and limited social demands (e.g., simple letters, brief synopses and paraphrases, summaries of biographical data). Get practice on content words and time expressions to express time, tense with precision; verbal inflections. Gain skills to describe and narrate in paragraphs.

All these are achieved through practice and training:

Written → Spoken

Development of communicative competence

Development of vocabulary

Composition (guided composition) writing skill

Comprehension skills (reading and listening comprehensions)

Translation skill

Literary appreciation skill

Cultural understanding

Independently presentations/speeches/talks/ to work on Area study topics

Materials (Radhakrishnan):

“Intermediate Tamil” (Print materials)

“Intermediate Tamil” (Audio CD)

“Conversion Rules for Tamil: Written → Spoken” (print with lots of exercises)

“Pictorial Learning”

In the “Intermediate Tamil” book variety of passages on various language and cultural aspects of Tamil heritage are found. These passages are designed to inculcate interest among the learners of Tamil for further learning of Tamil and understanding of Tamil culture.

The beginners through one year Tamil learning learned the basic skills of language learning, graded structures, and a quite handsome amount of vocabulary. Through the first year courses the learners are motivated to think more about the real functional use of Tamil for their future aims and goals. Hence the “Intermediate Tamil” book aims to explain the complex structures of Tamil in detail and their use; thus helps the learners to develop higher order skills for effective language use. The major focus of the “Intermediate Tamil” is vocabulary development, translation practice, and development of literary appreciation skill, increased cultural understanding and much more.

Each lesson is structure free and includes a glossary, grammatical notes, exercises, assignments, and cultural or historical notes wherever needed. All the lessons in the book, “Intermediate Tamil” are on CD to practice reading and increase reading speed. Each lesson is read three times with different speed (slow reading with a gap to repeat; with little speed with a gap to repeat and to normal speed with gap to repeat).

At the beginning, a sample conjugation list of strong and weak verbs are given. Following the verb conjugation, “Tamil Conversion Rules” are provided with suitable examples, exercises and tests to work and practice for easy understanding of the written and spoken dichotomy that persists in Tamil. The lessons in “Intermediate Tamil” are on different interesting topics, like festivals, short stories, letters, stories, modern poems, Tamil etiquette, village temple festival, literary personalities, and reading comprehension passages. At the end, a translation part is included to translate. This will help the learners to evaluate their understanding of the basic Tamil structures. Finally, an exhaustive list of useful vocabulary on 28 different culture bound topics is provided for the learners to work with it for vocabulary development, their use and increased cultural understanding.

Learners are expected to keep the print lessons (seven lessons for this semester) before them and listen carefully the audio CD and repeat each and every lesson many times till they reach normal reading speed.

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend every class. Class attendance is mandatory for all classes and counted towards final grade. Absences are excused only with a signed medical excuse or by prior arrangement with the Instructor. Attendance will be noted from the first day of class.

Homework (HW):

In total **5** home-works will be there for the course (Exercises in the core print lessons form part of homework). Homework is due on the day specified by the Instructor in the class. Late submission leads to reduction in final grade (5 points will be off per home-work per day).

Oral presentation:

During the term each student will make 1 presentation of 10-14 minutes each on topics of their choice or on an assigned topic. A week before the presentation, the presenters are expected to submit a list of new words that they plan to use in the presentation together with English meanings and discuss with the Instructor. The presentation copy should be given to all the classmates on the day of presentation.

Essays: There will be **4** essays assigned. Essays should be submitted on the date indicated. Late submission leads to reduction in final grade (5 points will be off per home-work per day).

Tests: There will be **3** tests during the semester.

Exam: During the semester there will be **2** exams for the semester each lasting two to two and half hours.

Grading:

Grading is on a straight scale. Weights assigned to each activity are as follows:

Attendance (43x5) ...	215
Homework (5x20) ...	100
Essays (4x 20) ...	80
Tests (3x25) ...	75
Presentation (1) ...	75
Conversation	155
Exam	300

Total . . .	1000 (this total will be worked out for 100 for final grade)

GRADING SCALE:

A = 90 – 100; B = 80 – 89; C = 70 – 79; D = 60 – 69; 59% and below 59% Fail

For details of class activities see Bb.

TAM 312K

Tentative schedule of activities

WEEK	Days	Month	Activities
0	W, F	Aug.	Revision of Basic course Structures* Verb conjugation Conversion Rules Spoken - Written
1	W, F	Sept.	HW 1 due Structure Revision Conversion Rules Spoken -Written Test 1 (Friday)-Spoken/Written; verb conjugations, Basic structures, translation of simple sentences
2	MWF	Sept.	Lesson 1 Spoken -Written
3	MWF	Sept.	HW 2 due Spoken –Written Read Faster Lesson 2
4	MWF	Sept.	Test 2 (Monday)-Lessons 1 & 2 Lesson 3 Dictation Read Faster (clips)
5	MWF	Sept.-Oct.	HW 3 due Modern poem 9 Dictation Exam 1 (Friday)-1 through 4 weeks portions
6	MWF	Oct.	Lesson 4 Read Faster (clips) Dictation
7	MWF	Oct.	Silent movie (Essay 1) Test 3 (Friday)-weeks 6-7
8	MWF	Oct.	Movie Silent movie-write description of the events seen and tell the events (Essay 2) Read Faster (clips)
9	MWF	Oct.	HW 4 due Listening Tamil video List the vocabulary Comprehend the content

10	MWF	Nov.	Lesson 7 Read Faster (clips) Reading Comprehension 15 Exam 2 (Friday) - weeks 6 through 9
11	MWF	Nov.	HW 5 due Listening comprehension Read Faster (clips) Tamil movie-Culture- 'Karakattakkaaran' and a clip (Essay 3)
12	MWF	Nov.	Listening comprehension Reading Test News paper Tamil- reading from Web
13	MWF	Nov.	Reading (audio CD) Audio: Tamil Arts: Listening and comprehension (Essay 4) List the vocabulary Comprehend the content
14	MWF	Dec.	Presentation (Monday) Revision/discussion Submission of all exercises and assignments

GOOD LUCK!

*** REVISION CLASSES INCLUDES:**

Script/Alphabet:

Tests and Exercises to write Tamil alphabets

Dictation (daily)

Basic structures (Introductory Tamil):

NP+NP: Equitation type

Nouns: Animate/inanimate; human/non-human

Pronouns and oblique forms

Question form (yes/no), Tag, -aa

Adjectives (Base, derived, numeral, and demonstrative)

Numerals

Case: Possessive/Genitive

Nominalization (Adj. and Genitive)

Sandhi rules:

y and v glide

Doubling (k, c, t, p)

NP+VP: Predicative type

Verbs: simple

Verb (strong/weak)

Tense (tense markers)

PNG markers

FV

Cases (locative, dative, objective)

Defective verbs

Permissive

Infinitives

Transitive/intransitive

Cases revision: Objective (direct/indirect objects), Locative

Ablative of motion

Associative

Instrumental

Future Subjunctive

AjP. (RP): Present, Past, Future, Negative

PN (Pr., Pa., Fut. –patikkiravan, patittavan, patippavan; Negative PN: patikkaatavan)

AvP. (VP): Positive (having), negative (without.....)

Conditional clause: Positive (if.....), Negative (if not

Concessive (patittaalum)-even if.....

Concessive negative (patikkaavittaalum) – even if not

Hortative (patittum) - even though.....

Hortative (patikkaamaliruntum) – even though not

Gerund Pr. (patikkiratu) – the act of (Pr.)

Gerund Pa. (patittatu) – the act of (Past)

Gerund Fut. (patikkum)

- It is to be noted here that the future AjP form is the proper gerund future form but the present gerund form is used commonly for Gerund Fut.

Verbal noun (patittal) act of (Here, there is no tense significance comparing with Gerund)

Perfect verb (Structure: AvP+iru)

Progressive verb (Structure: AvP+kontiru)

Reflexive verb (AvP+kol): past tense marker is –l-

Causative is conveyed using V. Inf. + vai/cey

Passive verb (V. Inf. +patu)

Practice on Verb conjugation exercises

I

Use of Connectors

II

Conversion:

Written → Spoken

Class work, exercises, tests

III

Class room activities/meetings:

Text Lessons

Audio materials (listening comprehension): topics on different topics

Project: paper and presentation

IV

Extra activities: Outside class hours:

Watching Tamil movies (listening comprehension: culture, content, language)

Web materials (Radio, Tamil newspaper, BBC Tamil news)

Family visit-community interactions

Other projects done for learning Tamil by other institutions