

B.A. in LINGUISTICS

Gauhati University

Course Structure for Regular Programme (UG-CBCS)

(as approved in the Academic Council held on 08-11-2019)

Course structure for B.A. Regular Programme(UG-CBCS)
(with Linguistics as part of the CORE/DSE/GEN Courses)

Semester	CORE (12)	Ability Enhancement Compulsory Course (AECC) (2)	Skill Enhancement Course (SEC) (2)	Discipline Specific Elective (DSE) (4)	Generic Elective (GEN) (2)
I	ENG-CC-1016	ENG-AE-1014 / ASM-AE-1014			
	LIN- RC-1016 Language and Linguistics				
	ZZZ-RC-1016				
II	ENG-CC-2016	ENV-AE-2014			
	LIN –RC-2016 Levels of Linguistic Analysis				
	ZZZ-RC-2016				
III	MIL/ALT-CC-3016		SEC-SE-3XX4		
	LIN-RC-3016 Structure of Assamese I: Phonology				
	ZZZ-RC-3016				
IV	MIL/ALT-CC-4016		SEC-SE-4XX4		
	LIN-RC-4016 Structure of Assamese II: Grammar				
	ZZZ-RC-4016				
V			SEC-SE-5XX4	LIN-RE-5016 Linguistic Fieldwork and Language Documentation LIN-RE-5026 Literacy and Mother Tongue Based Multilingual Education	GEN-RG-5016 / LIN- RC-1016 Language and Linguistics
VI			SEC-SE-6XX4	LIN-RE-6016 Languages of Assam LIN-RE-6026 Language in Literature and Society	GEN-RG-6016/ LIN –RC-2016 Levels of Linguistic Analysis

**The UG CBCS Linguistics Curriculum:
Detailed Syllabi**

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II/VI	LIN –RC-2016 / GEN-RG-6016	Levels of Linguistic Analysis	3
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IV	LIN-RC-4016	Structure of Assamese II: Grammar	5
V	LIN-RE-5016	Linguistic Fieldwork and Language Documentation	6
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VI	LIN-RE-6016	Languages of Assam	8
	LIN-RE-6026	Language in Literature and Society	9

Course description :

The purpose of this course is to introduce the students to the basic concepts of linguistics, such as the characteristics of human language, the structure of human language at different levels like the sound system(phonology), the processes of word formation(morphology), the structure of sentence(syntax), and the study of meaning and related notions.

Objectives :

The main objectives of this course are:

1. to introduce students to the basic notions about language and linguistics
2. to make students familiar with the structure of human language

Course outcomes:

At the end of this course, the following outcomes will be expected:

1. Students will have the knowledge of different concepts related to language and linguistics.
2. Students will know the role of pronunciation, grammar and meaning in the structure of human language.

Evaluation plan:

Internal assessment: The Continuous assessment will carry 20% of the total marks. This assessment will include (i) mid-semester exam, (ii) class attendance, (iii) class assignment and group discussion.

End-of-Semester Exam: It will carry 80% of the total marks.

Course content

Units	Topics	Credit hours
1	The uniqueness of human language; the grammatical backbone; language and meaning; variation in language; change in language; language in use; attitudes to language	10
2	The sounds of language (phonetics); the sound patterns of language (phonology)	12
3	The word of language (morphology); the sentence patterns of language (syntax)	18
4	The meanings of language (semantics)	10
5	Some key concepts: diachrony and synchrony, syntagmatic and paradigmatic relations, langue and parole, competence and performance, traditional grammar, descriptive linguistics and transformational grammar	25
6	Group discussion, presentations, assignments	15
	Total	90

Suggested texts:

1. Matthews, P.H.(2003) *Linguistics: a very short introduction*. Oxford University Press
2. Trask, R.L. (1995) *Language: the basics*. Routledge. (Indian edition)

LIN-RC-2016 / GEN-RG-6016
Levels of Linguistic Analysis

Course description :

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to linguistic analysis of different levels of a language: the sound system (phonetics and phonology), the structure of words (morphology), the structure of phrases and sentences (syntax), the study of meaning (semantics).

Objectives: The main objectives are:

1. To familiarize students to different levels of linguistic analysis
2. To make students explore the inter-relationship among different levels of linguistic analysis.

Course outcomes:

At the end of this course, students will:

1. have the knowledge of different levels of linguistic analysis
2. acquire the analytic skill to do preliminary analysis of different levels of language, such as, phonology, morphology etc.

Evaluation plan:

Internal assessment: The Continuous assessment will carry 20% of the total marks. This assessment will include (i) mid-semester exam, (ii) class attendance, (iii) class assignment and group discussion.

End-of-Semester Exam: It will carry 80% of the total marks.

Course content

Units	Topics	Credit hours
1	Levels of linguistic analysis	10
2	Phonetics and phonology : sound- system in language general and language particular, consonants and vowels, IPA symbols, phonemes, allophones, syllables, stress	20
3	Morphology: morphemes and allomorphs, derivation and inflection, morphophonemics,	10
4	Syntax: word classes, constituent analysis, phrases (NPs, VPs etc.), clauses (simple, compound and complex)	20
5	Semantics: types of meaning, lexical semantics (sense relationship, polysemy, antonymy etc.)	15
6	Group discussion, presentations, assignments	15
	Total	90

Suggested texts:

1. Fromkin, V., R. Rodman and N. Hyams (2003) *An Introduction to Language*. Heinle and Thompson
2. Kroeger, P.R. (2005) *Analyzing Grammar: An Introduction*. Cambridge University Press
3. Ladefoged, P. (2001), *Vowels and consonants*. Blackwell.

LIN-RC-3016**Structure of Assamese I: Phonology****Prerequisites :**

LIN-RC-1016 (Language and Linguistics) and LIN-RC-2016 (Levels of Linguistic Analysis)

Course description

The focus of this course is to introduce students to different aspects of sound system of Assamese language such as vowels, consonants, syllable structures etc.

Objectives:

The main objectives of this course are:

1. to help students gain familiarity about the sound system of Assamese language.
2. to make students aware of the importance of different aspects of sound system in producing the language.

Course outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will be able to

1. gain the detailed knowledge of the sound system of Assamese.
2. describe and classify the speech sounds in Assamese.

Evaluation plan:

Internal assessment: The Continuous assessment will carry 20% of the total marks. This assessment will include (i) mid-semester exam, (ii) class attendance, (iii) class assignment and group discussion.

End-of-Semester Exam: It will carry 80% of the total marks.

Course content

Units	Topics	Credit hours
1	The vowel phonemes, monophthong, diphthong	15
2	The consonant phonemes: stops, fricatives, sonorants	20
3	Vowel patterns: Assamese syllable types; Consonant patterns: Assamese consonants phonotactics	20
4	Morphophonemics (word-level phonology of Assamese), stress and intonation	25
5	Group discussion, presentations, assignments	10
	Total	90

Suggested texts:

1. Goswami, G. C. (1982). *Structure of Assamese*. G.U. Press
2. Goswami, G. C. and J. Tamuli (2003/7) Asamiya. In Cardona, G. and Jain, D. (eds.) *The Indo Aryan Languages*. London: Routledge, pp. (391-443)

Prerequisites :

LIN-RC-1016 (Language and Linguistics) and LIN-RC-2016 (Levels of Linguistic Analysis)

Course description :

The course aims to provide the students a detailed description of morphological and syntactic structure of Assamese language.

Objectives : This course will help the students to

1. know the morphological structure of Assamese
2. acquire the knowledge of sentence structures in Assamese

Course outcomes: At the end of this course, the students will be able to.

1. Identify the structure of Assamese morphology and syntax
2. Describe different grammatical parts at morphological and syntactic levels.

Evaluation plan:

Internal assessment: The Continuous assessment will carry 20% of the total marks. This assessment will include (i) mid-semester exam, (ii) class attendance, (iii) class assignment and group discussion.

End-of-Semester Exam: It will carry 80% of the total marks.

Course content

Units	Topics	Credit hours
1	A. Morphology (i) Morphological structure of Assamese words: root, stem, affixation (inflectional and derivational)	15
2	(ii) Nominal morphology: deixis, classifiers, case, number, pronouns	15
3	(iii) Verbal morphology: finite forms, non-finite forms, negation	15
4	B. Syntax (i) Word order, subjects and predicates	10
5	(ii) Phrase structure - noun phrases, verb phrases	10
	(iii) Clauses – simple, compound and complex clauses	10
6	Group discussion, presentations, assignments	15
	Total	90

Suggested texts:

3. Matthews, P.H.(2003) *Linguistics: a Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press
4. Trask, R.L. (1995) *Language: the Basics*. Routledge. (Indian edition)
5. Goswami, G. C. and J. Tamuli (2003/7) Asamiya. In Cardona, G. and Jain, D. (eds.) *The Indo Aryan Languages*. London: Routledge, pp. (391-443)

Course description :

This course is concerned with theoretical concepts of linguistic fieldwork and language documentation. The main purpose of this course is to make students aware of relevant aspects of documenting language and doing fieldwork. This course also focuses on how the language documentation is important in the context of Assam.

Objectives :

The course will enable students to:

1. build a theoretical background of linguistic fieldwork and language documentation.
2. develop an awareness of the documentation of minority and unattended languages of Assam

Course outcomes:

After doing this course, students will be able to:

1. understand the basics of doing fieldwork and documenting a language.
2. observe the issues relating to the language endangerment and apply the introduced notions in the context of Assam.

Evaluation plan:

Internal assessment: The Continuous assessment will carry 20% of the total marks. This assessment will include (i) mid-semester exam, (ii) class attendance, (iii) class assignment and group discussion.

End-of-Semester Exam: It will carry 80% of the total marks.

Course content

Units	Topics	Credit hours
1	What is language documentation? The need for language documentation, the procedure of documenting languages	10
2	What is fieldwork? The importance of doing fieldwork, processes of doing fieldwork, the responsibility of fieldworkers, approaches to fieldwork	20
3	The nature of language data, modes and methods of collecting data: introspection, questionnaires and interviews, spontaneous data	20
4	Good practices in proactively engaging with concerned language speaking communities in a post-colonialist scenario	10
5	The issue of language endangerment considered globally and in the context of Assam; in this context, the need for language documentation as an important aspect of language description	15
6	Group discussion, presentations, assignments	15
	Total	90

Suggested texts

1. Harrison, David.(2008). *When Languages Die*. Oxford University press
2. Newman, Paul and Ratliff, Martha, (Eds.) (2001). *Linguistic Fieldwork*. Cambridge University Press.

Course description:

This course focuses on two important aspects relating to the area of language, i.e, literacy and multilingualism. It discusses the role of language in literacy development in the context of the languages of Assam.

Objectives:

The main objectives of this course are:

1. to introduce students to the important aspects of literacy and multilingualism.
2. to make students aware of the importance of promoting literacy in the mother tongue and other tongues with reference to the multi-lingual context of Assam
3. to make students identify the issues and challenges associated with the transition from the mother tongue to the language of wider communication.

Course outcomes:

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. understand the basic notions of literacy and multi-lingual education.
2. identify the need of promoting literacy in the mother tongue in multi-lingual education.
3. identify and analyze the issues and challenges regarding the transition from the mother tongue to the language of wider communication.

Evaluation plan:

Internal assessment: The Continuous assessment will carry 20% of the total mark . This assessment will include (i) mid-semester exam, (ii) class attendance, (iii) class assignment and group discussion

End-of-Semester Exam: It will carry 80% of the total marks.

Course content

Units	Topics	Credit hours
1	What is literacy? Ways of developing literacy	10
2	The functional definition of literacy in the context of the language of Assam; the need and rationale for creating educational opportunities of the speakers of minority language community of Assam	20
3	What is multilingualism? Factors contributing to multilingualism.	10
4	Mother-tongue based multi-lingual education (MTB-MLE): rationale, methodology, case studies	20
5	Transition from the mother tongue to the language of wider communication(LWC): issues and challenges	15
6	Group discussion, presentations, assignments	15
	Total	90

Suggested texts:

1. Edward, V (2009) *Learning to be Literate: Multilingual Perspectives*. Bristol: Multilingual Matters
2. Stringer, M and N. Faraclas (2001) *Working Together for Literacy*. Kangaroo Ground: SIL Australia
3. UNESCO Bangkok. 2008 *Improving the Quality of Mother Tongue-based Literacy and Learning*. UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education. (Available for download freely at <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000177738>)

Course description:

This course aims to introduce students with the languages spoken in different parts of Assam. It covers ethnographic, demographic and linguistic descriptions of each language that belongs to different language families in Assam, namely, Indo-Aryan, Tibeto-Burman, Austro-Asiatic and Tai families.

Objectives:

The main objectives of this course are:

1. to enable students to have an idea of the languages of Assam.
2. to make students aware of ethnographic, demographic and linguistic status of different language families.

Course outcomes: At the end of the course, students:

1. will have the knowledge about the languages of Assam.
2. will know how Assam is ethnographically, demographically and linguistically diverse.

Evaluation plan:

Internal assessment: The Continuous assessment will carry 20% of the total mark. This assessment will include (i) mid-semester exam, (ii) class attendance, (iii) class assignment and group discussion

End-of-Semester Exam: It will carry 80% of the total marks.

Course content

Units	Topics	Credit hours
1	Languages of Assam : an introduction	10
2	Language families of Assam	10
3	Indo-Aryan language family: its ethnographic, demographic and linguistic description	20
4	Tibeto-Burman language family: its ethnographic, demographic and linguistic description	20
5	Austro-Asiatic language family: its ethnographic, demographic and linguistic description	15
6	Tai family: its ethnographic, demographic and linguistic description	15
	Total	90

Suggested texts:

1. Burling, R.(2003) *The Language of ModhupurMandi*. Michigan Publishing, University of Michigan Library.
2. Cardona, G. andD. Jain (2003)*The Indo-Aryan Languages*.Routledge.
3. Joseph, U. V. (2007)*Rabha*. Leiden, Boston: Brill
4. Morey, S. (2008) *The Tai Languages of Assam*. ANU: Pacific Linguistics

Course description:

The purpose of this course is to show how the study of language can contribute to the understanding of literature and society. It will also provide an explanation of different concepts relating to the areas of stylistics and sociolinguistics.

Objectives:

The main objectives of the course are:

1. to provide students a theoretical knowledge to the study of stylistics and sociolinguistics.
2. to help students to observe the role of different social factors in the emergence of language variations.

Course outcomes:

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. acquire a basic idea of the stylistic analysis of different literary texts.
2. observe the relationship between language and society.
3. identify the language varieties triggered by social factors.

Evaluation plan:

Internal assessment: The Continuous assessment will carry 20% of the total mark . This assessment will include (i) mid-semester exam, (ii) class attendance, (iii) class assignment and group discussion.

End-of-Semester Exam: It will carry 80% of the total marks.

Course content

Units	Topics	Credit hours
1	Stylistics: an introduction	10
2	The language of literature as an object of enquiry: stylistic analysis of literary texts (prose, poetry, novel etc.)	20
3	Sociolinguistics: definition and the related concepts	10
4	The place of language in society and of society in language	15
5	Language in social context: language, dialect, idiolect; multilingual society: pidgin, creole, mixed language	20
6	Assignment, group discussion, presentation	15
	Total	90

Suggested texts:

1. Fromkin, V., R. Rodman and N. Hyams (2003) *An Introduction to Language*. Heinle and Thompson
2. Trudgill, P. (2001) *Sociolinguistics*. Penguin
3. Turner, G. W. (1987) *Stylistics*. Penguin Books, Limited.