Primary Instructor : Vidhu Shekhar Chaturvedi (vsc276)

#### Course

This is accelerated First Year Hindi Course. This is a multi-section and limited enrollment course.

This course is meant for students who have had some familiarity with the Hindi language, and who can, understand and speak Hindi with **limited** comprehension and proficiency. They may, or may not be familiar with the Devanāgarī (Hindi) Script. **Students who have passed 604 and 612 will be expected to proceed to HIN 330 classes rather than to second-year Hindi language classes**.

If an applicant's proficiency level in all four skills (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking) is close to Intermediate High- Advance Level according to the ACTFL Guidelines (available in the web), they should not apply for this course. Such applicants must opt for higher level courses in Hindi according to their proficiency level. **Misrepresentation of proficiency level during placement will severely affect the final grade as such a misrepresentation shall be considered to be a case of scholastic dishonesty.** This course is also not open to students who have passed HIN 506 but have been placed in a higher level Hindi course to match their **proficiency level**.

With material especially designed for this course, one has plenty of opportunity to play with and explore the language and its parent culture. The course creates an intellectually stimulating atmosphere by drawing on varied academic interests of the participants. Through a combination of graded texts, written assignments, audio-visual material including but not limited to contemporary Hindi films and songs, TV Clips and computer based assignments, this course is geared towards increasing oral, aural, written and reading proficiency in the target language. Emphasis is placed on spontaneous self-expression in the language.

#### **Course Objectives and Means to Achieve those Objectives**

Naturally, the course objective is to acquire and improve proficiency in all four skills of the target language while striving to become well familiar with the cultural contexts in which Hindi is used.

#### Listening

Acquiring the ability to understand simple to complex Everyday Conversation, Films, Songs Radio and TV Programs. A number of various **authentic Hindi materials** will be used.

We will begin by using in the class short and entertaining clips (2-5 minutes) of

Film Scenes (clips) and Songs

Interesting TV programs

Advertisements and Announcements, Hindi Voice Mails

Dialogues from Radio Drama

Segments of the Lokaruci Samācār (entertaining news items) from the All India Radio

We will then move on from shorter to longer clips to full length movie / program.

Such materials may also be used for assignments, quiz and tests.

## **Speaking**

Discussion and conversation will be an important part of each class.

Even when we are working on written or audio visual materials students will be expected to answer in Hindi questions pertaining to the general idea and theme of the material.

The objectives will be

- Acquiring the ability to handle simple to complex situations and express oneself.
- Acquiring the ability to discuss within the context of given audio visual and written materials.
- Acquiring the ability to converse on a given topic.

To reach these objectives we will have in class activities like

- Tell a joke to the class (in Hindi, of course)
- Model, situational conversation (as in a bookshop / at a railway station / airport / asking for directions)
- Real conversations
- Discussions on a material used in the class
- Discussion on a given topic
- Short Presentations (my family, my friend, my favorite move) and question answer sessions based on such presentations
- Easy Projects like recording and then presenting short interviews with Hindi speaking people
- Final Oral Presentation on a topic of your choice

### Reading

We will **begin with the script slowly at first** but will move quickly to paragraph length narratives. The objective will be acquiring the ability to read simple to complex reading materials like -

- Billboards
- Advertisements and Announcements
- Anecdotes, Jokes, Tangy Idioms
- Communications real life or contrived letters / mails
- Oialogues
- Short Stories
- Segment of newspaper / magazine articles and full length news items

In other words, lots of authentic Hindi materials will be used for this course, besides the textbook.

#### Writing

Acquiring the ability to write simple to complex texts like

**Short Notes** 

Letters

Applications

**Journals** 

Short, simple critique and description of reading and audio visual material, of events

Short essays

## **Grammar and Vocabulary**

We will mostly learn contextual grammar, that is, grammar used in a model conversation or in a material being used in the class. However, **formal grammar lessons** will also be given when and as necessary and drills to assimilate those lessons will be done in the classroom. Students' command of the grammar will be assessed and tested through home works, quizzes and tests. We will cover as many topics / chapters of the book as will be naturally covered by the contextual grammar learnt with various materials.

Students will be encouraged to ask for words, meanings of words at any given time in the classroom or even through e-mail. However, vocabulary acquisition during the course will be students' responsibility mainly. Students will be expected to note down new words used in materials, by classmates or teachers in the class and maintain a notebook of important glossary.

#### **Text**

Textual, audio and audio visual material developed / selected for this course will be given out in class weekly or posted on the class Blackboard page (<a href="https://courses.utexas.edu/webapps/login/">https://courses.utexas.edu/webapps/login/</a>).

When posted on Blackboard an announcement will be sent.

#### Required Grammar Reference (Textbook)

'Teach Yourself Complete Hindi' by Dr. Rupert Snell and Simon Weightman, with audio back up

We will cover as many topics / chapters of the book as will be naturally covered by the contextual grammar learnt with various materials.

#### **Optional Reference**

McGregor, R.S., "Oxford Hindi-English Dictionary", latest edition.

Anand, I.N., "The Modern English-Hindi Dictionary", latest edition.

### **Weekly Schedules**

It is important to remember that there is no set formula for all learners to acquire a language.

Each learner of the language has a different pace of learning and need for focusing on particular skill / skills e.g., Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening along with the Vocabulary Acquisition and Grammatical Accuracy. **Hence flexibility of schedule is imperative.** 

Since the weekly schedule may be modified as required, detailed weekly Schedule for the upcoming week shall be posted on Blackboard by the end of each week.

This is certain, however, that during the initial few weeks our focus will be on learning and mastering the script (reading and writing). Other activities will be secondary to it during the first few weeks.

## Requirements and Tips for Learning Hindi Language

- 1. In learning a foreign language, it is important to study EVERY DAY. Students are expected to spend at least one hour a day studying Hindi outside of class. Remember: Language-Learning requires much more learning than teaching.
- 2. Students are expected to come prepared, read appropriate textbook, do assignments on time and try to do the exercises and activities BEFORE classes. **PLEASE DO VIEW THE 'WEEKLY SCHEDULE'** on the BB regularly.
- 3. Students are required to *actively* participate in class and to use Hindi whenever possible.
- 4. They are expected to spend as much time as possible studying with **practice** tapes in the language lab and with the tapes that come with the textbook.
- 5. **Review:** Students are expected to develop a systematic way of **organizing and mastering** the **increasingly** large amounts of materials for which they will be responsible.

  Language Learning requires constant **review** of **previously learned materials.**

#### **GRADING**

Each student is evaluated on his/her own merit. The final grade is based on the level of proficiency attained by the student, taking into account the student's overall progress and improvement over the course of the semester as reflected in the categories listed below. This is determined as follows:

## Class participation: 15%

This includes your preparation for and participation in class including sessions conducted by the TA. Although attendance per se is not used to determine the grade, please be mindful that class participation is not possible without attending the class. Active participation includes meaningful participation. Disruptive behavior such as irrelevant jokes, bursting into songs, making side

remarks just to get attention, etc. is considered a lack of participation and is recorded as reduced score for class participation. The class participation grade will be recorded bi-weekly.

## **■** Home Works & Weekly Journals: 25%

- This includes all assignments handed out/discussed in class and/or posted on the class assignment link on the Blackboard. It is the students' responsibility to check the Blackboard regularly.
- Starting the FIRST week of classes a লিব্ৰ (creative writing / journal writing) is due each
  Thursday. Students are expected to write their journals neatly on ruled letter sized paper with a
  margin an reasonable lined spacing fore feedback and corrections in double space. Occasionally, for
  a particular week, a topic may be specified. If no topic is specified students are free to write on any
  topic of their choice. Sloppy and messy works will receive only half credit. Corrected / reviewed
  journals will be returned on Tuesdays.
- At the end of the semester, Home Works and Journals will be equally weighted, i.e. HW will be weighted as half of the 25% assigned to this category, and lekh will be weighted as half of the 25% assigned to this category.
- Home works and Journals need to be turned in on time to receive full credit.

## **Quizzes: 10%**

This includes both, scheduled quizzes and pop-quizzes given over the course of the semester. Dates of scheduled quizzes shall be posted on the class Blackboard page starting 2<sup>nd</sup> week of semester.

**Exams: 20% (2 @ 10% each)** 

This includes 2 schedu	uled mid-term	exams, administer	ed over the course	e of the semester:
Proposed Dates				

# **☑** Individual Project (Final Oral Presentation): 10%

Towards the conclusion of semester students are expected to work on an individual project of their choice which they shall present to the class during the last week of classes. Guidelines shall be discussed in class.

Final Exam: 20%

This includes a 3 hour cumulative final exam during the final exam period. The date of the exam shall be determined by the Registrar. Schedule of the exam shall be posted on the class Blackboard page once available from the registrar.

### **Final Grades**

The final grades shall be based on the +/- grading scale recommended by the Department of Asian Studies :

<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Grade</u>
92-100	A
89-91	A-
86-88	B+
82-85	В
79-81	B-
76-78	C+
72-75	C
69-71	C-
66-68	D+
62-65	D
59-61	D-
0-58	F

#### **Disability Accommodations**

Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodation should contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (Video Phone) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations. Accommodation for students with disabilities will be provided if the student identifies himself/herself to the instructor at the beginning of the course. The student will need to register with SSD and present the instructor with an official letter from the SSD office. For further details, see the guidelines at <a href="http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/register.php">http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/register.php</a>

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