TAM 506: Syllabus
INTRODUCTORY TAMIL I

MEETING DAYS:
FACULTY: Sankaran Radhakrishnan Ph.D.
Office hours:

Course Description:
TAM 506 provides first year training in Tamil-I (First Semester). The class meets five hours per week and carries five hours of credit. Tamil alphabets will be introduced for 16 hours in the first 16 classes and introduction to Tamil language, land, traditions, socio-cultural importance, traditions of grammar, religions, literatures etc., are for two hours. While learning Tamil alphabets, also the learners will learn to speak in Tamil and they are introduced to Tamil language structure patterns. After 18 hours of classes, learners are thorough with alphabets and know considerable number of Tamil words. They are able to write and read Tamil. Daily, there will a dictation (5-10 words) in the classroom for students. Learning Tamil continues in Tamil for the rest of the semester. Drill practice, reading, speaking etc. will be done in the following classes after introduction of a theme (through a lesson). Usually, one hour per week will be devoted to introduction, one hour for reading and conversation;, one hour listening and drills of various kinds and revision. See the schedule of activities for more details.

The course aims at developing proficiency in the four basic skills of language learning: namely, writing, reading, listening and speaking. The book on the script aims at imparting proficiency in the writing and reading skills of Tamil and vocabulary development. The course-pack materials aimed at imparting proficiency in listening and speaking and Tamil culture extensively. Classroom discussions about the aspects of language and culture make the learning more interesting and fun. The materials cover the basic structures of Tamil used for certain identified topics of common interest. Lessons are presented in the form of conversations. Audio, video support materials like the lessons on audiocassettes with drills, movie clips/movies, pictures will be used in the class.

Objectives (for one year):
At the end of the course students should be able to:
I
- Perceive and reproduce the sounds and their meaningful sequences, that is:
  - Identify the sounds in their meaningful sequence,
  - Discriminate the sounds in meaningful sequence,
  - Reproduce the sounds in meaningful sequence.
II
- Able to form sentences orally from given patterns and lexical items.
  - Able to participate in basic communicative exchanges by relying heavily on learned materials.
  - Able to understand short, learned utterances and some sentence-length utterances about familiar topics. Comprehends simple questions, statements, high-frequency commands, and courtesy formulae. May be able to do rephrasing, and/or a slowed rate of speech for comprehension.
  - Able to interpret written language on familiar topics. Can read for instructional and directional purposes, standardized messages, phrases, or expressions, such as some items on menus, schedules, timetables, maps, and signs.
  - Able to copy or transcribe familiar words, biographic information (e.g., names, dates,
nationality), some short phrases and simple lists. Can write all the symbols in an alphabetic or syllabic system or 50-100 characters or compounds in a character writing system. Spelling and representation of symbols may be

**Materials:** (S. Radhakrishnan)
1. Tamil Script Book by
   Inside the book:
   Introduction to Tamil language, cultures, land, literatures, religion, etc., Feed Back, Tamil alphabets in 18 Frames, List of vocabulary and more.
2. Tamil Pronunciation/drills (audio)
3. Course-pack
4. Read Faster (video)
5. Pictorial Learning
   There may be more additional Xeroxed materials for class-work, reading, listening, comprehension, dictation, and pictorial learning in the class.

**Attendance:**
Students are expected to attend every class. Class attendance is mandatory for all classes (M- F).
Students are allowed three unexcused absences. After three absences, each additional absence will be counted towards final grade and affect the final grade. However, for unavoidable reasons if arrangement is made in advance with the instructor.

**Homework:**
During script learning period, there will be homework everyday. As soon a particular Frame (Script lesson) is completed, the learners are expected to complete the exercises (at home) for the Frame from the 'Tamil Script Book' and submit in the next class day to the instructor.
Submission of completed script book exercises by the students is **compulsory** everyday. This is for the first 16 days or till the exercises in the Tamil Script Book are completed. On time submission of exercises is considered towards final grade.
Late homework will not be accepted.

As mentioned before, while learning Tamil alphabets, the learners will also learn to speak. After 16 hours of learning Tamil alphabets, the learners will know more about the Tamil through all situational lessons on interesting and interactive conversations. Exercises for the lessons are assigned as homework. Students are expected to complete the exercises part from the lessons without fail. The entire exercises and whole language learning environment in the class will be really interesting. The Script Book exercises and the Structure lesson exercises carry points and will be included for final grade.

**Conversation/Weekly tests:**
Written and oral Weekly tests form part of the course. During the course each student will make attempt to speak in Tamil and take five to six tests (Script and Structure). Few pop quizzes may be there too.

**Exams:** During the semester there will be two exams lasting one hour to one and half hours. There will be one three hours final exam for the course.

**Grading:** Weights assigned to each activity are as follows:
Attendance: (72x4) 288  
Homework: 142  
Conversation/Participation 100  
Week Tests (6x20) 120  
Exams (2x50) 100  
Final exam 200  
Total 1000  
(This total will be worked out for 100 for final grade)

Printable Modules and Schedule of daily classroom activities for the Semester is on Bb.

For Bb:  
1. Schedule of daily classroom activities for the semester is on Bb.

TAM 506  
Tentative schedule of activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>W-F</td>
<td>Introduction to Tamil land, Language, culture, etc., Tamil Script introduction Tamil Script: Frames 1 and 2 Spoken Lesson 1 Conversation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>T-F</td>
<td>Frames 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 Spoken Lessons 2, 3 Weekly Test 1 Conversation</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>M-F</td>
<td>Frames 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 Spoken Lessons 4, 5 Weekly Test 2 Conversation</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>M-F</td>
<td>Frames 14, 15, 16, 17 Spoken Lessons 6, 7, 8 Weekly Test 3 Conversation</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>M-F</td>
<td>Frame 18 Spoken Lesson 9, 10 Revision of Script Dictation Conversation</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>M-F</td>
<td>Exam 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Lessons</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>M-F</td>
<td>5-8</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>M-F</td>
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<td>M-F</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>M-F</td>
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<td>M-F</td>
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<td>M-F</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>M-F</td>
<td>29-32</td>
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Revision of Spoken lessons
Spoken and Structure Lessons 1-4
Conversation
Reading
Services for Students with Disabilities website (found here: http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/providing.php#)

GOOD LUCK!

WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO LEARN IN THE INTRODUCTORY TAMIL
(ONE SEMESTERS)

Phase I (TAM 506)
Introduction to Tamil language, culture, traditions etc.
Test-1 is based on the introduction materials.

1. Script/Alphabets 12-14 hours

2. Structure introduction 6-8 lessons during the script introduction
Simple sentences (NP+NP)
   Pronouns
   Emphatic marker
   Negative (No, Yes/No)
   Tag
   Different question forms (who, what, -aa, how many, which,
   Numerals (1-12): Cardinals, collectives, ordinals, universal
   Adjectives (base, numeral, derived, demonstrative)
   Case: Genitive
   Nominalization
   Basic Sandhi (glide-y/-v-)

CULTURES AND RELATED VOCABULARY ITEMS (kinship terms; household items; …):
STRUCTURAL PATTERS ARE LEARNT THROUGH CONTENT LESSONS.

Situational Lessons
Teacher-student Pronouns, question forms, respect forms…)
Other languages students
Mother tongue (Possessive, yes/no)
Good watch (Adjectives, time, numerals…)
Dome
In the classroom
First Prime minister of India
Umbrella
In the Dome
What nature is Radha?
House-number
Shopping

Who are you?
Do you own land?
Boundaries
Dress
Tanjavur is as beautiful as Madurai
How is weather now?

Rent a hotel-room
Hotel
Buy fruits
Restaurant
Do you know Tamil?

Friend’s house
Bus ticket
Board the bus

Market
Kanyakumari
Receiving a friend
See off a friend

Home assignment
Food items in the restaurant
Buy a Sari

Telegram
Leaving house
Kitchen

Where did you studied?
When did you join the job?
Will you give this book to him?

Guide
Laboratory

Recommendation
Don’t worry much

Homework
What we do? (Body parts)
Are you OK? - Meeting a doctor (Health)
With a servant
Cook
Teach Tamil
Duties

Examinations
When is coming…

Learn Tamil
Invite a friend
Loan
Expect a guest
Do you read Marathi?
I play in the morning

Enquiry
Movie
Railway station
Rameswaram
Conversation
Story (crow-fox)

**Guided composition:**
Train
New York
Market
Mind
Marriage

**Reading comprehension:**
 depends on weight
The king who changed his mind
‘kozukkattai’- a dish
Letter
Guest