University of Mumbai

Syllabus for the M. Phil Programme in Linguistics  
w.e.f. 2013-2014

General Information

M. Phil is a two-year research oriented programme. It consists of three papers and a dissertation. Papers- I and II are compulsory papers. Paper- III has three options and any one option in this paper may be chosen by the student.

Paper- I : Research Methods in Linguistics (4 credits)

Paper – II : Current trends in Linguistics (4 credits)
   (i) Current trends in Phonology
   (ii) Current trends in Syntax
   (iii) Current trends in Semantics and Pragmatics

Paper – III : (i) Semiotic Theory and Practice (4 credits)
    OR
    (ii) Translation Studies: Issues & Perspectives (4 credits)
        OR
    (iii) Sociolinguistics: Issues & Perspectives (4 credits)

All the three papers will be taught for two semesters. Each paper will be evaluated in the following manner:
A] Home Assignment/ Project/ Seminar - 25 marks
B] Final examination at the end of the first two semesters - 75 marks

The passing marks for each paper would be 40/75. Only after passing the examinations in all the three theoretical papers, the candidate will be allowed to write the dissertation. The dissertation should be of at least 25,000 words and should be submitted following the rules of University of Mumbai. The student would get two semesters to write the dissertation. It should be submitted before the end of Semester IV. The dissertation would be evaluated out of 200 marks (150 marks for the written dissertation and 50 marks for viva-voce). The dissertation will be graded as per the existing guidelines of the University of Mumbai.

Admission and Eligibility

The candidates for the M. Phil. degree programme must have passed the Master’s Degree examination in Linguistics or in any other related discipline from the University of Mumbai or any other University recognized by the University of Mumbai with a minimum of fifty five percent marks and it is fifty percent in case of the candidates from reserved category. The Department will conduct an Entrance Test for the applicants for the M.Phil. programme which would be followed by an interview by the research supervisors of the Department. At the time of the interview the candidates are expected to discuss their research interest/area. During the current academic year the Department can admit only five M.Phil students as per the rules of the University.

The allocation of the supervisor for a selected student shall be decided by the Department in a formal manner depending on the number of student per faculty member, the available specialization among the faculty supervisors, and the research interest of the student as indicated by the student during the interview.

Syllabus for the M. Phil Programme in Linguistics
**Paper-I : Research Methods in Linguistics**

This course deals with theoretical, ethical and methodological issues that are central to research on language related issues and language teaching. It has been designed to help the student to develop an ability to obtain, organize, and analyze language related data. Empirical methods are explored with some attention given to data-driven quantitative methods employed in natural language analysis. The course includes language data collection, language corpora, and text classification, information extraction, tagging, and summarization. In addition students are introduced to data processing, analysis and management software tools such as Statistical Software Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS).

This course has also been designed to enable the student to
- develop a basic understanding of experimental designs.
- develop a general understanding of types of data in Linguistics.
- develop basic understanding of descriptive and inferential Statistics and how to apply them to analyze research data.
- develop an awareness of different software tools for analyzing data.
- develop an understanding of how to apply a particular software tool to analyze and present relevant data in linguistics.
- use different techniques to summarize qualitative and quantitative Linguistic data.

The course also introduces students to different aspects of academic writing.

**Recommended Readings**


**Paper-II : Current Trends in Linguistics**

(i) **Current trends in Phonology**
The course aims at introducing students to Optimality theory (OT) as a theory of phonology in terms of the following topics: the model, the constant families, and its sub-theories: correspondence theory, sympathy theory and harmonic serialism. Its goal is to develop in students the skills of analysis of using phonological data using OT theoretic methods, with a view to applying them to other linguistic components as well as other domains of study such as language perception, acquisition and change.

(ii) **Current trends in Syntax**
This course has been designed to enable students to investigate the syntactic properties of Indian languages from the perspective of linguistic minimalism. The objective here is to produce analyses that enrich our understanding of the design properties of language faculty as well as provide descriptively adequate accounts of the syntax and semantics of Indian languages.

(iii) **Current trends in Semantics and Pragmatics**
The course provides a detailed exploration of some major issues in current semantics and pragmatics. It explores the nature and scope of semantics and pragmatics and their place within Linguistics. Topics in semantics include: the nature and analysis of lexical meanings, the relationship between meaning and cognition, the relationship between semantics and grammar, and semantic change.
Topics in pragmatics include: speech act theory, politeness theory, implicature and presupposition.

This course is designed to read current primary literature in semantics and pragmatics; to formulate and evaluate analyses of linguistic data in the light of theoretical proposals; to reason critically; to identify and solve problems; to independently formulate and test hypotheses; and to compare and evaluate competing hypotheses and theories.

**Recommended Readings**

**PHONETICS**

**PHONOLOGY**

**SYNTAX**
**SEMANTICS**


**PRAGMATICS**


**Paper – III**

(i) **Semiotic Theory & Practice**

This course examines the various themes, concepts and techniques that constitute current semiotic theory. As an interdisciplinary field, semiotics has produced vast literature from many different points of view. The main objective of the course is to explore the main trends, ideas and figures of semiotics and to suggest how the enduring contribution of contemporary semiotics advances the understanding of the various discourses of the human world. The course focuses on the following topics:

A] Semiotics : Historical Context & Doctrinal Perspectives
B) Models of the sign

C] Types of Codes

D] Texts: Semiotic Approach

E] Context as Meaning: the Semiosic Dimension

F] Literary Semiotics and the doctrine of signs

**Recommended Readings**


(ii) **Translation Studies : Issues & Perspectives**

This course would present a critical analysis of the core and contemporary paradigms of translation theories and their implications for the practice of translation.

The course also aims to develop an understanding of translation in its social and cultural contexts, a grasp of the technological environment in which modern commercial and/or literary translating takes place, and, where applicable, practical translation skills involving selected language pairs.

**Recommended Readings**


University Press.


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**Sociolinguistics: Issues & Perspectives**

This course explores the relationship between theoretical linguistics and recent development in sociolinguistics. The key concerns in this area are linguistic heterogeneity, language contact and code-choice in different socio-cultural contexts and the various issues pertaining to linguistic identity. Studies of language dynamics (change, maintenance, shift) in multilingual, multicultural societies are given particular emphasis. Another important area included in this course is the role, function and status of tribal/minor languages vis-à-vis the more developed and relatively powerful languages of wider communication. This also includes studies of socio-educational deprivation, language inequality and attitudes towards languages and speech communities.

**Recommended Readings**


Coupland, L., Sarangi, S., and Candlin, C.. 2001. *Sociolinguistics and Social Theory*. Essex:
Pearson.
Heugh Kathleen Kangas Skutnabb Tove (Edt.).2010.*Multilingual Education Works From the Periphery to the Center*. Orient Blackswan.