

St. Joseph's University
Langford Road, Bangalore-560027
Additional English Syllabus for Semesters I-IV

St. Joseph's University has a large number of students who opt for Additional English, either because they are from other states and cannot pursue studies in their own languages here or because their previous course was under a board which had done away with the second language.

In this rewrite of the Additional English syllabus, we hope to focus on the flight into English by structuring the course around translation from Bhasha literatures into English. The new course will place the customary reading and writing requirements on students while seeking also to nudge them into a closer relationship with their mother-tongues or available Indian languages through small acts of reading and translating from those languages into English. This focus will also require the student to become aware of contemporary conversations around translation into English, and the politics thereof. We hope also that this may lead to an engagement with lived realities such as caste, gender and marginality for the students.

The student will, in each semester encounter 4-6 pieces of a good length through the mode of close reading. A follow-up in the form of one or two reflections on translation will also be offered every semester. Students may be encouraged to read the selections in the original where possible, or to seek similar themes in writing from their own languages.

Semester I

Reading from Bhasha and back

In the I semester the student will read a selection of short fiction from various Indian languages. This selection places particular emphasis on fiction from South India and the North-East.

Section I (35 hours)

1. Dots and Lines--Jayanth Kaikini (Kannada)
2. The Bar--Paul Zacharia (Malayalam)
3. The Bicycle/Payanam--Paavannan (Tamil)
4. The Journey--Indira Goswami (Assamese)
5. The Scent of Orange Blossom--Mamang Dai (English)

Section II (15 hours)

1. On Translating a Tamil Poem--AK Ramanujan
2. From English to Kannada to Kannada to English--Interview with Tejaswini Niranjana(<https://scroll.in/article/882484/from-english-to-kannada-to-kannada-to-english-tejaswini-niranjana-mirrored-path-to-translation>)

3. AK Ramanujan Sandharshana--BC Ramachandra Sharma
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHO_FmCuNHA)
4. "There is no critical discourse around translated works"--Interview with N. Kalyanaraman.
(<https://www.hindustantimes.com/brunch/there-is-no-critical-discourse-around-translated-works/story-VYnpR2h9PWVliTEpKM11NM.html>)

Ten hours are set aside for writing in class. Teachers may provide leading questions that will enable students to prepare for the self-study question in the end-semester examination.

Activity for Semester I

1. Translate two proverbs into English.
2. Identify five words in regional language(s) that have no equivalent English words.
3. Write a personal essay on relationship with regional language(s).

Each task is to be accompanied by a translator's note describing the experience of the process of translation.

If there are students who don't know any regional language, depending on their numbers, the teacher is free to assign them a relevant task.

4. Close reading tasks based on the texts.

Testing

The End-Semester Question Paper to be organised thus:

1. Textual comprehension and themes: 20 marks
2. Unseen Passage--drawn from fiction or translation studies: 20 marks
3. Annotation: 10 marks

The student is advised to read about the writer they are translating, or to read other short fiction by the writer. They may also be encouraged to look for narrative from the oral traditions they may have access to for this component.

Semester II

This semester is devoted to locating at the transitions and dislocations that dot the path from bhasha fiction to bhasha film.

Section I (35 hours)

Bhasha to Film

1. Tabarana Kathe--story by KP Poornachandra Thejaswi
2. Tabarana Kathe--film by Girish Kasaravalli
3. The Chess Players--Munshi Premchand
4. Shatranj ke Khiladi--film by Satyajit Ray
5. Charandas Chor--Vijaydan Detha
6. Charandas Chor--Shyam Benegal
- OR**
7. Duvidha/The Dilemma--Vijaydan Detha
8. Duvidha--film by Mani Kaul

Section II (15 hours)

Making stories, making films

1. Excerpts from Double Exposure--Joy Gould Boyum
2. Interview with Vijaydan Detha--Paromita Vohra
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PT03ioWMZ4w>)
3. Interview with Girish Kasaravalli--Trisha Gupta(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aP35VFfiUD8>)
4. Shatranj ke Khiladi--Conversation--Shabana Azmi, Suresh Jindal, Alok Rai(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qc7UHe7y-k>)
5. Shyam Benegal--in conversation with Tripurari Sharan(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8bHx6H6Zf54>)

Ten hours to be assigned to writing work. Teachers may provide leading questions that will enable students to write their essay.

Activity

An essay about the fiction-film interface in India based on a discussion of the above, and other sources that the student is able to locate.

The student may also attempt scripting/making a short film based on an Indian short story. **Provision for an extra credit if the script/film is chosen for public display by the Department's jury.**

Close reading tasks based on the texts.

Testing

The End-Semester Question Paper to be organised thus:

1. Textual comprehension and themes: 20 marks
2. Unseen Passage--drawn from fiction or translation studies: 20 marks
3. Annotation: 10 marks

The student is advised to read further about the fiction-film interface in the Indian context

Semester III

This semester requires the student to read poetry in translation

Section I

1. Selections from Speaking of Siva—AK Ramanujan (One each by Basavanna, Allama Prabhu and Akka Mahadevi)
2. Tiger—Malathi Maithri
3. Closure—Salma
4. My Love—Kutti Revathi
5. I Speak Up Bluntly—Sukirtharani
6. Excerpt from Evgeny Onegin—Pushkin/Nabokov translation

Section II

1. Introduction to Speaking of Siva
2. Introduction to Wild Girls, Wicked Words—Lakshmi Holmstrom
3. The Art of Translation—Vladimir Nabokov
4. Nabokov's Notes—Paris Review

Activity

The student will be required to write a piece or make an AV on an Indian poet and their work that they have encountered in the semester.

Provision for an extra credit if the piece/film is chosen for public display by the Department's jury.

Close reading tasks based on the texts.

Testing

The End-Semester Question Paper to be organised thus:

1. Textual comprehension and themes: 20 marks
2. Unseen Passage--drawn from fiction or translation studies: 20 marks
3. Annotation: 10 marks

Semester IV

The readings for this semester are chosen with a view to making the point that journalism in India rests on everyday acts of translation. They are also chosen with a view to broadening the student's encounter with questions of identity and justice.

Journalism as Translation

1. The India Today of the working class—Abhishek Choudhary (The Hoot)
2. The Ultra Mega Powerless take on the Ultra Mega Power Plants—Srinath Perur (Hakai)
3. How Real-Life Tamil Love Stories End—Meena Kandasamy (Outlook)
4. Capital Gains—Rana Dasgupta (Granta)
5. Elections in Arunachal—Kai Frieze (New York Times)
6. The Sausage Men of Arpora—Vivek Menezes (GQ)

Activity

The student will be required to write a piece or make a short film based on interviews with local residents on matters of public memory and experience guided by the teacher. Teachers may nominate from among the entries received in each class. An external jury will then choose the best entry under this activity in Arts, Science and Commerce streams. It is recommended that the College institute a Prize to further encourage talent in writing and visual narrative.

Close reading tasks based on the texts.

Testing

The End-Semester Question Paper to be organised thus:

1. Textual comprehension and themes: 20 marks
2. Unseen Passage--drawn from fiction or translation studies: 20 marks
3. Annotation: 10 marks