

St. Joseph's University
Langford Road, Bangalore-560027
Additional English Syllabus for Semesters I and II (2024 onward)

St. Joseph's College 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 balance the syllabus between explorations in linguistics and language history while also retaining literary and media texts from English and other languages.

The new course will place the customary reading and writing requirements on students while seeking also to bring a problem-solving curiosity via linguistics. An engagement with lived realities such as caste, gender and marginality is essential for our students—this time the effort is to organise such a curiosity through conversation about language processes and by drawing attention to textual processes .

The student will, in each semester encounter about half a dozen language 'problems' which focus attention on a specific aspect of linguistics such as discourse, pragmatics, language policy, or sociolinguistics et cetera, while also encountering literary forms such as the essay, fiction, and poetry. Each semester, we also hope to bring in popular music and cinema to complete what we hope will be an understanding of globalisation through multiple encounters with English as a place of encounter or appropriation.

Semester I

45 hours: 3 credits

Section I (10 hours)

1. Why Feb 21 is International Mother Language Day

<https://news.abplive.com/news/world/international-mother-language-day-2022-know-unknown-roles-of-language-movement-in-bangladesh-bangladesh-bhasha-andolan-history-1514386>

2. The battle for Andhra: Ramachandra Guha

<https://web.archive.org/web/20120114132230/http://www.hindu.com/mag/2003/03/30/stories/2003033000040300.htm>

3. Where are the Sanskrit speakers : Ajai Sreevatsan

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/Where-are-the-Sanskrit-speakers/article60089403.ece>

4. What is Language Death? Extract from Chapter 1, Language Death: David Crystal

5. Why Should We Care? Extract from Chapter 2, Language Death: David Crystal

6. Language Policy and Planning

Section II (20 hours)

1. Dots and Lines--Jayanth Kaikini (Kannada)
2. The Bicycle/Payanam--Paavannan (Tamizh)
3. Unfinished Poem: Eunice De Souza (from 60 Indian Poets)
4. Colours passing through us--Marge Piercy
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/47398/colors-passing-through-us>
5. Economy Class--Shahnaz Habib
<https://creativenonfiction.org/writing/economy-class/>
6. Doctor Who--Kasturi Das & Nabarun Guha
<https://fiftytwo.in/story/doctor-who/>

Section III (15 hours)

1. Suzume: Makoto Shinkai
2. Shin Godzilla: Hideaki Anno & Shinji Higuchi /Godzilla Minus One: Takashi Yamazaki
3. Beautiful Ghosts (Cats): Taylor Swift
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=trljpVH8h88>
4. Anti-Hero: Taylor Swift
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1kbLwvqugk>
5. Con Altura: Rosalia
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p7bfOZek9t4>
6. Aguas de Março: Elis Regina & Tom Jobim

Self Study

The student must read other texts by the writers in the syllabus, and watch other films from Japan, and other performances by the musicians named..

Activity for Semester I

An essay on discovering a film/music to be done in class over two sessions.
A response to classroom discussions of any one set of texts
Also suggested: Listening exercise organised around the Radwimps' soundtrack for Suzume.

Testing

The Mid-Session Test and the End-Semester Question Paper are to be organised thus:

1. Textual comprehension and themes: 35 %
2. Unseen Passage--drawn from language components: 35 %
3. Self-study and further reading: Global questions that test the student's reading and research through the semester: 30 %

Semester II: 3 credits

Section I (15 hours)

Problem-solving exercises in Discourse: Cohesion, Coherence, Maxims of conversation, Implicatures, Background Knowledge, Schemas and Scripts (5 hours)

Problem-solving exercises in Pragmatics: Deixis, Anaphora, Speech Act Theory, Pragmatic Markers, Positive and Negative Face, (5 hours)

Problem-solving exercises in Semantics: Synonymy, Antonymy, Hyponymy, Polysemy, Wordplay, Metonymy. (5 hours)

Section II (15 hours)

1. Short Story from The Keepers of Knowledge: Writings from Mizoram
2. The Power to Forgive: Avinuo Kire
3. Native Land: Robin Ngangom
4. In the Zoo: A.K.Ramanujan
5. On Her Way Forward: Shreya Cheema (Outlook Traveller)
6. A Man of His Time: Taylor Sherman (Caravan)
7. Karuvadu--the wet world of dry fish: Aparna Kartikeyan

<https://ruralindiaonline.org/en/articles/karuvadu-the-wet-world-of-dry-fish/>

Section III (15 hours)

1. Nina Cried Power: Hozier
2. Wasteland, Baby: Hozier
3. With a Little Help from My Friends (Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band): The Beatles
4. A Day in the Life (Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band): The Beatles
5. Dheepan: Jacques Audiard (2015)
6. Limbo: Ben Sharrock (2021) or Playground: Laura Wandel (2021)

Self Study

The student must read other texts by the writers in the syllabus, and watch other films that probe the refugee issue, and other performances by the musicians named..

Activity for Semester II

An essay on a travel experience to be done in class over two sessions.

A response to classroom discussions of any one set of texts

Also suggested: Writing exercise organised around the Peter Jackson docu-series Get Back

Testing

The Mid-Session Test and the End-Semester Question Paper are to be organised thus:

1. Textual comprehension and themes: 35 %
2. Unseen Passage--drawn from fiction or adaptation studies: 35 %
3. Self-study and further reading: Global questions that test the student's reading and research for the act of translation through the semester: 30 %

The student is advised to read further about the texts and artists prescribed.