

Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur

Proposal for a New Course

- 1. Course No:** ENG XX  
**2. Course Title:** Structure of the Tibeto-Burman Languages  
**3. Per Week Lectures:** (3+0+0+0) = 9  
**Duration of Course:** Full Semester

**4. Proposing Department/IDP:** Humanities and Social Sciences

**Other Departments/IDPs which may be interested in the proposed course:**

**Other faculty members interested in teaching the proposed course:**

**5. Proposing Instructor(s):** Sh. Francis Monsang

**6. Course Description:**

**A) Objectives:**

The objective of this course is to introduce students to the features and structures of the Tibeto-Burman languages of Northeast India. With examples from some languages of the northeast, students will learn comparative and contrastive analysis in Tibeto-Burman languages. Students will also learn how to analyze the phonological and morpho-syntactic structures of the Tibeto-Burman languages. They will have the ability to undertake research on any topic in Tibeto-Burman languages. Eventually, they will become experts in the Tibeto-Burman languages of northeast India.

**B) Contents (preferably in the form of 5 to 10 broad titles):**

Sl No.	Broad Title	Topics	Number of Lectures
1	Introduction	Tibeto-Burman language family, languages of northeast India and their classification, language contact situations, some grammars of Tibeto-Burman	6
2	Sound system	Sound system, phonotactics, syllable structure, suprasegmentals, writing systems	9
3	Morphological features	Inflectional and derivational morphology, nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, word formation: affixation, compounding, reduplication, expressives, person, number, gender, classifiers	12
4	Syntactic structures	Word order, case marking, agreement and non-agreement pattern, grammaticalization, nominalization, relativization, clause structure, complementation, tense, aspect, mood/modality, negation, negative polarity items	13

**C) Pre-requisites:** Any course in linguistics

**D) Short summary for including in the Courses of Study Booklet:**

This course provides an introduction to the fundamental features and structures of the Tibeto-Burman languages spoken in Northeast India. Students will learn the phonological and morphosyntactic structures and conduct a comparative and contrastive analysis of the Tibeto-Burman languages. Ultimately, it will enable them to become experts in the Tibeto-Burman languages of northeast India.

**7. Recommended books:**

**A. Reference Books:**

Benedict, Paul. K. (1972). *Sino-Tibetan: A Conspectus*. Cambridge University Press.

Burling, Robbins (2003). The Tibeto-Burman Languages of Northeastern India. In Graham Thurgood and Rady J. LaPolla. (eds.). *The Sino-Tibetan Languages*. Routledge.

Dixon, R.M.W. (1994). *Ergativity*. Cambridge University Press.

Matisoff, J.A. (2003). *Handbook of Proto-Tibeto-Burman: System and Philosophy of Sino-Tibetan Reconstruction*. University of California Press.

Subbarao, K. V. (2012). *South Asian Languages: A Syntactic Typology*. Cambridge University Press.

Thurgood, Graham & LaPolla, Randy J. (eds.). (2003). *The Sino-Tibetan Languages*. Routledge.

North East Indian Linguistics, Volumes 1-8.

**B. Reading materials:**

Some reading materials will be shared.

**8. Any other remarks:**

The course is for postgraduate and the course pedagogy involves lectures and discussion of research papers in the domain of languages of North-East India.

Dated: 13.03.2024

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposer: Sh. Francis Monsang

DUGC/DPGC

Convener: \_\_\_\_\_

**The course is approved / not approved**

**Chairman, SUGC/SPGC**

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_