Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur
Proposal for a New Course

1. Course No: **ENG 1XX**
2. Course Title: Indian Grammatical Traditions
3. Per Week Lectures: 3(L), Tutorial:1 (T), Laboratory: 0   _(P), Additional Hours[0-2]:0

    (A), Credits (3*L+2*T+P+A): 9

4. Duration of Course: **Full Semester**
5. Proposing Department/IDP : **Humanities and Social Sciences**
   Other Departments/IDPs which may be interested in the proposed course: -nil-
   Other faculty members interested in teaching the proposed course:

   Proposing Instructor(s): **Chinmay Dharurkar**

6. Course Description:

This course is designed for undergraduate students to provide an overview of the significant ideas in Indian grammatical traditions. The primary focus of the course is to highlight the distinct grammatical thought of India basing on the texts from the Vedic, Classical Sanskrit, Prakrits, medieval Indian grammars to the grammars of modern Indian languages. The course introduces the Vedic corpus relevant to the grammatical thought: the *Prātiśākhya*s, *Śikṣā*s, *Nirukta*, *Vyākaraṇa*, and other pre-Pāṇinian grammarians. The course lays special emphasis on the selected ideas from Pāṇinian Grammar: Aṣṭādhyāyī by introducing the basics of the grammar through actual interpretation and translation of few sūtras. The course offers an outline of the Pāṇinian tradition: the *Trimuni*, and the philosophical issues, linguistic debates in Bhartṛhari, other *śāstra* traditions. The course goes on to trace the influence of Pāṇinian grammar on other Sanskrit grammars, Prakrit grammars, and later (medieval and modern) grammars of Indic and Dravidian langauges too. It is in this sense a course in intellectual history of Indian grammatical thought. The course briefly discusses the influence the Indian grammatical tradition exerted on early Modern Linguistics through some selected common concerns like: prescriptivism vs. descriptivism, form vs. function, variationism, basic units of linguistic analysis: phoneme (*varṇa, akṣara*), morpheme (*prakṛti-pratyaya*), zero (the *it*-zero in Pāṇini) etc. The course familiarises students with the diverse linguistic-grammatical heritage of India, making cases for both its unity and plurality.

A) Objectives:

- To introduce students to the major texts and thinkers in the Indian grammatical tradition, from the Vedic period to modern grammars, and to provide an overview of their distinctive contributions.
- To develop a basic working familiarity with selected ideas and techniques of Pāṇini's Aṣṭādhyāyī, including practical interpretation of sūtras and understanding their relevance in broader linguistic debates.
- To trace the intellectual history and influence of Indian grammatical thought—its role

in shaping later Sanskrit, Prakrit, and modern Indic/Dravidian grammars, as well as its resonance with themes in modern linguistics.

- To cultivate critical appreciation of the plurality and continuity in India's linguistic-grammatical heritage.

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

Sl. No	Broad Title	Topic	No. of lectures
1.	The Vedic corpus relevant to language and grammar	Outline of the Vedic literature, oracy in the tradition, veda and loka, sacredness, *nityatā* and *apauraṣeytā*: extent and critique, the *Prātiśākhya*s, the six *Vedāṅga*s: **Śīkṣā, Vyākaraṇa, Nirukta,** *Kalpa, Jyotīṣa, Chandas;* Linguistic analysis assumed in *Padapāṭha, Aindra* grammar	3
2	Pre-Pāṇinian grammarians	Śākaṭāyana (radical derivationism) vs. Gārgya (givenness of some words, *autpattikatva*), the different ideas, objectives of the pre-Pāṇinian grammarians.	2
3	Pāṇini and the *Pāṇiniya*s	The Pāṇinian texts: Aṣṭādhyāyī (sūtrapāṭha), gaṇapāṭha, dhātupāṭha. The trimuni tradition: Pāṇini, Kātyāyana (vārttikas) and Patañjali (Mahābhāṣya). The commentatorial literatrue and the tradition: some commnetaries and their significance.	5
4	Pāṇini's texts and their structure	The metalanguage, brevity, techniques of brevity: the anubandha system, ittva, sūtra-syntax; the six types of sūtras with instances, sūtra-ordering, the overall structure of Aṣṭādhyāyī.	5
5.	Pāṇini's ideas through specific sūtras	Ancient Indian Phonetics: the Māheśvarasūtras, prtyāhāras, the idea of *it* elision, concrete instances from sandhi-sūtras, the extent of the idea of *pratyāhāra* – the verbal and the nominal suffixes, the Prakṛti-pratyaya vibhāga, the morphosyntax of Sanskrit through Pāṇinian sūtras, the meaning conditions as a semantic component.	5
6.	Philosophy of language through Paṇinian tradition	Bhartṛhari's philosophy of language in Vākyapadīya, the idea of *sphoṭa*, the grammatico-philosophical issues in linguistic analysis: semnatics the verbal tense and modal system in Kauṇḍabhaṭṭa's lakārārthanirṇaya,	5
7.	Non-Pāṇinian grammars	Sarvavarman (Kāṇṭhāṅga/Katantra), Candragomin (*Cāndra Vyākaraṇa*), Devanandin (*Jainendra Vyākaraṇa*), Śakatāyana, Bhoja (*Sarasvatī-Kaṇṭhā-Bharaṇa*), Hemacandra (*Siddha-hemacandra*) Prakrit grammars: Prākṛtaprakāśa — by Vararuci (traditionally identified with Kātyāyana, though this is debated), Prākṛtalakṣaṇa — by Markandeya (date uncertain, medieval), Siddha-Hemacandra (Śabdānuśāsana) portions on Prakrit and Apabhraṁśa — by Hemacandra (12th c., Jain polymath), Prākṛtasarvasva — by Namisādhu (around 11th–12th c.)	5

		Ancient Tamil Grammar: Tolkappiyam, its comparison with Pāṇini's grammar. Kannada: Kavirājamārga, Telugu: Āndhraśabdacintāmaṇi,	
8.	Sociolinguistic issues	Socio-historical contexts of the grammars: The shifting centres of *āryāvarta*: from Sindhu to Ganga, the dynamics of Sanskrit and Prakrits in ancient and early medieval, society through Nāṭyaśāstra, epics and Purāṇas	4
		Sacredness, nityatā, degenerative sense of history, the idea of sādhuśabda, veda-loka,	
		Pāṇini as a variationist: *vā, vibhāṣā, anyatarasyām*, the sociohistorical contexts of Sanskrit grammars and the grammarians, contextualising Patañjali's *vyākaraṇa-prayojana*s, the place of Sanskrit alongside Prakrits.	
9.	Vyākaraṇśāstra in conversation with other śāstras (mainly Nyāya and Mimāṁsā) and disciplines: NLP, Modern Linguistics	Conceptual Foundations: Shared concern: *śabda* (word), *artha* (meaning), *vākya* (sentence), Vyākaraṇa's view of language as autonomous vs. Nyāya/Mīmāṁsā's view of language as an instrument for cognition and dharma.	5
		Adaptive reuse: concepts across śāstras	
		Modern Linguistics: comparing concepts like morpheme, phoenme, zero etc.	
		NLP/Computational Linguistics and Pāṇini: Simulation of Aṣṭādhyāyī, takeaways for computational Linguistics	
		Total	**39**

C) Pre-requisites, if any (*examples: a- PSO201A,or b- PSO201A or equivalent*):   None

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

ENG1XX This undergraduate course surveys major ideas in Indian grammatical traditions, from the Vedic corpus and pre-Pāṇinian grammarians to classical Sanskrit, Prakrit, and modern language grammars. Special emphasis is placed on Pāṇini's *Aṣṭādhyāyī*, with hands-on interpretation of selected sūtras, the Trimuni tradition, and linguistic debates in Bhartṛhari and other śāstras. The course traces Pāṇini's influence on later Sanskrit, Prakrit, and Dravidian grammars, framing grammar as intellectual history. It also highlights resonances with early modern linguistics on issues like prescriptivism vs. descriptivism, form vs. function, and basic linguistic units. Students gain familiarity with India's diverse yet interconnected grammatical heritage.

Selected Readings

Abhyankar, K.V. (1985) *Fundamentals of Sanskrit Grammar.* Pune: Sanskrit Vidya Parisanstha.

Abhyankar, K.V. [1977 (1986, 2012)] *A Dictionary of Sanskrit Grammar.* Baroda: Oriental Institute.

Abhyankar V. M. (1942-1954) (Tr.) *Mahābhāṣya of Patañjali* [Marathi Translation] 7 volumes. Pune: DE Society.

Allen, W. S. (1953). *Phonetics in Ancient India*. London & New York: Oxford University Press.

Balbir, N. (2017). Extended grammars: From Sanskrit to Middle Indo-Aryan with reference to verb-description. *Histoire Épistémologie Langage*, *39*(2), 21–44. https://doi.org/10.1051/hel/2017390202

Banerji, Sures Chandra (1996) *Historical Survey of Ancient Indian Grammars*. Delhi: Sharda Publishing House.

Bharati, A., Chaitanya, V., & Sangal, R. (1995). *Natural language processing: A Paninian perspective*. New Delhi: Prentice-Hall of India.

Bhate, S.V. (1970) *Pre-Pāṇinian grammatical elements in the Pāṇini's Aṣṭādhyāyī*. Unpublished Ph.D thesis, Pune: University of Pune.

Cardona, G. (1967-68) 'Anvaya and vyatireka in Indian grammar'. *Festschrift V. Raghavan.* Madras: Brahmavidyā, The Adyar Library. pp. 313-52.

Cardona, G. [(1976) 1980/1997] *Pāṇini A Survey of Research*. The Hague: Mouton. [Indian Edition 1980: Delhi: Motilal Banarasidass; reprinted 1997.]

Cardona, G. (1983) *Linguistic Analysis and Some Indian Traditions.* Pune: Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute.

Cardona, G. (2004) *Recent Research in Pāṇinian Studies.* Delhi: Motilal Banarasidass.

Cowell, E. B. (Ed. & Trans.). (1868). *The Prakrita-prakasa, or The Prakrit grammar of Vararuchi: With the commentary (Manorama) of Bhamaha*. London: Trübner.

Deshpande, M.M. (1979) *Sociolinguistic Attitudes in India An Historical Reconstruction*. Ann Arbor: Karoma Publishers.

Deshpande, M.M. (1993) *Sanskrit and Prakrit Sociolinguistic Issues*. Delhi: Motilal Banarasidas.

Deshpande, M.M. (1997a) *Śaunakīya Caturādhyāyikā A Prātiśākhya of Śaunakīya Atharvaveda*. Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.

Freschi, E., & Maas, P. A. (Eds.). (2017). *Adaptive reuse: Aspects of creativity in South Asian cultural history* (Abhandlungen für die Kunde des Morgenlandes, Bd. 101). Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag.

Houben, J. [(1999) 2001] 'Meaning statements' in Panini's grammar: on the purpose and context

of the Astadhyayi. *Studien zur Indologie und Iranistik 22*, 23-54.

Jain, J. C. (2004) *History and Development of Prakrit Literature*. New Delhi: Manohar

Jha, S. (Ed.). (1957). *A comparative grammar of the Prakrit languages* (R. Pischel, Author). Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass. (Original work published 1900)

Joshi, S.D. (1967a) 'Adjectives and Substantives as a Single Class in the "Parts of Speech"'. *Journal of the University of Poona, Humanities section* 25:19-30.

Joshi, S. D. (1967b) *The Sphoṭanirṇaya of Kauṇḍa Bhaṭṭa* (PCASS Class C No. 2). Poona: University of Poona.

Joshi, S.D. and J.A.F. Roodbergen (1986) *Patañjali's Vyākaraṇa Mahabhāsya. (Introduction, text, translation and notes) Paspaśāhnika*. Pune: University of Poona.

Joshi, S.D. and J.A.F. Roodbergen (1991-2007) *The Aṣṭādhyāyī of Pāṇini*(thirteen volumes). New Delhi: Sahitya Akademi.

Kahrs Eivind (2005) *On the Study of Yaska's Nirukta.* Pune: BORI.

Katre, S. M. (1964) *Prakrit Languages and their Contribution to the Indian Culture*. Poona: Deccan College PGRI.

Kiparsky, P. (1979). *Pāṇini as a variationist*. Pune: The Poona University Press and MIT Press.

Nitti-Dolci, L. (1972). *The Prakrit grammarians* (English Trans. Prabhakar Jha). Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass. (Original work published 1938).

Ollett, A. (2017) *Language of the Snakes*. Oakland, California: University of California Press.

Pandit, M. D. (1990) *Zero in Pāṇini.* Pune: CASS, University of Poona.

Pandit, M. D. (2009) *A Comparative Study of All Sanskrit Grammars (with special reference to Past Participle formations)*. Delhi: Bhartiya Kala Prakashan.

Pischel, R. (1981). *A grammar of the Prakrit languages* (S. Jha, Trans.). Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass. (Original work published 1900)

Raja, Kunjunni [(1969) 2000] *Indian Theories of meaning.* Chennai: The Adyar Library and Research Centre.

Scharfe, H. (1977). *Grammatical literature* (A history of Indian literature, Vol. 5, Fasc. 2). Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz.

Scharf P. M. and Hyman, M. D. (2011) *Linguistics Issues in Encoding Sanskrit*. Providence: The Sanskrit Library.

Sharma, R. N. (2002) *The Aṣṭādhyāyī of Pāṇini* (five volumes). New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers.

Sircar, D. C. (1943). *A grammar of the Prakrit language*. Calcutta: University of Calcutta.

Subrahmanyam, P. S. (1999) *Pāṇinian Linguistics.* Tokyo: Institute for the study of Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies.

Subrahmanyam, P. S. (2007) "Telugu Grammar in Pāṇinian framework- Some Issues". *Indian Linguistics* Vol. 68 Nos. 3-4 (July-Dec): 315-324.

Subrahmanyam, P. S. 2011. "The Prakrit Grammatians: Historical Linguists of Ancient India." *Indian Linguistics* 72: 230–242.

Vaidya, P. L. (1958) (Ed.) *Hemacandra's Siddha-hema-śabdānuśāsana* (with commentary *Prakāśikā*, ed. Paraśurāma Lakṣmaṇa Vaidya). Prakrit grammar: The eighth adhyāya of *Siddha-Hema-Śabdānuśāsana* (*Prakāśikā*). Poona: Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute.

Varma Siddheshwar (1961) *Phonetic Observations of Indian Grammarians.* Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal.

Online resources:

1. https://ashtadhyayi.com/
2. https://www.linguindic.com/
3. https://sanskritlibrary.org/derivation.html, also overall https://sanskritlibrary.org/index.html
4. https://blogs.ubc.ca/ubcsanskrit/tools/
5. https://tdil-dc.in/index.php?option=com_vertical&parentid=84&lang=en
6. https://sanskrit.uohyd.ac.in/scl/
7. https://www.cfilt.iitb.ac.in/wordnet/webswn/english_version.php

    7. Any other remarks: ----none----

Dated: __18/10/2025__   Proposer: __Chinmay Dharurkar__

Dated: _____   DUGC/DPGC Convener: _____

The course is approved / not approved

Chairman, SUGC/SPGC

Dated: _____