

# COTTON COLLEGE STATE UNIVERSITY

PANBAZAR, GUWAHATI-781001, ASSAM, INDIA

**Course Number:** ILS101CMP

**Course Name:** Introduction To Language Science

**Course duration:** 16 contact hours (1 credit)

**Target Audience-** Post Graduate Students of CCSU

**Course Goals:** The objective of the course is to present the fundamental characteristics of language primarily from the perspective of the generative school of linguistics. It will deal with all levels of linguistic analysis: phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. There will be extensive exercises which will guide the students in understanding theoretical concepts and developing a scientific approach to language. We will incorporate examples from regional languages as much as possible and also elicit examples of linguistic structure from the participating students for a better understanding of concepts.

**Course Outline:** Core areas of linguistic structure: phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics; Phonetics: the vocal tract, articulation of vowels and consonants; Phonology: distinctive features, segmental and phonotactic structure, suprasegmental structure; Phonemic analysis, underlying representation and rewrite rules; Phonological processes: assimilation, dissimilation, metathesis, deletion, ellipsis, syncope; Morphology: inflectional and derivational morphology, compounding, reduplication; Syntax: innateness and Universal Grammar, categories, phrase structure rules, thematic relations, argument structure, Wh-movement, case and government, noun phrase movement, anaphors and binding; Semantics: the principle of compositionality, intension, extension, reference, denotation and truth conditions.

**Reading List:**

1. Akmajian, R. Demers, A.K. Farmer and R. Harnish, *Linguistics: An Introduction to Language and Communication*, MIT Press, 2001.
2. W. Grady, J. Archibald, *Contemporary Linguistic Analysis*, 6<sup>th</sup> Ed, Prentice Hall, 2009.

**Resource person for 2015:** Shakuntala Mahanta, IIT Guwahati