

Tezpur University

Centre for Assamese Studies

Name of the Programme: DIPLOMA IN COMMUNICATIVE ASSAMESE

Duration: 1 year (Two Semesters)

Credits: 24 (12 credits per semester)

Objectives

- This diploma programme in *Communicative Assamese* is a joint endeavour of Asom Sahitya Sabha and Tezpur University, meant for post-Secondary level students from English medium schools in Assam. It is meant for the non-native speakers of Assam and also for the newly appointed TET teachers (who do not know Assamese) of the Government schools of Assam. The programme aims at enabling the learners to communicate fluently and confidently in Assamese while speaking and writing the language in real-life situations. Thus, the programme will focus on developing the four essential skills of Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing. At the same time, the programme aims at developing their understanding of the basic grammatical structure of Assamese.
- Initially the course will be offered at four centres, ie. Tezpur, Jorhat, Nagaon, and Guwahati. The course will be taught by a group of teachers in Assamese with assistance from the faculty members of various Departments of Tezpur University. The teachers who will be teaching the course will be identified by Asom Sahitya Sabha and the infrastructure that would be necessary to run the programme at the four centres will also be their responsibility.
- As for evaluation, the University will conduct the tests for the course and will award the Certificate for the Diploma.
- As this Diploma is an *outreach* programme with one single specific goal (i.e. proficiency in Assamese), it will have no CBCT or Foundation course as part of it. Nor will its courses be divided on the Core-Elective lines.
- Minimum Eligibility for this course is: 10+2 pass (Arts/Science/Commerce)
- As the proposed course is intended for communicative use, the prescribed tests to be conducted will be both of the written and oral types.

**STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE
SEMESTER I**

L T P CH CR

2 – 1 – 0 - 3 3

Serial No.	Course Codes	Courses Title	L	T	P	CH	Cr
1.	CA 101	Writing and Reading	2	1	0	3	3
2.	CA 102	Speaking	1	0	2	4	3
3.	CA 103	Assamese Grammar I	2	1	0	3	3
4.	CA 104	Listening and Comprehension I	2	1	0	3	3

SEMESTER II

L T P CH CR

2 – 1 – 0 - 3 3

Serial No.	Course Codes	Courses Title	L	T	P	CH	Cr
5.	CA 201	Listening and Reading	2	1	0	3	3
6.	CA 202	Assamese Grammar II	2	1	0	3	3
7.	CA 203	Advanced Writing	2	1	0	3	3
8.	CA 204	Public/Formal Speaking	1	0	2	4	3

Note: L-T-P-CH = Credit (Lecture – Tutorial - Practical – Contact Hour = Credit)

Detailed Syllabi

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SEMESTER I

PAPER I

CA 101: Writing and Reading

L2-T1-P0-CH3-CR3

The aim of this course is to familiarize students with Assamese alphabets. This course will introduce the learners to Assamese vowels and consonants, conjunct consonants and also introduce basic words-Nouns, Pronouns, Adjectives, Prepositions, Verbs, Adverbs etc. On completion of the course, the learners should be able to frame words and simple sentences. The learners should also be able to read simple words and sentences as well as relatively 'simple' texts of Assamese.

Course Contents

- Introduction to letter and sound- vowel-consonants, consonant clusters, syllable, morpheme
- Framing simple words
- Framing simple sentences
- Phatic communion (Expressions of Greetings, regrets, enquiries etc.)
- Tense, number, Person, agreement etc.
- Honorificity in Assamese
- Assamese Reading (left on instructor's discretion)
 - Letters
 - Words

Books Recommended

Deka, Pranav Jyoti. *Jyoti-Dviashik Abhidhan*. Guwahati: Assam Book Depot, 1990, 2011.

Goswami, G. C. *Structure of Assamese*. Guwahati: Dept of Publication, Gauhati University. 1982.

Sharma, Mukunda Madhava. *Assamese for All or Assamese Self-Taught*. Jorhat: Asam Sahitya Sabha, 1963.

Neog, Dr Maheswar. *Nika Asamiya Bhasa*, Guwahati: Layers' Book Stall, 1994

Barman, Sivanath. *Asamiya Akhar-Jotanir Katha*, Tinsukia: Priyabala Prakashan. 1993

Dutta Baruah, P.N. and Goswami, T.K., (*Sako*) *An Intensive Course Reader in Assamese*, CIIL, Mysore.

Reference Books:

Hazarika, Dr Bhupen. *Bhupen mamar geete mate oa aa ka kha* (1993)

Note: The contents aim at correct knowledge of the alphabet of the Assamese language. Instructors will read the texts provided and stress on various methods/ways of listening and reading the texts along the concepts mentioned above.

Paper-II

CA 102: Speaking

L1-T0-P2-CH4-CR3

This course will introduce the skills required to speak Assamese and its varieties in a comprehensible manner. The course will also acquaint learners with the use of dictionaries.

Course Content:

- What is speaking skill?
- Formal and informal Assamese
- Different types of sentences: Affirmative, Negative, Interrogative, Mood and Modality.
- Stress and intonation
- Assamese as the *lingua franca*- Assamese and its dialectical variations
- Conversational Skills- greeting- complaining- apologizing etc.
- Speaking on occasions
- Proverbs

Books Recommended

Borooah, Chandradhar. *Ratnakosh Vol I and II*, Gauhati: Saraighat Prakashan. 1962, 1997.

Deka, Pranav Jyoti. *Jyoti-Dviashik Abhidhan*. Guwahati: Assam Book Dipot, 1990, 2011.

Goswami, Basanta Kumar. *Byavaharik Asamiya Abhidhan*. Guwahati: Surjya Hazarika, 2013

Kenneth, Anderson, Tony Lynch, Joan Mac Lean. *Study Speaking*. New Delhi: CUP, 2008.

Pathak, Ramesh. *Studies in Assamese Vocabulary*. Published by the Author, 2004.

Sharma, Mukunda Madhava. *Assamese for All or Assamese Self-Taught*. Jorhat: Asam Sahitya Sabha, 1963.

Dutta Baruah, P.N. *An Intensive Course in Assamese*, CIIL, Mysore, 1996.

Paper III

CA 103: Assamese Grammar I

L2-T1-P 0-CH3-CR3

The aim of this course is to help the learners to have a better understanding of Assamese grammar. On completion of the course, learners would have an appreciable sense of Assamese grammar and produce grammatically correct sentences in their everyday use of Assamese.

Course Contents

- A brief history of Assamese language
- Assamese Grammar- Introduction- Importance
- Words in the sentence- Parts of Speech
- Basic sentence patterns in Assamese- pragmatics of Assamese (pronoun drop, verb drop etc.)
- Noun- different types - countable and uncountable – collective - mass –proper
- Case - number – person- gender
- Verb- tense-aspect - voice - Concord - types of verbs – transitive - intransitive-finite - nonfinite.
- Adjective-
- Post-positions-- syntactic occurrences –

Books Recommended

Goswami, G. C. *Structure of Assamese*. Guwahati: Dept of Publication, Gauhati University.1982.

Maral, Bhagaban. *Assamese, Its Origin and Substratum*. Guwahati: Panchajyoti Prakash, 2009.

Sarma, Madan. *Asamiya Bhasha Sikshan Paddhati*. Guwahati: Student Stores, 5 edition, 2013.

Sarma, Madan. 'Assamese: Socio-Historical Background' in *Aspects of Modern Assamese* (ed) Madhumita Borbora & Gautam Kr. Bora. Guwahati: Bhabani Books, 2016.

NOTE: The modules aim at correct usage of Assamese and will be taught at application level with only necessary details of concepts. The emphasis should be on how grammar works rather than on what it is.

Paper IV

CA 104: Listening and Comprehension

L2-T1-P0-CH3-CR3

The aim of the course is to help learners listen to conversation and understand the context in which it is being spoken. Listening will also expose the learners to the tones of speech which will aid their understanding and use similar types of conversations to convey layers of meaning. Alongside listening activities, learners will also be expected to practice reading. Listening and reading will help learners to strengthen their vocabulary and identify the intonations of speech which are essential for meaning-formation in a particular context.

Course Contents/ Concepts

- Listening versus Hearing, Reading and Meaning
- Processes of Listening- Receiving- Understanding/Perceiving- Remembering- Evaluating- Responding
Process of Reading- Decoding- Comprehension
- Strategies for Listening- Listener based- Text Based- Combination of the two
Strategies for Reading- Previewing- Predicting- Scanning- Context- Paraphrasing
- Barriers to effective Listening and Reading- Lack of focus- Concentration- Assumptions
Activities for better Listening- Listening to conversations, Television and Interactive Media- special attention to stress, intonation and punctuation
- Punctuation- types of- use in everyday speech- in reading and listening

Books Recommended

- Deka, Pranav Jyoti. *Jyoti-Divashik Abhidhan*. Guwahati: Assam Book Dipot, 1990, 2011.
- Goswami, Basanta Kumar. *Byavaharik Asamiya Abhidhan*. Guwahati: Surjya Hazarika, 2013
- Lynch, Tony. *Study Listening*. New Delhi. CUP, 2008.
- Sarma, Madan. *Asamiya Bhasha Sikshan Paddhati*. Guwahati: Student Stores, 5 edition, 2013.
- Sharma, Mukunda Madhava. *Assamese for All or Assamese Self-Taught*. Jorhat: Asam Sahitya Sabha, 1963.

NOTE: The contents aim at correct usage and will be taught at application level with minimal necessary details of concepts. The emphasis should be on how language, as a mode of communication, operates rather than on what it is.

SEMESTER II

PAPER V

CA 201: Listening and Reading

L2-T1-P0-CH3-CR3

This course will familiarize students with relatively complex and advanced level sentences and discourses. In the previous papers, relatively ‘simple’ texts, such as preliminary texts of Assamese alphabets and Assamese grammar along with popular Assamese rhymes were used. In this course, a few stories, extracts from conversations, magazine articles etc. will be used by the instructor to enhance listening and reading skills.

Course Contents:

- Listening Comprehension, Extempore Speech and group discussions
- Participating in small groups (tutorials, seminars) and in group work and group projects. The learners will have to be involved in paraphrasing, summarizing of particular texts in different situations
- Reading Comprehension (passages with focus on current affairs, travel and tourism, environment)
- Listening to different kind of speech in the audio/visual clips
- Reading/ comprehending the kind of text prescribed
- Reading newspaper articles

- Listening to speech- identify the main points of the presentation

Books Recommended

Bora, Krishna Kumar & Bhaben Bora. *Apon Path, Pratham Bhag*. Guwahati: Asom Jatiya Vidyalaya, 2014.

Sharma, Rajib & Mriganka Saikia (Compiler and editor). *Apon Path, Dwitiya Bhag*. Guwahati: Asom Jatiya Vidyalaya, 2014

Dutta Baruah, P.N. and Goswami, T.K., (*Sako*) *An Intensive Course Reader in Assamese*, CIIL, Mysore.

Assamese Periodicals (*Prantik/Satsori/Prakash*)

Online Resoures

PAPER VI

CA 202: Assamese Grammar II

L2-T1-P0-CH3-CR3

This course is a continuation of Modern Assamese Grammar I. The aim of this paper is to introduce the learners to a more complex usage of Assamese grammar. This will aid them in better understanding of texts prescribed for their Listening and Reading skills.

Course Content

- Subject- Verb Agreement- rules that govern subject-verb agreement-Tense in its different forms
- Various types of sentence – simple – compound – complex – declaratives – interrogatives – imperatives – exclamations
- Adverbs- different types - various functions - modifying and connective-adverbial function
- Conjunctions
- Definite classifiers
- Remedial grammar - error spotting in paragraphs - errors in terms of specific grammatical concepts like constituents of sentences - parts of speech - concord – collocation - sequences of tense
- Converting Sentences from one form to the other
- Idioms and phrasal verbs- usage in everyday language
- Common Errors in Assamese- common errors that non-native Assamese speakers make

Books Recommended

Goswami, G. C. *Structure of Assamese*. Guwahati: Dept of Publication, Gauhati University.1982.

Maral, Bhagaban. *Assamese, Its Origin and Substratum*. Guwahati: Panchajyoti Prakash, 2009.

Medhi, Kaliram. *Assamese Grammar and Origin of the Assamese Language*. Guwahati: Publication Board of Assam, 2004.

Sarma, Madan. *Asamiya Bhasha Sikshan Paddhati*. Guwahati: Student Stores, 5 edition, 2013.

Sarma, Madan. ‘Assamese: Socio-Historical Background’ in *Aspects of Modern Assamese* (ed) Madhumita Borbora & Gautam Kr. Bora. Guwahati: Bhabani Books, 2016.

Dutta Baruah, P.N. *An Intensive Course in Assamese*, CIIL, Mysore, 1996.

PAPER VII

CA 203: Advanced Writing

L2-T1-P0-CH3-CR3

This paper will focus on writing small paragraphs expressing one’s personal thoughts or/and any facts and information. This will help the learners to formulate their writing in a structured and clear manner. **Assamese Grammar II** will aid to improve writing skills for this paper, allowing for a complexity available only to native writers/speakers of Assamese.

Course Contents:

- Formal writing/ informal writing
- Paragraph writing- Kinds of essays for different purposes
- Letter Writing –formal/informal letter
- Types of formal letters
- Writing models – application - report writing.
- Story writing / narration

Books Recommended

Baruah, Tultul (ed). *Asamiya Rachana Sankalan*, Guwahati: Students Stores

Deka, Pranav Jyoti. *Jyoti-Divashik Abhidhan*. Guwahati: Assam Book Depot, 1990, 2011.

Goswami, Basanta Kumar. *Byavaharik Asamiya Abhidhan*. Guwahati: Surjya Hazarika, 2013

Pathak, Ramesh. *Studies in Assamese Vocabulary*. Published by the Author, 2004.

Sharma, Mukunda Madhava. *Assamese for All or Assamese Self-Taught*. Jorhat: Asam Sahitya Sabha, 1963.

PAPER VIII

CA 204: Public /Formal Speaking

L1-T0-P2-CH4-CR3

This course aims at building good public speaking skills. This will enable the learners to effectively practice all that they have learnt/are learning as part of this programme. Strengthening good public speaking skills will help in breaking the language barrier. This course will be practical in nature. The instructor will only aid the learners in substantiating their arguments and correcting their diction and grammatical errors.

Course Contents:

- Presentation as a skill-audience-objectives- medium-key ideas - structuring the material-organizing content-audio-visual aids-hand-outs-seminar paper presentation and discussion.
- Types of Presentations- Speaking to a group of friends, Speaking on a particular topic in front of audience
- Key elements of Public speaking- strategies- techniques of public speaking
- Extempore speech
- Interacting with the audience

Books Recommended

Atkinson, Max. *Lend me your Ears: All you Need to know about Seminars and Presentations*. OUP: New York, 2005.

Pathak, Ramesh. *Studies in Assamese Vocabulary*. Published by the Author, 2004.

Note: As there is a paucity of readily available materials, instructors may use some of the recommended books for preparing learning materials.

EVALUATION PATTERN

Students will follow Tezpur University examination and grading pattern with slight modifications. Evaluation for each paper will be divided into Internal and Final examinations. In this case, examinations will be mostly practical in nature, except for the papers on Writing Skills.

Internal Examination (Including One Mid Term)	40 marks
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Final Examination (One End Term)	60 marks
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The Instructors of the courses are free to conduct informal tests to gauge the development of students.

Note: The suggestions made by the External Experts have been considered and necessary modifications have been made. Notes have been added wherever needed.