Course Objectives

Students will acquire a solid foundation in standard khari boli Hindi to enable interaction with speakers of Hindi in North India and all over the world. It is expected that students will take the opportunity to make rapid progress in both speaking and listening comprehension by using Hindi outside of class as much as possible, particularly with Homestay family members. Although we expect dedicated students will acquire a strong, functional ability to communicate in Hindi, students wishing to interact substantively with Hindi speakers should nevertheless expect extensive collaboration with a translator for their Independent Study Project (ISP).

Course Textbook

The main textbook used for this course, “Teach Yourself Hindi, 2003” (Rupert Snell, Teach Yourself Books, edition 2003), adopts an approach shared by many institutes teaching East- and South-East Asian languages, which like Hindi, use a unique script and are largely non-cognate to English. This approach limits introduction of idioms and comprehensively teaches grammatical structures with limited vocabulary by means of clear explanations and dialogues based on the grammar just learned. Snell’s communicative approach is ideally suited to the needs of short-term students living in a Hindi-speaking environment wishing to acquire a solid university level foundation of Hindi grammar. Although “Teach Yourself Hindi, 2003” does provide transliteration of the Hindi script, students are encouraged to become familiar with the script from the outset. Please note there will be no transliteration in any of the tests or exams, and all homework has to be completed in Devanagari.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

At the conclusion of the course, students can expect to:

- Acquire basic grammatical structures necessary for rudimentary conversation
- Communicate information about daily functions
- Ask for directions
- Negotiate simple transactions in the homestay, at the chemist, in the market, etc.

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Tell some facts about themselves and also to ask for information from others
Have rudimentary reading and writing in devanagari script

Course Overview

In this 3-credit intensive course, students cover material equivalent to a year long, non-intensive course in Introductory Hindi (6-credits). With the support of the Homestay environment, SIT students are able to learn efficiently – Hindi classes are small, intense, and productive. There are approximately 20 days of Hindi classes, in addition to two written examination days. The morning classes should be considered as a minimum requirement. Attendance at daily office hours is mandatory if performance on the daily quiz reflects a need for more practice on any given grammatical topic.

Every day, classes will begin exactly at 8:30 am, and will commence with a brief quiz lasting approximately fifteen minutes. Hindi Faculty will conduct classes in small groups, taught in rotation. Material appearing on all written examinations will be drawn from Rupert Snell only. Students’ abilities in written Hindi will be tested daily in quizzes and nightly in brief homework assignments. Generally, one grammatical topic will be taught each day in first period and the topic will be reviewed in the second period by using drill exercises. Further practice is then provided in the daily homework assignment and during drop off which will provide students the opportunity to practice speaking and using their Hindi outside of the classroom.

Throughout the semester, students are expected to collect rough material for their Hindi Final Project (see below), particularly while on excursion. In conjunction with this, students should frequently meet with the Hindi Instructors to verify points of spelling and usage before transferring rough material to their Hindi Final Project. In addition to this, students should prepare for written examinations (following each major excursion) by doing self-drills and attending optional review and drill classes.

Students are expected to take great responsibility for their own learning process. In addition to completing nightly written assignments, students must revise the next day’s material the night before. As SIT semester curriculum includes extended travel outside of Jaipur, classroom hours provide grammatical explanation of each topic, and introduction to the relevant drills.

Students are expected to engage consistently with their Homestay family and the larger context of living in a Hindi speaking environment. Experience material reinforce their classroom work by doing drills from all the textbook chapters alone or with classmates while on excursion, and are expected to continue this while in the field.

Evaluation

A weighted letter grade will be assigned according to the following criteria:

| (1) Daily Quizzes/Written Work, Effort & Participation (overall): | 30% |
| (2) Two Oral Examinations, averaged together: | 20% |
| (3) Hindi Final Project | 20% |
| (4) Two Written Examinations, averaged together | 30% |

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1. All written assignments are to be completed in pencil. Materials written in pen (after the summer assignment) will not be accepted and will have to be rewritten. The Hindi Final Project may be in pen, assuming you have checked the spelling of material to be added with a Hindi-speaker.

2. All components of the course listed below must be completed satisfactorily to receive a passing grade.

3. If documentation of a medical emergency is produced, extensions for daily quizzes and other assignments may be negotiated with the Language Instructors. If make-ups granted due to illness are not completed within the agreed upon time, a grade of zero will be recorded for that assignment. Unexcused late assignments will not be accepted.

4. While studying in India, be sure to allow extra time for serious obstacles such as extended power cuts or illness – please don’t leave things to the last minute.

Evaluation Components

**Daily Quiz:** Very brief daily quizzes will begin every class exactly at 8:30 am and should be viewed as an opportunity to display your mastery of grammatical topics and vocabulary items. If you have carefully done the ‘follow-up’ for each day, students should find daily quizzes quite straightforward. **Lateness will result in a score of zero for that day's quiz.** However, students who are forced to miss class for medical reasons will be given the opportunity to make up the daily quiz on the day they return to class. Although the two lowest quiz scores from the semester will be dropped, zeroes acquired from non-medical absence/lateness will be factored into your final grade. Students who score zero on daily quizzes due to a pattern of lateness will be put on academic probation. Please plan to arrive at the programme house early – and make allowance for the morning railway crossing if necessary!

**Written Work:** Nightly home work assignments reinforce the oral material taught through classroom drills. Please try your best to develop good handwriting so that review of your written work will be orthographically unchallenging.

**Two Oral Examinations:** The First Oral Examination will be held during Week 5 in the centre and will be approximately 15 minutes. You will be asked general questions to test your mastery of grammatical structures covered in class. Your vocabulary may be simple, but you should be able to respond appropriately to questions, describe your immediate environment (i.e. classroom), your family members and simple activities. You will also be tested on logistical questions (i.e. how much is a ticket? where is the train station?), and your ability to understand simple directions.

The Second Oral Examination will be held during Week 10, and will be approximately 15 minutes. You should be able to generate a set of prepared sentences to convey the following information: self-introduction, brief description of your ISP project and basic details about your Homestay experience in Hindi using vocabulary, phrases, idioms, and sentences collected in your 'Hindi Final Project' since the beginning of the semester. Although you may consult your Hindi Final Project in case you cannot remember a crucial vocabulary item, you are expected to be able to produce a set of simple sentences on each topic from memory, without hesitation. You will also be tested on time expressions.

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**Hindi Final Project:** Students should hand in Hindi Final Project which should take the form of a notebook, and will be a record of students’ independent learning of Hindi outside the classroom. The specialized and advanced vocabulary for the Hindi Final Project should be drawn from students’ own experiences of learning Hindi while living and studying in India, and be in areas of interest to students themselves. Although based on written language, the Final Project may also be supplemented by items of your choosing, including pictures, advertisements, and found text. It should include phrases in Hindi that have caught your attention, words that you have looked up, specific sentences about yourself and your SIT coursework, any Hindi text that you copy from your environment, and so on. As you learn new material over the semester, please check spelling and pronunciation with the Language Instructor, and then recopy the material into your Hindi Final Project. Although the Final Project should contain a minimum of **25-35 sentences**, it should document your consistent efforts throughout the semester to learn about your Homestay, ISP topic, and cultural environment in Hindi. It may also be helpful to think of your Hindi Final Project as the basis of your review and preparation for the Second Oral Examination in Week 10.

**Two Comprehensive Written Examinations:** Each cumulative exam will be 2.0 hours. In addition to regular office hours and meetings by appointment, optional review and drill sessions will be given before all written exams.

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