

# **Hamdard Institute of Legal Studies and Research (HILSR)**

## **School of Law**

### **Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi**

#### **Course Syllabus**

##### **Course Overview:**

**Course Title: English Language Skills and Legal Language I**

**Course Code: BALLB – 101**

**Semester: First**

**Credits: 4**

**Medium of Instruction/Assessment: English**

##### **Objectives of the Course:**

This paper focuses on orientation of students to English and legal language. To facilitate the students in enhancing their reading, writing, communication and comprehension skills. This course includes introduction to Phonetics and Vocabulary, Grammar and usage, Comprehension, Composition, Legal Language and Law and Literature. The course will also help the students in having a sound grasp over the language and to clearly and effectively communicate using the written language.

##### **Learning Outcome:**

At the end of this course, the students should be able to:

1. Identify and transcribe the phonetic symbols and learn the *Received Pronunciation* (RP).
2. Understand the lexical and syntactical structures of the language.
3. Acquire understanding and clarity of grammatical items.
4. Study and critically analyze the texts that have bearing on legal matters.
5. Achieve clarity of words, identify ambiguities and build legal English and foreign vocabularies.
6. Acquire legal writing skills and familiarity with formats of legal documentation.
7. Appreciate and critically analyze English literature pertaining to legal matters in order to understand deep structures of societies.

##### **Assessment and Evaluation:**

The course has a weightage of 100 marks. 75 % of the marks will be covered by the End Semester Examination; while as 25 % will constitute internal assessment to be conducted by the instructor.

- (A) **End Semester Examination:** There shall be ten questions in the Question paper with two, from each unit. Students shall have to answer five questions, selecting one from each unit.
- (B) **Internal Assessment:** The students will be assessed and evaluated by the teacher during the entire semester at regular intervals. This shall be done by employing a wide range of methods including written tests, tutorials, term paper writing, presentations, etc. Attendance of the students will also form a part of the internal assessment.

### **Course Outline:**

The course is based on five units.

### **Contents of syllabus**

#### **Unit I: Phonetics and Vocabulary**

1. Transcription of Phonetic Symbols
2. Synonyms and Antonyms
3. Word formation-Prefix, Suffix

#### **Unit II: Grammar and Usage**

1. Parts of Speech
2. Tenses, Modals
3. Active and Passive Voice
4. Direct and Indirect Speech
5. Subject Verb Agreement

#### **Unit III: Comprehension**

1. William Blake: The Little Black Boy
2. Martin L. King Jr.: I have a Dream
3. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam: Vision for 2020

#### **Unit IV: Legal Language**

1. Law and Language — English as medium for legal transaction in India
2. Important English, Greek and Latin legal maxims (unseen passages)
3. Foreign legal words and phrases

#### **Unit V: Law and Literature**

1. *To Kill a Mocking Bird* - Harper Lee
2. *In the Court: A Short story* - Anton Chekhov
3. *The Merchant of Venice* - William Shakespeare
4. Visual Texts (Movies, Documentaries)

## Recommended Readings:

1. Aiyar, Ramanatha. *Concise Law Dictionary-With Legal Maxims, Latin Terms, And Words & Phrases*. Lexis Nexis; Fifth edition, 2014.
2. Chekhov, Anton. *In the Court: A Short Story*.
3. Cormack, Bradin, et.all. Ed. *Shakespeare and the Law: A Conversation among Disciplines and Profession*. University of Chicago Press, 2016.
4. Fitikides, T. J. *Common Mistakes in English Language*. Pearson, 2010.
5. Garner, Bryan. *Garner's Dictionary of Legal Usage*. OUP.: USA; 3 edition, 2011.
6. Hewings, Martin. *Advanced English Grammar: A Self Study Reference and Practice Book for Advanced South Asian Students with Answers*. 1st Edition. Cambridge University Press, 2000.
7. Lee, Harper. *To Kill a Mocking Bird*. Arrow, 2010.
8. McCarthy, Michael. *Test Your English Vocabulary In Use Advanced (South Asian Edition)*. Cambridge University Press: New Delhi.
9. Mishra, P. K. *Legal Language Legal Writing & General English*. 2017.
10. Murphy, Raymond. *Intermediate English Grammar, (Reference And Practice For South Asian Students)*, 2 Edition. Cambridge University Press, 1994.
11. Shakespeare, William. *The Merchant of Venice*. Penguin Classics, 2000.
12. Suzana, Roopa. *A Practical Course in English Pronunciation*. McGraw Hill Education, 2017.
13. Tickoo, M. L., and A. E. Subramaniam. *A Functional Grammar with Usage and Composition*. Frank Bros. & Co. Noida.
14. William, Glanville. *Learning the Law*. 14th Edition. Sweet & Maxwell, 2013.
15. W. S. Allen. *Living English Structure*. 5th edition. Pearson. 2009.