

TAMIL AT BERKELEY



Tamil Language Faculty

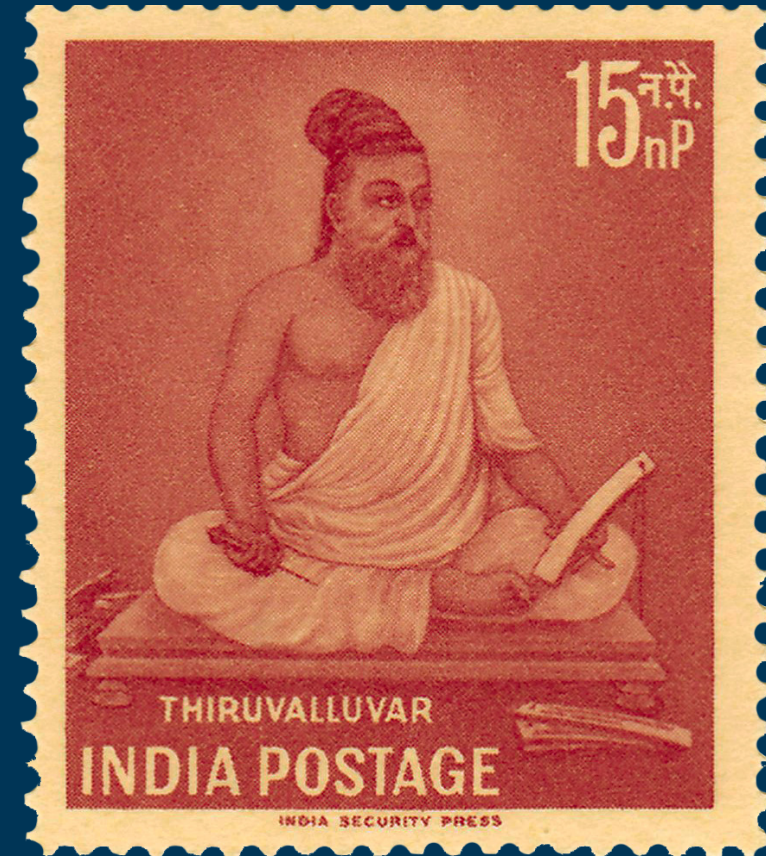
Tamil language and literature at UC Berkeley is taught by Asst. Professor Vasugi Kailasam and Professor Bharathy S. Rajulu, our Tamil language lecturer.



DR. VASUGI KAILASAM (Ph.D, National University of Singapore) is a scholar of modern Tamil literature. Her research interests include global Tamil literature, visual/ media studies and postcolonial studies. She is currently working on two research projects. The first is a book monograph titled *Tamil Realisms: Reading the global Tamil novel* and the second, *Post Millennial Tamil Visual Cultures*, arises from her work on global Tamil popular cultural production. Prior to UC Berkeley, Dr. Kailasam was the convenor of the Tamil Studies program at the National University of Singapore from 2015-2019.



DR. BHARATHY S. RAJULU (Ph.D, Madurai Kamaraj University) has been teaching Tamil language and literature for 30 years. Before coming to Berkeley, she ran the American Institute of India Studies (AIIS) Tamil program in Madurai and was also the director of AIIS South India. Dr. Bharathy was awarded the Walt Disney Motif Award in 2016 for her work in promoting Tamil Language Studies. In selecting her for the award the jury noted that Dr. Bharathy had "created a career that became a platform of education, empowerment and engagement to many" and that her work at AIIS and UC Berkeley had left "a long lasting impact." In addition to Tamil Dr. Bharathy is also proficient in Telugu.



THIRUVALLUVAR

Thiruvalluvar, commonly known as Valluvar, was a celebrated Tamil poet and philosopher. He is best known as the author of Tirukkural (Sacred Couplets), a collection of couplets on ethics, political and economical matters, and love. The text is considered a masterpiece of human thought, compared in India and abroad to the Bible, John Milton's Paradise Lost, and the works of Plato.

Thiruvalluvar was celebrated by the Government of India with a commemorative postage stamp on Feb 15, 1960



தமிழ் at Berkeley

The Mission & Future Goals

The Institute for South Asia Studies at Berkeley would like to raise a \$1 million dollar endowment to support Tamil Studies-related activities on campus. With this money, we hope to have a bi-annual Tamil Studies conference, create a fellowship program for a Tamil Studies scholar from India, and support Tamil language classes. Success will allow Berkeley to do the following:

- Enable heritage and non-heritage students to take Tamil language classes
- Create a context in which heritage and non-heritage individuals can appreciate and participate in broader Tamil language and cultural activities
- Train the next generation of Tamil-focused scholars and academics
- Foster academic connections between Berkeley and Tamil-focused programs in India
- Create new and innovative pedagogical materials to encourage the global study of Tamil
- Support on-the-ground research in all disciplines in Tamil Nadu
- Increase Tamil language holdings in Berkeley's world renowned South Asia collection
- Host an annual distinguished lecture and performance series featuring prominent Tamil scholars, artists and performers

For more information please contact:

Dr. Sanchita B. Saxena

Executive Director, Institute for South Asia Studies
sanchitas@berkeley.edu

To make an online donation in support of Tamil studies please go to:

bit.ly/Berkeley-Tamil-Studies

Tamil Studies at Berkeley

Tamil language and literature has been taught at Berkeley for almost fifty years now. Between 1973 and 2011, the Tamil Studies Program was carefully stewarded by Professor (Emeritus) George L. Hart III and Professor Kausalya Hart. The former is best known for such well known books as *The Four Hundred Songs of War and Wisdom* and *The Poets of The Tamil Anthologies* as well as for his argument that Tamil is a classical language, a status that the Government of India formally accorded it on 18 September 2004. The latter wrote the definitive textbook for the teaching of Tamil in North America: *Tamil for Beginners*. Thanks to the Harts' energy and dedication, UC Berkeley became a major center of undergraduate and graduate training in Tamil. Many of the Harts' students went on to very successful careers in academia, government, journalism, medicine, and the other sciences.

Attesting to the significant role played by the Harts in popularizing Tamil across North America, the Bay Area Tamil community endowed a Chair in Tamil Studies at UC Berkeley in the 1990s. Since then, the Tamil Chair has been used to fund a wide range of Tamil-specific programs, conferences, and research fellowships. Upon their retirement the Harts endowed two more funds to support undergraduate and graduate research work in Tamil Studies: the *Hart Fellowship for Tamil Studies* and the *Bodha Pravaham Undergraduate Fellowship for Tamil Studies*.

The teaching of Tamil language and culture is now entirely handled by Professor Vasugi Kailasam (who joined Berkeley in 2018) and Professor S. Bharathy (who joined in 2013). Under their leadership, Tamil classes are not only a permanent fixture in UC Berkeley's curriculum but have also continued to grow in with more students enrolled than ever before and rising graduate student applications. Alongside these developments, the Tamil Studies program has been busy forging connections between UC Berkeley and organizations across North America to help popularize Tamil language learning as well as deepen historical, religious, literary and cultural interest in Tamil and Tamil Nadu as well as other Tamil diasporic spaces around the world. Classes currently taught at UC Berkeley include: Introductory, Intermediate and Advanced Tamil, classes on premodern and modern Tamil literature, and global Tamil literatures, history and culture.

Tamil Studies Related Chairs & Programs at UC Berkeley

- The **CHAIR IN TAMIL STUDIES** endowment was raised as a joint effort of the Institute for South Asia Studies and the San Francisco Bay Area Fundraising Committee for the Chair in Tamil Studies. Starting from a base of Bay Area Tamil Americans committed to the support of teaching and research in and on Tamil language and literature, the fundraising campaign eventually reached friends of Tamil throughout North America. More information at SOUTHASIA.BERKELEY.EDU/TAMIL-CHAIR
- The **HART FELLOWSHIP FOR TAMIL STUDIES**, established with a generous contribution from Professor George Hart and Professor Kausalya Hart, supports graduate students pursuing research projects focusing on Tamil studies. The fund provides for a single grant of up to \$2000 for research travel to South Asia or \$500 for domestic conference travel. Priority is given to mid-career graduate students conducting research toward a Masters thesis or dissertation proposal. Graduate students at UC Berkeley and other University of California campuses are given priority. More information at SOUTHASIA.BERKELEY.EDU/HART-FUND
- The **BODHA PRAVAHAM UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWSHIP FOR TAMIL STUDIES**, also established by Professors George and Kausalya Hart, supports undergraduate students pursuing research projects focusing on Tamil studies. The fund provides for grants of up to \$900 for research travel to South Asia for UC Berkeley undergraduates. More information at SOUTHASIA.BERKELEY.EDU/BODHA-FUND

Ways to Give

The University of California at Berkeley invites alumni, parents and friends active in the Tamil-speaking community to support Tamil language instruction. Gifts from families, businesses, and other organizations are also encouraged. Gifts may be given in the following forms:

- Outright cash contributions, tax-deductible within certain limits of law
- A pledge to be paid over several years
- Gifts of securities
- Matching gifts by employers. Many companies match gifts from retirees and board members as well as employees
- Bequests

All donations are tax deductible. All individuals donating above \$500 will be acknowledged on the Institute's webpage. All individuals donating above \$1000 will also receive a personalized certificate of appreciation from the Institute acknowledging their support.



George and Kausalya Hart in 1967

If we can produce a Tamil student who gets a tenured job at a major university teaching Tamil, then we get a fantastic return on our investment, since that student then generates more students, and Tamil becomes better and better established.
— George L. Hart

தமிழ்
at Berkeley