FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
Department of Religious Studies
Introduction to the Prakrit Languages
SRK 5004-U01
Fall 2016

Instructor: Steven M. Vose
Office: DM 359-A
Office Hours: T 12:30-1:45, R 3:30-5:00, or by appointment
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Class Hours: TR 2:00-3:15
Classroom: DM 323
Phone (off.): 305-348-6728

Course Description:
“Prakrit” is a collective term that refers to a number of written languages and dialects in use in India between roughly 600 BCE and 1700 CE, corresponding with the “Middle Indo-Aryan” language group. From the Buddhist Pali and Jain Ardha-Magadhi canons to the vast body of narratives dating from the first century CE, Prakrits were the languages of both religious traditions. Additionally, the mastery of its several forms was required of poets in royal courts, as Prakrits were used in dramas and lyric poetry. In fact, the Prakrit edicts of Emperor Ashoka are the oldest deciphered written documents in South Asia.

Beginning with a brief historical survey of the development of the Indo-European and Indo-Aryan languages, this course will examine the phonological, morphological, and grammatical features of one or more of the various Prakrits. Throughout, emphasis will be placed on developing reading competency in the selected language by mastering its unique features and by learning to recognize corresponding Sanskrit forms already mastered.

Prerequisite:
Sanskrit 3202 or 5202 (Sanskrit III – Epic Sanskrit), or instructor permission.

Course Objectives:
• To introduce students to the history of the Middle Indo-Aryan languages, commonly known as Prakrit.
• To master the phonology, morphology, and fundamental grammar of one or more Prakrit.
• To build basic vocabulary to increase reading speed.
• To introduce grammar reference materials and dictionaries.
• To learn techniques and strategies for reading and translating Prakrit texts.

Learning Outcomes:
By the end of this course, students will:
• Know the basic history of the languages and varieties of language uses in pre-modern South Asia.
• Master the phonological, morphological, and fundamental grammatical forms of one or more of the Prakrit languages.
• Build a basic vocabulary of Prakrit terms in common use.
• Learn to use reference grammars and dictionaries with speed and accuracy.
• Read and translate a portion or portions of one or more Prakrit texts selected in consultation with the instructor.
• Build reading skills for continued research and learning in Prakrit languages and literatures and related religious, literary, and philosophical traditions.
• Have the basic language skills necessary to conduct research at the graduate level in primary sources in Prakrit.

Course Grading and Requirements:
• Daily preparation and course participation (25%)
• Weekly quizzes on paradigms of nouns, verbs, participles, etc. (25%)
• Midterm Exam (25%)
• Final Exam (25%)

Daily Preparation: Students will prepare for each class by translating a portion of the text, approximately 5-10 verses or 10-20 lines of prose. Class time will be spent reviewing translations, explaining language peculiarities, and working on paradigms of nouns, verbs, participles, pronouns, compounds, etc., which will be reinforced through weekly quizzes. The idea is to use the portion of text that the class translates together as a basis for building vocabulary, familiarity with grammatical features, and skill and speed in translating. This is a slow process that requires a great deal of patience and repetition, and a fair amount of rote memorization of paradigms, which is reinforced both by the text translated in class and in weekly quizzes.

Weekly Quizzes: Starting in Week 3, the Tuesday class will begin with a 10-15-minute quiz that will ask students 1) about the history of Prakrit (Week 3), or 2) to reproduce paradigms of noun/participle declensions, verb conjugations, sandhi, phonology/morphology, etc. of Prakrit in general and/or the “Selected Language” (SL) in particular. Ten (10) weekly quizzes will cumulatively account for 25% of the final grade, each weighted equally.

Midterm Exam: (Thursday of Week 9) Reading translation of passage from already-covered text (without aids) and noun and verb paradigms (*The test will be on already-translated material, but without the use of dictionaries or grammar textbooks to reinforce and solidify your understanding of the proper translations, much like practicing and repeating conversations in a spoken language. The repetition reinforces memorization of vocabulary, noun declensions, verb conjugations, and other grammatical features, and gives you not just abstract tables of paradigms, but also a sense of how texts can be made into the basis for language acquisition in the context of a non-spoken language.)

Final Exam: Non-cumulative translation of a passage from an already-covered text (again, without aids) and another, short passage from a previously un-encountered text in the same language (with dictionary); cumulative noun, verb, and participle paradigms previously covered in weekly quizzes will also be tested (*The continued review of the text translated in class works to increase language recall and adaptive reading skills. Hence, the longer translation of the already-covered text. As this repetition should have solidified your grasp of the grammar, the short passage from the previously un-
encountered text should put your grasp of the grammar to the test, and get you reading Prakrit as a research scholar would. The selected new passage will have no grammatical features that have not already been covered in the text translated in class.)

**Grading scale** (*note that grading scales have changed for 2016-17 across FIU*):

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<td>A-</td>
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<td>0-59</td>
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**Textbooks:**

The following textbooks are recommended:


NOTE: All primary source readings will be provided on Blackboard. Students are expected to print out the primary text selection and bring it with them to class, having prepared in advance for each reading session.

**Schedule of Class Meetings:**

Week 1 (Aug 23, 25): What is Prakrit? An Introduction to the Language Families of South Asia
- **Tue:** Course Overview; Traditional and Modern Definitions of “Prakrit”
- **Thu:** History of Prakrits in Jainism, Buddhism, and Courtly Settings
  Read: Woolner, Introduction

Week 2 (Aug 30, Sep 1): The Tools of the Trade
- **Tue:** Reverse Engineering Sanskrit: How to Use the Grammars and Dictionaries
  Read: Woolner, Chapter 1; van den Bossche, Introduction.
- **Thu:** Phonology: What happens to Sanskrit words in Prakrit? (Euphonic Combination)
  Read: van den Bossche, Chapter 1; Woolner, Chapter 2

Week 3 (Sep 6, 8): The General Features of Prakrit
- **Tue:** Morphology: Tat-samas, Tad-bhavas, and Deśya Words
  Read: van den Bossche, Chapter 2; Woolner, Chapter 2 (cont’d.)
  *Quiz:* History of the Prakrit Languages
- **Thu:** Phonology and Morphology Review
  Read: van den Bossche, Chapter 2 (cont’d.)

Week 4 (Sep 13, 15): Special Features of Selected Language (SL)
- **Tue:** Special Phonology and Morphology of SL
  Read: van den Bossche, Chapter 3
  *Quiz:* Euphonic combinations and identifying types of Prakrit words
- **Thu:** Special Grammatical Features of SL; Using textbook as reference grammar
  Read: van den Bossche, Chapter 3 (cont’d.)
Week 5 (Sep 20, 22): Introduction to Selected Text
Tue: Discussion of Selected Text: History, Tradition, Authorship
Read: Editor’s Introduction to text or essay/article about text (TBA, Bb)
Quiz: Declension of -a/-ā nouns in all three genders in SL
Thu: Reading Techniques and Strategies: First exercise in reading the text in class
Read: Woolner, Chapter 3; van den Bossche, Chapter 4

*Reading Selected Language: The remainder of the course will be based on reading the text of the SL. Begin preparing 5-8 verses (or 8-10 lines) of text to review translations in class. Use textbooks to help you determine grammatical forms, declensions, conjugations, etc.

Week 6 (Sep 27, 29): Reading Selected Language
Tue: Review reading from previous week; continue preparing for class
Quiz: Imperfect Verb Conjugations and Past Passive Participles
Thu: Continue preparing, review translations in class

Week 7 (Oct 4, 6): Reading Selected Language
Tue: Review reading from previous week; continue preparing for class
Quiz: -i/-ī stem noun declensions, all genders.
Thu: Continue preparing, review translations in class

Week 8 (Oct 11, 13): Reading Selected Language
Tue: Review reading from previous week; continue preparing for class
Quiz: Personal Pronouns (relative and correlative, from tables in Pischel)
Thu: Continue preparing, review translations in class

Week 9 (Oct 18, 20): Midterm Review and Exam
Tue: Review for Exam
Thu: Midterm Exam

Week 10 (Oct 25, 27): Exam Review; Reading Selected Language
Tue: Exams returned, reviewed
Quiz: Indicative and Demonstrative Pronouns (Tables in Pischel)
Thu: Continue preparing, review translations in class

Week 11 (Nov 1, 3): Reading Selected Language
Tue: Review reading from previous week; continue preparing for class
Quiz: Analysis of compounds
Thu: Continue preparing, review translations in class

Week 12 (Nov 8, 10): Reading Selected Language
Tue: Review reading from previous week; continue preparing for class
Quiz: Future tense conjugation of ā(as) (to be), kara (to do)
Thu: Continue preparing, review translations in class

Week 13 (Nov 15, 17): Reading Selected Language
Tue: Review reading from previous week; continue preparing for class
   Quiz: Present Participles
Thu: Continue preparing, review translations in class

Week 14 (Nov 22, 24): NO CLASS—INSTRUCTOR AT CONFERENCE/THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Week 15 (Nov 29, Dec 1): Exam Review and Course Wrap-up
   Tue-Thu: Exam Review; evaluations

**Final Exam:** Thursday, December 8, 12:00-2:00, DM 323