SRK 2100-U01: Sanskrit I: Basics of Sanskrit

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(305) 348-6728 (office)

Class Hours: MWF 12:00-12:50
Office Hours: MWF 1:00-2:00
Office: On Zoom

Course Description and Purpose

This course introduces the grammar and writing system of the Classical Sanskrit language. Students will work through a primer to learn the alphabet, syntax, several noun declensions, demonstrative pronouns, the verbal root system, several verb tenses, relative-correlative constructions, and to begin reading and translating simple sentences and verses. Students will practice reading, writing, and proper pronunciation.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

- Read and write the Devanāgarī script and learn correct phonological pronunciation;
- Understand the rules of the Sanskrit system of phonetic combination (sandhi);
- Decline -a/-ā-stem, -i/-ī-stem, -u/-ū-stem, nouns and demonstrative pronouns in all three genders;
- Understand the verbal class (gaṇa) system and the formation of the present and imperfect tenses;
- Conjugate verbs in present and imperfect tenses and potential (optative) mood;
- Identify absolutive and infinitive constructions;
- Identify verbal adjectives and the past passive participle;
- Read simple Sanskrit prose; and
- Understand the basics of Sanskrit syntax.

Important Information

Before starting this course, please review the following pages:

- Accessibility and Accommodation
- Academic Misconduct Statement
The professor reserves the right to change or modify the syllabus at any time during the semester.

**Grading Scheme**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Range%</th>
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<th>Letter</th>
<th>Range%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 or above</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 - 86</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 - 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 - 92</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 - 82</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 - 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 - 89</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 - 79</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>59 or less</td>
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**Course Grading and Requirements:**

The final grade in the course will be calculated as follows:

- **Attendance and Class Participation:** 10%
- **Homework Assignments and Exercises:** 15%
- **Quizzes:** 25%
- **Midterm Exam:** 25%
- **Final Exam:** 25%

**Attendance and Class Participation**

It is vital for students to attend all classes in order to stay on track with each lesson. Class participation is essential so that students can engage in active learning strategies. Attendance and class participation is thus 10% of the final course grade. Students should notify the instructor of any absences and make an effort to catch up on missed material by consulting with other students and/or attending office hours.

**Homework Assignments and Exercises**

Homework Exercises will be assigned for most classes. These should be completed *prior* to coming to the class for which they are assigned, as they will be reviewed in class. Repetition is as important to learning language as challenging oneself to work on ever more complex examples is. Homework should be done on paper and will be corrected in class and marked as completed at the time of class. Students are encouraged to form a study group and to meet outside of class time to work on exercises collaboratively. Homework is 15% of the final grade.

**Quizzes**

There will be quizzes given at the completion of most lessons from the primer. Quiz grades comprise 25% of the final grade.

**Midterm Exam**
A midterm exam will assess students’ progress in the first 7 weeks of the course. It will include identifying noun declensions and verb conjugations, writing simple sentences, and translating readings from the primer. The midterm is 25% of the final grade.

Final Exam

There will be a non-cumulative final exam held during the final week of instruction, covering material after Week 7, in similar format to the midterm, which is 25% of the final grade.

Note: Students will also give a written evaluation of their own performance in the course.

Course Policies:

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to understand FIU’s definition of plagiarism and to adhere to the University Code of Academic Integrity. To view the code, please visit: http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/2codeofacainteg.htm (Links to an external site.)

When all else fails, ask the instructor for help. If you are found guilty of plagiarism, cheating or academic dishonesty, you could receive a failing grade for the assignment or course; severe cases may lead to disciplinary action including dismissal from the university.

Course Textbook:


Course Schedule:

Week 1: The Devanāgarī Alphabet (actually, syllabary) and Sanskrit Phonetics


Read for Wed.: CIS, Chs. 0 (yes, there’s a Chapter 0, don’t ask me why) and 1, pp. 1-17.

Videos for Wed.: 1) Introduction to Ruppel’s Sanskrit Grammar;
   2) Ch. 1: Writing the Sanskrit Alphabet (review often to help you learn to write and read the characters)

Assignment for Wed.: Exercise 1, p. 16. (Will review in class); Write the Sanskrit vowels as found on pg. 11.

Wednesday: The Sanskrit Alphabet and Sanskrit Phonetics; Sanskrit Vowels
Week 2: Mastering the Devanāgarī Alphabet

Read for Mon.: CIS, Chs. 2-2A, pp. 18-28.

Video: Ch. 2: System of Sanskrit Sounds

Assignment: Exercises 1-3, pp. 22-23.

Monday: More Sanskrit Consonants; Vowel Mātrās; Visarga; Anusvāra

Read for Wed.: Continue reviewing Chs. 0-2A

Assignment: Continue reviewing and writing the Devanāgarī characters, vowels, vowel mātrās, and conjuncts in the Exercises in Chs. 1-2A.

Wednesday: Consonant Conjuncts; Reading Sanskrit Words

Assignment: Continue reviewing Sanskrit alphabet. Be able to identify and write any character or conjunct and to give the correct transliteration.

Friday: QUIZ: Sanskrit Alphabet

For the remainder of the course, students will determine the pace of the lessons. For this reason, the remainder of the course schedule is given in terms of “Lessons,” rather than “Weeks.” Students and Instructor will agree on a pace for the subsequent lessons, exercises, quizzes, and review of materials. Quizzes may be given weekly or at the end of a lesson, as agreed upon between students and instructor in class.

The Midterm Exam will be held on the Friday of Week 7 (Oct. 9). Students and Instructor will agree on the Lessons to be covered in the exam by the end of class on the Monday of Week 6 (Sep. 28).

Lesson 3: The Sanskrit Verb and Root (Dhātu) System

Readings, Videos and Exercises: CIS, Chs. 3-4.

Lesson 4: Nouns and Nominals: Case, Number, and Gender; -a-stem Nouns
Lesson 5: Vowel Gradation: From Root (Dhātu) to Word
Readings, Videos and Exercises: CIS, Ch. 5-6.

Lesson 6: Absolutives, the Past Passive Participle, and Infinitives; Internal sandhi
Readings, Videos and Exercises: CIS, Ch. 7.

Lesson 7: Feminine -ā-stem Nouns; More internal sandhi; Adverbs and adjectives
Readings, Videos and Exercises: CIS, Ch. 8.

Lesson 8: Prepositions and Preverbs
Readings, Videos and Exercises: CIS, Ch. 9.

Lesson 9: External and consonant sandhi
Readings, Videos and Exercises: CIS, Ch. 10.

Lesson 10: The Imperfect (Past) Tense and Present Potential (Optative) Mood
Readings, Videos and Exercises: CIS, Ch. 11.

Lesson 11: -i and -u-stem Nouns; Visarga (final -s) sandhi
Readings, Videos and Exercises: CIS, Ch. 12.

Lesson 12: Compounds of Nouns
Readings, Videos and Exercises: CIS, Ch. 13.

Lesson 13: Consonant-stem Nouns
Readings, Videos and Exercises: CIS, Ch. 14.

Lesson 14: Vowel sandhi (“This Lesson usually takes two full weeks to complete”)
Readings, Videos and Exercises: CIS, Ch. 15.

Lesson 15: Noun Formation from root (dhātu) to noun
Readings, Videos and Exercises: CIS, Ch. 16.

The Final Exam will take place during our normally scheduled exam time in the “Final Week of Instruction” (formerly known as “Finals Week”). The exam schedule will be released later
in the semester. The content of the Final Exam will be determined by the students and instructor by the Friday of Week 13 (Nov. 20).