

BEGINNING SANSKRIT I • SRK II20/6905 • CLA 4905

Jonathan Edelmann, Ph.D. • Assistant Professor • University of Florida • Religion
jonathanedelmann@ufl.edu • OFFICE HOURS MTWR 10:30-11:30 AM, Anderson Hall, 106
MTWR Period 3 (9:35-10:25 AM) • Matherly (MAT) Room II



Beginning Sanskrit provides an introduction to the classical language of ancient South Asia. It is classified as an Indo-European language and you will soon see for yourself that Sanskrit has relationships with European languages like English, German, French, Greek, and Latin. The primary goal of this course is to assist in mastering the basics of classical Sanskrit grammar while simultaneously acquiring a foundation in vocabulary. This course does not assume prior knowledge in Sanskrit or any classical language. There are no prerequisites. Although pronunciation and recitation are important and will comprise a necessary part of the course, emphasis will be given to acquiring reading and writing skills which will enable one to engage in Sanskrit textual material like the Hindu epics, Buddhist narratives, Sanskrit dramas, Indian philosophy, Jain cosmology, etc. Learning Sanskrit also provides an excellent augment to English grammar, and will help you further develop critical thinking, logical analysis, and English composition skills. It is the intellectual language for many of the oldest religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism, and the language for some of the world's greatest poets, mathematicians, linguists, philosophers, and theologians. This course, in short, seeks to internationalize the student experience.

Required Book

- Goldman, Robert P., and Sally J. Sutherland. 2002. *Devavāṇīpraveśikā: An Introduction to the Sanskrit Language*. Berkeley: Centers for South and Southeast Asia Studies.

Helpful Books

- Whitney, William Dwight. 1945 [1885]. *The roots, verb-forms, and primary derivatives of the Sanskrit language. A supplement to his Sanskrit grammar*. New Haven: American Oriental Society. Originally published by Breitkopf and Hürtel: Leipzig.
- Deshpande, Madhav M. 1997. *Saṃskṛtasubodhinī: a Sanskrit primer*. Michigan Papers on South and Southeast Asian Studies No.47. Center for South & Southeast Asian Studies, University of Michigan.

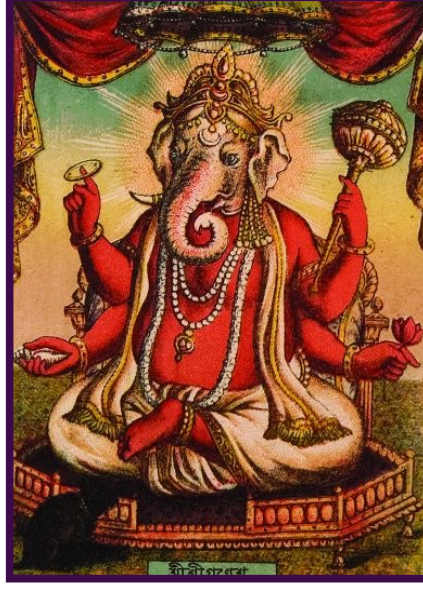
Helpful Websites

- William Dwight Whitney's Sanskrit Grammar: http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Sanskrit_Grammar
- UBC Sanskrit Learning Tools: <http://www.ubcsanskrit.ca>
- Sanskrit Pronunciation: http://www.loyno.edu/~tccahill/skt_sound_files.html
- Sanskrit-English Dictionary: <http://www.sanskrit-lexicon.uni-koeln.de/mwquery/>
- Sanskrit-English Dictionary: <http://www.andhrabharati.com/dictionary/sanskrit/index.php>
- Little Red Book: <http://littleredbook.vedicsociety.org.in>

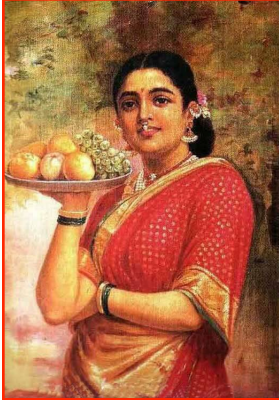
Course Objectives

- To gain an understanding of the fundamental aspects of Sanskrit grammar,
- To gain the ability to read Sanskrit sentences composed for new readers,
- To have the capacity to begin second year Sanskrit to read selected primary sources (e.g. Bhagavad Gītā, Hitopadeśa, Purāṇas, Yogasūtra, etc.).

संस्कृत



॥ ॐ स्वस्ति श्रीगणेश नमः ॥



Vācaspatimiśra I's *Tattvavaiśaradī* commentary on the *Vyāsbhāṣya* commentary on the *Yogasūtra*: (1.43): शब्दसंकेतस्मरणपूर्वे खल्वागमाने प्रवर्तते, “Indeed scriptural teaching or lingual-knowledge and inference arise from a dependence upon or are preceded by conventional language and memory, or memories of the conventional use of words.”

Tentative Schedule

Week I: Introduction to Course and Phonology

M.	Introductions and Review Syllabus	Read L.1
T.	Basic Pronunciation	Ex. 1.A–B
W.	Pronunciation Practice	Ex. 1.C
R.	Introduction to <u>Devanāgarī</u> script	Read L.2, begin memorizing §2.1

संस्कृत

Week 2: Devanāgarī-script (देवनागरीलिपि)

M.	Memorizing 2.1, and Reading <u>Devanāgarī</u>	Ex. 2.C
T.	Reading <u>Devanāgarī</u>	Ex. 2.D
W.	Writing <u>Devanāgarī</u>	Ex. 2.A
R.	<u>Devanāgarī</u> Practice & Review	<u>Devanāgarī</u> and 2.1 quiz, Read L.3



काव्यास्यात्मा स एवार्थस्तथा चादिकवेः पुरा ।

क्रौचद्वन्द्ववियोगोत्थः शोकः श्लोकत्वमागतः ॥

Just this meaning is the essence of poetry: long, long ago, lamentation, born from the separation of two sandpiper birds, arose in the first poet, and a verse arrived. (By Ānandavardhana, *Dhvanyāloka*, 1.5)

Week 3: Sandhi (phonological replacement)

M.	Labor Day, no class	
T.	Vowel and Consonant Sandhi	Ex. 3.A
W.	Internal Sandhi	Ex. 3.B
R.	Sandhi Practice	Begin Reading L.4 (at least to §4.20)



“Arjuna, don't panic!”

श्री भगवानुवाच । अशोच्यानन्वशोचस्त्वं प्रज्ञावादांश्च भाषसे । गतासूनगतासूश्च नानुशोचन्ति पण्डिताः ॥

God said: you lament for that which is not worthy of lamentation, and you speak words of profound knowledge. The wise lament neither for the dead, nor for those who have not died.

Bhagavadgītā 2.11

Week 4: Parts of a Sanskrit (संस्कृत) sentence

- M. Verb Conjugation: Read all of L.4, memorize paradigms *v̄vad*, *v̄bhāṣ* and *vas* (§4.21, §4.24)
- T. Noun Declension: Memorize *-a* stem for m. (e.g. *puruṣaḥ*, §4.33) and n. (e.g., and *pustakam*, §4.33)
- W. Case Relations and Personal Pronouns: Memorize personal pronouns (§4.46)
- R. Sentence Construction: Learn: Vocabulary (pp. 76–8)

Week 5: Continuation of parts of a Sanskrit (संस्कृत) sentence

- M. Translation, p.75, and memorize all vocab (L.3-4)
- T. Translation, p.75
- W. Ex.4.B
- R. Review parts of sentence, start L.5

संस्कृत

Week 6: Strīliṅga nouns, more cases pronouns

- M. Verb Conjugation: memorize -ā stem (e.g. *kanyā*, §5.1), start learning vocab (pp.89-90)
- T. Demonstrative Pronouns: memorize demonstrative pronouns (e.g. *tat*, §5.5), start Ex.5.A
- W. Adjectives and use in Sanskrit sentence: Ex.5.B, C
- R. Ex.5.A

Week 7: -i and -u stems, clauses, indeclinables

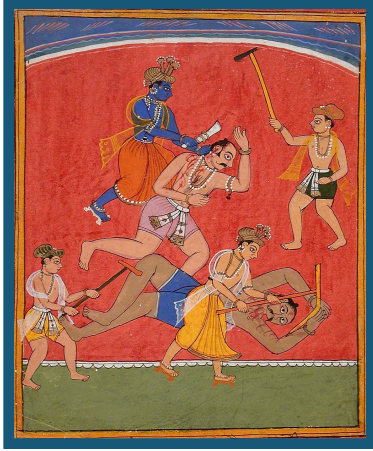
- M. More Nouns!: memorize vocab (pp.109-11), memorize paradigms §6.1-2
- T. Relative and Correlatives: start Ex.6.A, 6.E, memorize Bhagavad Gītā (§6.11)
- W. Negation: Ex.6.C, D
- R. Conclude Ex.6.A

Week 8: Start L.7, review, midterm examination (no quiz)

- M. More Nouns and Present System: -ī and start *gaṇa*-s (§7.11)
- T.-W. Review
- R. Midterm

Week 9: Feminine nouns and present system

- M. Strīliṅga and *gaṇa*: memorize paradigm (§7.1) and start Ex.7.A
- T. The *gaṇa*-s: Ex.7.C, D, start learning *gaṇa* 1-10
- W. Irregular Nouns: learn some of irregulars and vocab (pp.134-5)
- R. Conclude Ex.7.A



भागवतपुराण १०.४३.१७

मल्लानामशनिरूपां नरवरः स्त्रीणां स्मरो मूर्तिमान्गोपानां स्वजनोऽसतां क्षितिभुजां शास्ता स्वपित्तोः शिशुः ।
मृत्युर्भोजपतेर्विराडविदुषां तत्त्वं परं योगिनां वृष्णीनां परदेवतेति विदितो रङ्गं गतः साग्रजः ॥

As Krishna and his brother went into the arena they were understood by the wrestlers to be a lightning bolt, by the men in the audience to be the best of men, by the women to be the god of love, by the cowherd men from his village to be their family member, by the wicked kings to be a punisher, by his parents to be a child, by the King Kaṁsa to be death, by the unintelligent to be the cosmos, by the yogins to be absolute truth, and by the people of his extended family to be their supreme worshipful God.

श्रीधरस्वामिन् (15th century, Puri) - तत्र च शृण्गारादिसर्वरसकदंबकमूर्तिर्भगवांस्तत्तदभिप्रायानुसारेण
तत्तद्रूपो बभौ न तु साकल्येन सर्वेषामित्याह मल्लानामिति ।

God has the nature or form of all the collected aesthetic experiences (*rasa*-s) starting with the erotic experience and the rest. As he entered the arena, God became one or another form in accord with the desire of one or another person, but he did not become every [form and aesthetic experience] to all the people.

Week 10: More on nouns, imperfect verbs, and *upasargas*

- M. Noun strengths: memorize *ātman* and *rājan*, start Ex.8.A and vocab (pp.155-56)
- T. Imperfect tense: start 8.B
- W. *Upasargas* (prefixes): start 8.C, D
- R. Conclude 8.A

Week 11: More nouns, and passive verb (कर्मणि प्रयोग)

- M. More Nouns: learn §9.1-4, start vocab (171-2)
- T. Passive verb: Ex.9.B
- W. Passive verb: Ex.9.B
- R. Ex.9.A

संस्कृत

Week 12: Review, and start L.10

- M.-T. Review Day
- W. Agentive Nouns: memorize §10.3 and start vocab
- R. More on passive verb: Ex.10.B

Week 13: Conclude L.10, start L.11

- M. Using Passive and Agentive: Ex.10.A
- T. The *-ant*, etc. Affixes: memorize §11.1
- W. The Past Active Participle: start Ex.11.C
- R. No class for *American Academy of Religion*

Week 14: Review Week

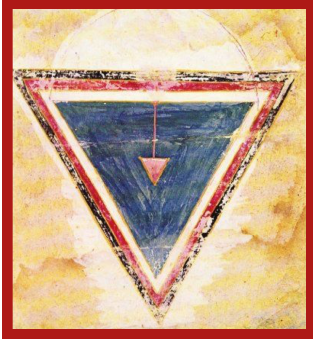
- M. No class for *American Academy of Religion*
- T. Review and Quiz
- W-R No Class for Thanksgiving

Week 15: Gerunds and Imperatives, compounds

- M. Gerunds and Imperatives: start Ex.11.A, B
- T. Gerunds and Imperatives: start Ex.11.A, B
- W. Gerunds and Imperatives: start Ex.11.A, B
- R. Introduce Compounds

Week 16: Nirodha!

- M. Compounds: Ex.12,C,D
- T. Review
- W. Review: Last day of class



Vākyapadiya or *Trikāṇḍī* by Bhartṛhari (c.450 AD)

अनादिनिधन ब्रह्म शब्दतत्त्व यदक्षरम । विवर्तेऽर्थभावेन प्रक्रिया गजतो यत ॥

1.1: Brahman has neither beginning nor end, either temporarily or spatially. It is language principle, the eternal syllable. It transforms into a temporarily real multiplicity through its capacities of time and space.

न सोऽस्ति प्रत्ययो लोके य शब्दानुगमाहते । अनुविद्धमेव ज्ञान सर्व शब्देन भासते ॥

सा सर्वविद्यां शिल्पानां कलानां चोपबन्धिनी ।

1.23, 25: In this world there is no cognition or comprehension that is without the accompaniment by or arising from language. All awareness shines forth as fully infused with language.

संस्कृत

Grading. Grades are computed based on the following grading scale: A: 100–93 A-: 92–90; B+: 89–87 B: 86–83 B-: 82–80; C+: 79–77 C: 76–73 C-: 72–70; D+: 69–67 D: 66–63 D-: 62–60; E: 59 or below. For more information about UF's minus grade system visit: <https://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>

(1) *Attendance and Participation: 15%.* As in any language course, the student's active participation is a critical part of the learning process. Active participation, therefore, comprises 15% of your grade. Examples of active participation include (but are not limited to): coming to class prepared to answer questions regarding homework assignments and readings, presenting translations (either verbally or by writing on the board), verse recitation, and contributing to in-class group activities. As your presence is required for active participation, both attendance and tardiness affect your participation grade (Attendance and Tardiness below).

(2) *Homework: 20%.* Homework assignments consist of reading assigned lessons, completing exercises such as translation exercises and paradigm dictation, memorizing paradigms, memorizing vocabulary, and so forth. These assignments comprise 20% of your grade. You are expected to attend class with previously assigned homework assignments completed before class begins. I will collect homework 1-3 times per week and return it.

(3) *Quizzes: 20%.* Unless otherwise indicated, I will conduct a quiz once per week on a Thursday at the beginning of class. The quiz will always be based on the current weekly readings and homework assignments. A quiz cannot be made up by a student that missed it due to an unexcused absence or tardiness. These quizzes, in total, will comprise 20% of your grade. I will drop the two lowest quiz grades.

(4) *Midterm Exam: 20% and (5) Final Exam: 25%.* The midterm exam is worth 20% of your grade. The exam will consist of providing conjugation and declension paradigms for previously learned verbs and nouns, defining vocabulary words, grammatical identification exercises, and Sanskrit-to-English reading and translation exercises based largely on the text book. The final exam is worth 25% of your grade and will be structured like the midterm exam (only longer). As this is a language course and retention is extremely important, the final exam will be cumulative. The last week of class will be devoted to review and questions in order to help you better prepare for the exam.

Attendance and Tardiness. Attendance is mandatory, and you are expected to come to each class session prepared by having read the required readings and/or completed the homework assignment prior to class. This is not a courtesy on your part; it is a requirement for the course that comprises the core of your participation grade. Students are also expected to arrive to class on time. That is, students should be ready to begin class at the appointed time (10:40). Tardiness is not only disrespectful to your instructor and fellow students, it also adversely affects your participation grade. Lastly, if students are in the process of taking a quiz, tardy students must remain outside of class until the other students finish the quiz. Make-ups and/or late assignments will only be allowed/accepted if valid excuses for missed classes are submitted in writing and in a timely manner, along with pertinent documentation (such as note from a doctor). Written excuses for planned absences (such as participation in athletic events or religious observances, for example) must be submitted in advance. Under no circumstances will a student be permitted to pass the course after missing eight hours of class (unexcused). For more on UF's attendance policy visit: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

University Policy on Academic Misconduct and Communication Courtesy. Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php>. All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. See Netiquette Document at teach.ufl.edu

Academic Honesty, Students with Disabilities, and Getting Help. Guidelines for academic honesty at the University of Florida can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx#honesty>. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the guidelines detailed at the above sites and adhere to them. Any student with a disability must register with the office of the Dean of Students: <http://accessibility.ufl.edu/>. I am happy to help in any way that I can. For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning, please contact the UF Help Desk at: learning-support@ufl.edu, (352) 392-HELP - select option 2, <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Disclaimer. This syllabus represents current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.