Elementary Sanskrit

The South Asia Summer Language Institute
University of Wisconsin-Madison
June 18 – August 10, 2012

Class Schedule: 8:30-10:30, 11:00-1:00 M-F
Class Location: Van Hise 590
SASLI Office: 204 Ingraham Hall
Phone: (608) 261-1194

Instructor: Shenghai Li
E-mail: shenghaili@gmail.com
Phone: (608) 395-1430
Office: Van Hise 1235
Office Hours: 1:15 Tuesdays & 2:20 Thursdays

Course Description

The primary goal of this Elementary Sanskrit course is to introduce in a comprehensive manner a range of Sanskrit grammar that a student needs in order to read classical Sanskrit texts. We will meet this goal in the first part of program by carefully going through Robert P. Goldman and Sally J. Sutherland Goldman’s Devāṇīpraveśikā: An Introduction to the Sanskrit Language. While acquiring knowledge of the Sanskrit language’s grammatical structure, we will also develop our reading comprehension through translation exercises, and in the course of doing so become familiar with the basic Sanskrit vocabulary. The second part of the course will occupy the last week of the program. Using the basic tools that we have acquired, in this segment we will read a selection from the Sanskrit epic Mahābhārata. At the end of the program, students should be able to read epic-level Sanskrit texts and will be prepared to enroll in a second-year university-level Sanskrit program.

Required Texts


Recommended Texts


*Introductory Readings on Sanskrit Language and Literature* prepared by Ryan Brizendine

Additional materials will be distributed throughout the program.

Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>June 18-22</td>
<td>Goldman, Chapters 1-3</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>June 25-29</td>
<td>Goldman, Chapters 4-6</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>July 2-6</td>
<td>Goldman, Chapters 7-9</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>July 9-13</td>
<td>Goldman, Chapters 10-12</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>July 16-20</td>
<td>Goldman, Chapters 13-15</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>July 23-27</td>
<td>Goldman, Chapters 16-18</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>July 30-August 3</td>
<td>Goldman, Chapters 19-21</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>August 6-10</td>
<td>“From the Mahā-bhārata,” in Lanman</td>
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Each day of the class will begin with a short quiz. Two longer exams are scheduled on the following days:

First Exam: July 15
Second Exam: August 9

Attendance Policy and Homework Preparation

This is a fast-paced intensive language course. An equivalent of one academic year’s course materials will be covered in eight weeks. A noticeable amount of unexcused absences will result in the lowering of your overall grade. There will be homework assignments for each lesson. Your performance grade will be determined based on a general impression of how well you prepare the homework and perform other assigned tasks.

Grading

- Preparedness and Performance: 35 %
- Daily Quizzes: 40 %
- Exams: 25 %