

Intermediate Sanskrit

SASLI 2016 Syllabus, UW-Madison

Instructor: Aleksandar Uskokov

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Office Location: B439 MCS

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 14:00-15:00, or at other times, by appointment

Cell phone number:

Classroom location: Babcock 119

Classes meet: 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM; break: 10:30 – 11:00 AM

Homework: While no written assignments will be generally given (though exceptions are possible), budget at least 4 hours every day for class preparation.

Class Etiquette:

1. Be on time (classes start at 8:30am) and come prepared!
2. Be respectful of other students and avoid distracting them and hindering their opportunity to learn.
3. Show your group members the same courtesy that you would give to the professor. Inform them of group meetings or activities that you will have to leave early or miss.
4. Do not record the class with video/audio devices.
5. Mute your cellphone during the class time.
6. While use of computers and tablets is not discouraged, be conscientious: use them to take notes and check online dictionaries. Do not check your e-mail, Facebook or the like.

Course Description:

This intensive course in intermediate Sanskrit will introduce students to several different genres of Sanskrit writing. Its goal is to give students a firm footing in the language and to facilitate their transition from learning grammar in the first year to reading texts with confidence from the third year on. We will learn how to analyze Sanskrit verses and prose by finding out the core of the sentence, understanding how syntax works and learning important idioms. Mastering the different genres covered in the course will expose the students to a wide range of Sanskrit vocabulary. We will learn the elements of Sanskrit prosody and the most common meters used by poets. Finally, the grammar sessions will help us retain, solidify and expand the knowledge gained in the first year of study.

Course Schedule:

Our course will be divided in three sections, in which we will read three different genres of Sanskrit literature:

1. In the initial three weeks we will read from the critical edition of the Sanskrit epic *Rāmāyaṇa*, the story of the descent of the Ganges River in the *Bāla-kāṇḍa*, which should prepare us for fluent reading of narrative verse.
2. In the second section, weeks four through five, we will read from the *Bhagavad-gītā*, which should provide us with many of the conceptual categories of Hinduism.
3. During the last three weeks, our course will focus on readings from the old Upaniṣads—*Bṛhad-āraṇyaka*, *Chāndogya* and *Taittirīya*—before moving to Śāṅkara’s commentary to the *Kena Upaniṣad*.

The last hour or so of our daily meetings, Monday through Thursday, will consist of grammar review, exercises, learning how to recite Sanskrit meters and, possibly, sight reading. The last two hours of Friday will consist of review of the material that we’ve covered during the week. The very last 10 minutes, Monday to Friday, will be left for a quiz on nominal and verbal paradigms. For some of the grammar reviewed, we will use *Bhatti’s Poem* published in the Clay Sanskrit Library.

Required Textbook:

1. Course Packet. This course packet will be available for purchase from SASLI on the first day of classes.
2. Apte, Vaman Shivaram. *Practical Sanskrit-English Dictionary*, OR
3. Monier Williams, Monier. *A Sanskrit English Dictionary*.

[Electronic versions of these dictionaries available online may be used instead of the hard copies.]

Reference and Suggested Texts and Materials:

1. Macdonell, Arthur A. *A Sanskrit Grammar for Students*.
2. Tubb, Gary and Emery Boose: *Scholastic Sanskrit: A Manual for Students*
3. Bucknell, Roderick S. *Sanskrit Manual: A Quick Reference Guide to Phonology and Grammar of Classical Sanskrit*.
4. Whitney, William Dwight. *The Roots, Verb-Forms and Primary Derivatives of the Sanskrit Language*.
5. Fallon, Oliver. *Bhatti’s Poem: The Death of Ravana*.
6. Hock, Hans Henrich. *An Early Upanishadic Reader*.

Examination and Grading:

Since during the eight weeks we will read three genres of texts, we will have three final and five weekly (midterm) exams, corresponding to three quarters in an academic year. The examination schedule is as follows:

1. Week 2, Monday, 8:30am-9:15am, weekly exam 1;
2. Week 3, Monday, 8:30am-10:30am, weekly exam 2;
3. Week 4, Tuesday, 8:30am-9:15am, final exam 1;
4. Week 5, Monday, 8:30am-9:15am, weekly exam 3;
5. Week 6, Monday, 8:30am-10:30am, final exam 2;

6. Week 7, Monday, 8:30am-9:15am, weekly exam 4;
7. Week 8, Monday, 8:30am-9:15am, weekly exam 5;
8. Week 8, Friday, 8:30am-10:30am, final exam 3.

Since the summer intensive program covers a full academic year of language study, you will get two grades – rather the same grade twice – corresponding to the two semesters of study at UW. Your grade will be determined as follows:

1. Attendance and class preparation: 25%
2. Grammar quizzes: 10%
3. Weekly exams: 25%
4. Final exams: 40%

Grade Scale:

1. A (Excellent) 90-100
2. AB (Intermediate Grade) 83-89
3. B (Good) 74-82
4. BC (Intermediate Grade) 67-73
5. C (Fair) 61-66
6. D (Poor) 55-60
7. F (Failure) 54 or less.

Attendance and Preparation:

Your success in this course is absolutely dependent on your class attendance and preparation. Given the intense nature of the program and our schedule of exams and quizzes, skipping one day will affect your performance on the weekly and final exams and will require extra time to prepare the material you've missed. Time will be a scarce resource during these two months, so I strongly recommend that you attend all the class sessions. Further, your success will be predicated on the time you spend preparing for our daily sessions. You are advised to budget no less than 4 hours of your time outside the classroom preparing for the readings for the next day. Finally, relax! Make learning and not exam performance your goal and think of this summer as a step in a longer process of improving your knowledge of Sanskrit.

Office Hours:

The instructor will have office hours Monday through Thursday 2:00-3:00 PM, or at other times if needed, in both cases by appointment. Schedule them over e-mail or in person.

Important Dates:

No class on 4th of July (Monday of Week 4)!

McBurney Disability Resource Center: The McBurney Center is available for all students at the University of Wisconsin. The Center offers a wide array of services for students with disabilities. If you need any disability accommodations you need to register with the McBurney Center. The McBurney Center is available for all students at the University of Wisconsin. The Center offers a wide array of services for students with disabilities. For a list of the services provided, please visit the website:
<http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu/services/>

Rights and Responsibilities

Students with disabilities have the right to:

- Full and equal participation in the services and activities of the University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Reasonable accommodations, academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids and services
- Privacy and to not have confidential information freely disseminated throughout the campus
- Limit access to confidential records. In doing so, however, students recognize that implementing accommodations may become more difficult
- Information readily available in accessible formats

Students with disabilities have the responsibility to:

- Meet qualifications and maintain essential institutional standards for courses, programs, services, jobs and activities
- Identify as an individual with a disability when an accommodation is needed and to seek information, counsel and assistance as necessary
- Demonstrate and/or document (from an appropriate professional) how the disability limits their participation in courses, programs, services, jobs and activities
- Follow published procedures for obtaining reasonable accommodations, academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids and services, or requesting barrier removal

The University, through faculty and staff, has the right to:

- Establish essential functions, abilities, skills, knowledge and standards for courses, programs, services, jobs and activities or facilities and to evaluate students on this basis;
- Determine the appropriate standards in developing, constructing, remodeling and maintaining facilities;
- Confirm disability status and request and receive current, relevant documentation that supports requests for accommodations, academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids and services;
- Have appropriate staff discuss students and their disabilities in order to implement requested accommodations (particularly instructional accommodations);
- Deny a request for accommodations, academic adjustments or auxiliary aids and services, and/or barrier removal in facilities if the documentation does not demonstrate

that the request is warranted, or if the individual fails to provide appropriate documentation;

- Select among equally effective accommodations, academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids and services;
- Refuse unreasonable accommodations, academic adjustments or auxiliary aids and services, and/or facility-related barrier removal requests that impose a fundamental alteration on a program or activity of the university.

The University has the responsibility to:

- Provide information to faculty, staff, students and guests with disabilities in accessible formats upon request
- Ensure that courses, programs, services, jobs, activities and facilities, when viewed in their entirety, are available and usable in the most integrated and appropriate settings
- Evaluate students on the basis of their abilities and not their disabilities
- Respond to requests on a timely basis
- Provide or arrange reasonable accommodations, academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids and services for students with disabilities in courses, programs, services, jobs, activities and facilities
- Maintain appropriate confidentiality of records and communication except where permitted or required by law

Contact information for the McBurney Disability Resource Center:

702 W Johnson Street, Suite 2104

Madison, WI, 53715

phone:

text:

fax:

Student Code of Conduct: The student Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures for the University of Wisconsin is available on the website listed below:

<https://www.students.wisc.edu/doso/academic-integrity/>

This document outlines the rules and regulations regarding your student rights and responsibilities while a student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. It states that **“Academic misconduct is an act in which a student:**

- seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation;
- uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise;
- forges or falsifies academic documents or records;
- intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others;
- engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student's academic performance;
- assists other students in any of these acts.”

Please see the website listed above for further information.

CLASSROOM ATMOSPHERE:

SASLI is committed to creating a diverse and welcoming learning environment for all students, and has a non-discrimination policy that reflects this philosophy. Disrespectful behaviors or comments addressed towards any group or individual, regardless of race/ethnicity, sexuality, gender, religion, ability, or any other identity or community are deemed unacceptable in class, and will be addressed by the instructor or referred to the Academic Director.

Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student’s legal name. We will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun.