

Elementary Sanskrit
South Asian Summer Language Institute
University of Wisconsin-Madison
ASIALANG317/ASIALANG327

Instructor

Dhruv Raj Nagar
Office Hours | M-F 4:00-5:00

Class Time & Location 10:30
AM – 12:30 PM CST | M-F BBCU
Virtual Class URL:
(will be provided)



Faculty Assistant

Christopher Fleming
Office Hours | M-F 3:00-4:00

Course Description:

Classical Sanskrit has remained, up until modernity, the primary *lingua franca* of philosophical, poetic and literary discourse in South Asia, while also being the site of extensive technical and scientific output in various specialized disciplines. It has been a medium of almost uninterrupted intellectual production for more than two millennia and provides the key to some of the world's oldest intellectual and religious traditions. It has deep continuities with many modern south Asian languages and, belonging to the Indo-European family of languages, it shares many features with Greek, Latin and various modern European languages. The Sanskrit grammatical tradition, going as far back as the early/middle first millennium BC, also represents perhaps the earliest attempt at a thorough, scientific investigation of language, bearing various affinities with and influencing modern linguistics. This course will introduce the student to Classical Sanskrit, its grammar, syntax, phonology and vocabulary, adopting ancient and modern approaches concurrently. We will study declensional schemes and conjugational paradigms, patterns of verbal and nominal word-formation, phonetic transformations and morphology.

Course Outcomes:

The aim is to provide, within eight weeks, competency equivalent to one year of Sanskrit learning. By the end of the course the student will be able to read, translate (and transcribe into Roman) from the Devanāgarī script, be qualified to undertake a university-level second-year Sanskrit course and be comfortable with reading epic texts such as the *Mahābhārata* or their equivalent. S/he will also be able to correctly form and vocalize various Sanskrit words and expressions, recite forms of Sanskrit verse composition and possess basic conversational competence. The first seven weeks will be spent working through Madhav Deshpande's primer, *Ṣaṃskṛtasubodhinī*. In the final week we will read selections from the Sanskrit epic *Mahābhārata* and its most famous poem, the *Bhagavadgītā*.

Required Textbook:

Madhav Deshpande, *Ṣaṃskṛtasubodhinī: A Sanskrit Primer*. Center for South & Southeast Asian Studies, University of Michigan. 1st Edition, 1997 (any reprint).

Reference:

R.P. Goldman & S.J.S. Goldman, *Devavāṇīpraveśikā: An Introduction to the Sanskrit Language*. Center for South Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley. 3rd Edition, 2004.

A.A. MacDonell, *A Sanskrit Grammar for Students*. DK Printworld, New Delhi. 3rd Edition 1926 (any reprint).

W.D. Whitney. *The Roots, Verb-Forms and Primary Derivatives of the Sanskrit Language*. Motilal Banarsidass, Delhi. 1963 (2016 reprint)

Dictionaries:

V.S. Apte, *The Student's Sanskrit-English Dictionary*. Motilal Banarsidass, Delhi. 1965 (any reprint)

M. Monier-Williams, *A Sanskrit-English dictionary: Etymologically and Philologically Arranged with Special Reference to Cognate Indo-European Languages*. Oxford University Press, Oxford. 1899 (any reprint)

We will be using the following tools to support our remote-instruction interactions:

- Canvas.
- Blackboard Collaborate Ultra: I have set up a live environment in Blackboard Collaborate Ultra. We will meet during regularly scheduled course times.
- Quizlet.

Course Policies:

1. Placement: Based on the instructor's initial assessment, students may be assigned to a more appropriate level of instruction if needed.

2. Class Etiquette:

- Do not be late for class (classes start at 10:30am everyday).
- Turn in all homework assignments on time.
- Actively participate in discussions and activities.
- Be respectful of other students and avoid distracting them and hindering their opportunity to learn.
- Do not record the class on video/audio devices without prior approval.
- Do not use social media, email, text unassociated with class tasks or do anything unrelated to class goals.
- Please read the BBCU netiquette advice available on Canvas under Module 0.

3. Attendance Policy:

Your full attendance at SASLI is integral to a positive language-learning experience for you and for your fellow students. One day of SASLI instruction is approximately equal to an entire week of instruction during a normal academic year. That being the case, any unexcused absence will receive a zero for that day's attendance and late arrivals will be noted. For medical or other emergencies, you may need to provide appropriate documentation and/or obtain approval from the SASLI administrative office. Per SASLI's policy, students are expected to **attend class every day** during the semester given the intensive structure of the program. One absence per semester is permissible. Two absences in a semester will result in a grade deduction for that semester. Three or more absences in a semester will result in automatic failure.

Additional Notes:

- Absences on days of exams, projects, presentations etc will lead to failure of that coursework except in case of documented emergencies. There will be no make-ups of quizzes, projects, presentations etc. due to absence.
- Failure of the first/third/fifth semester course prohibits students moving to the second/fourth/sixth semester course and will result in dismissal from the program without refund.
- Contact hours for federal grants require that the SASLI program must end on the last day of class. Requests to leave or take final exams early will not be granted.
- Pre-program requests for absences will not be granted.
- If you have a chronic illness that might require you to miss classes during the semester, please inform the instructor as well as schedule an appointment with the SASLI Academic Director, Sarah Beckham at the beginning of the semester.
- If you are absent due to an illness, you are required to meet with the SASLI Academic Director, Sarah Beckham. You will also be required to submit necessary documentation.

Any emergency circumstances for absences can be addressed to the SASLI Academic Director, Sarah Beckham.

Absences due to Religious Observances:

SASLI follows the UW-Madison policy for religious observances. If you need to be absent from class due to religious observances, you must notify the instructor as soon as possible and no later than the first week of class of the specific days or dates on which you request relief. The instructor will make reasonable accommodations to schedule make-ups before or after the regularly scheduled requirements.

4. Use of non-instructional technology (cell phones, chat applications, social media) during synchronous meeting times (add your own language) Required language:

- Per FERPA regulations, **you are not permitted to make audio or video recordings during synchronous class times.**

5. Academic Integrity:

By virtue of enrollment, you agree to uphold the high academic standards of the University of Wisconsin-Madison; academic misconduct is behavior that negatively impacts the integrity of the institution. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, and helping others commit these previously listed acts are examples of misconduct which may result in disciplinary action. Examples of disciplinary action include, but is not limited to, failure on the assignment/course, written reprimand, disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion. Common examples of academic misconduct include:

- cheating on an examination
- collaborating with others in work to be presented contrary to the stated rules of the course
- submitting a paper or assignment as one's own work when a part or all of the paper or assignment is the work of another
- submitting a paper or assignment that contains ideas or research of others without appropriately identifying the sources of those ideas
- stealing examinations or course materials
- submitting, if contrary to the rules of a course, work previously presented in another course

- using online language translation tools contrary to the rules of the course
- knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the above, including assistance in an arrangement whereby any work, classroom performance, examination or other activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the student under whose name the work is submitted or performed

For detailed information, please see conduct.students.wisc.edu/academic-misconduct/

6. Graded Work:

Tests and Quizzes: Daily quizzes will be short, relatively low-stake assessments addressing recently covered grammatical concepts. If your grade on the quizzes is below 60%, you may be asked to take it again. A more substantial test will take place every Sunday covering all the material from the week before. These tests will be given a letter grade out of 100 points. Tests/quizzes will occur asynchronously and will be taken through Canvas.

Exams: Each 4-week session will end with a final exam, which will include all the material covered in the course by the time of the exam (the second final exam at the end of the second semester may cover material as far back as the first week of SASLI). Exams will be take-home with a written and an oral component.

Homework: There will be homework every evening. Most, but not all, homework will be graded and you will have the opportunity to discuss it and receive extensive feedback during synchronous class. Your preparedness and participation in all homework discussions will figure significantly into your participation grade. Because homework preparation is integral to class discussion, there will be no credit given for late assignments unless you have made special arrangements with me ahead of time.

Grading: This course is divided into two 4-week sessions. There will be a final examination and final letter grade at the end of each 4-week session. The breakdown in grading for each session is as follows:

- Attendance and participation — 25%
- Daily quizzes and weekly tests — 25%
- Homework assignment — 20%
- Final Examination — 30%

Grading Scale:

A	AB	B	BC	C	D	F
92-100	87-91	82-86	77-81	70-76	60-69	59 or less

7. Important Program Dates:

- Monday, June 15: Classes begin
- Friday, July 10: First-Semester Examination/ End of 1st Semester
- Monday, July 13: Second semester begins
- Friday, August 7: Second-Semester Examination/ End of SASLI

8. Course Credit Fulfillment

45 Hours Per Credit – One credit is the learning that takes place in at least 45 hours of learning activities, which include time in lectures or class meetings, in person or online, labs, exams, presentations, tutorials, reading, writing, studying, preparation for any of these activities, and any other learning activities.

9. Student Code of Conduct (Rights and Responsibilities of Students):

<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#rulesrightsandresponsibilitiestext>

10. Classroom Atmosphere/ Diversity & Inclusion:

Diversity is a source of strength, creativity, and innovation for UW-Madison. We value the contributions of each person and respect the profound ways their identity, culture, background, experience, status, abilities, and opinion enrich the university community. We commit ourselves to the pursuit of excellence in teaching, research, outreach, and diversity as inextricably linked goals.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison fulfills its public mission by creating a welcoming and inclusive community for people from every background – people who as students, faculty, and staff serve Wisconsin and the world.

<https://diversity.wisc.edu/>

UW-Madison 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/on the online forum.

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

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The University of Wisconsin-Madison supports the right of all enrolled students to a full and equal educational opportunity. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Wisconsin State Statute (36.12), and UW-Madison policy (Faculty Document 1071) require that students with disabilities be reasonably accommodated in instruction and campus life. Reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities is a shared faculty and student responsibility. Students are expected to inform faculty [me] of their need for instructional accommodations by the end of the first week of the semester, or as soon as possible after a disability has been incurred or recognized. Faculty [I], will work either directly with the student [you] or in coordination with the McBurney Center (<https://mcburney.wisc.edu>) to identify and provide reasonable instructional accommodations. Disability information, including instructional accommodations as part of a student's educational record, is confidential and protected under FERPA.

Student Health/Resource Centers

University Health Services offers a wide range of services from medical to individual and group counseling. **UHS can answer specific questions about what services are available to remote learners.** Please visit their website for more information (<https://www.uhs.wisc.edu/>).

One service UHS offers is ongoing individual counseling. The model for this service is brief and time-limited, which means students usually see their counselor every 2-4 weeks. There is typically a wait to get started in ongoing individual counseling at UHS. If a student is interested in more frequent individual counseling appointments or having appointments outside of standard business hours, you might consider meeting with a UHS care manager to explore options for providers in the community. The best way to get started with UHS mental health services is to schedule an access consultation. You can schedule an access consultation at any time, including before you get to campus. Find more info here: <https://www.uhs.wisc.edu/mental-health/gettingstarted/>.

Students have access to a 24-hour mental health crisis line. The number is 608-265-5600 option 9.

LGBTQ Support : The Gender & Sexuality Campus Center (<https://lgbt.wisc.edu/>) is a fantastic resource for LGBTQ students on campus. If you need to locate a gender-inclusive restroom on UW campus, visit: <https://lgbt.wisc.edu/support/navigate-campus/>

Dean of Students: The Dean of Students' office can provide you with support and resources for a variety of problems; their main reason for existing is to promote student well-being. They are located in Bascom Hall and can be contacted at 608-263-5700. Their website is <https://students.wisc.edu/doso/>.

Course Schedule*

Week 1	Topic	Assignments	Deadline
June 15	Introduction, Phonology & the Devanāgarī script Spoken Sanskrit (Sambhāṣaṇam) Intro	Read Lesson 1 Listen to Day 1 Lecture(s) Day 1 HW Assignment **	***
June 16	Script Review, Transcription & Conjunct Consonants Sambhāṣaṇam practice	Read Lesson 2 Listen to Day 2 Lecture(s) & take Quiz Day 2 HW Assignment	
June 17	Introduction to Verbs & 1st Conjugation Active Sambhāṣaṇam practice	Read Lesson 3 Listen to Day 3 Lecture(s) & take Quiz Day 3 HW Assignment	
June 18	Introduction to Sandhi & Nouns Prepositions	Read Lesson 4 Listen to Day 4 Lecture(s) & take Quiz Day 4 HW Assignment	

June 19	Verbs: More Regular Conjugations Negations & Connectives Sambhāṣaṇaṃ practice	Read Lesson 5 Listen to Day 5 Lecture(s) & take Quiz Day 5 HW Assignment	
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Week 2	Topic	Assignments	Deadline
June 22	Kāraka & Cases Personal Pronouns Declension Use of indeclinables	Read Lessons 5 & 7 Listen to Day 1 Lecture(s) & take Quiz Day 1 HW Assignment *	**
June 23	Verbs: Remaining Present System in Active Sambhāṣaṇaṃ practice	Read Lesson 6 Listen to Day 2 Lecture(s) & take Quiz Day 2 HW Assignment	
June 24	Feminine Nouns I More pronouns Sambhāṣaṇaṃ practice	Read Lesson 8 Listen to Day 3 Lecture(s) & take Quiz Day 3HW Assignment	
June 25	More Masculine & Feminine Nouns Sambhāṣaṇaṃ practice	Read Lesson 9 Listen to Day 4 Lecture(s) & take Quiz Day 4 HW Assignment	
June 26	Ātmanepada Verbs in Present Vowel Sandhi	Read Lesson 10 Listen to Day 5 Lecture(s) & take Quiz Day 5 HW Assignment	

* A more detailed plan for all eight weeks will be found on Canvas under Modules.

** Refer to the Canvas Module for each week for a specific day's Lecture/Presentation, HW Assignment & Quiz.

Disclaimer: Please note that the specifics of the course schedule are subject to change, and you will be responsible for abiding by any such changes. Your instructor will notify you of any changes.

*** All daily assignments are due the next working day.