

**BEGINNING SANSKRIT I ~ SRK 1120-1G32**

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MTWR Period 9 Online Synchronous



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**

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

**Helpful Websites**

- William Dwight Whitney's Sanskrit Grammar: [http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/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](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**

- Students will have an understanding of the fundamental aspects of Sanskrit grammar,
- Students will be able to read Sanskrit sentences composed for new readers,
- Students will have the capacity to begin second year Sanskrit to read selected primary sources (e.g. Bhagavad Gītā, Hitopadeśa, etc.).

**Grading**

(1) Attendance and Participation: 15%; (2) Homework: 20%; (3) Quizzes: 20%; (4) Midterm Exam: 20%; (5) Final Exam: 25%. 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 (see 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 promptly.

**(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**

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>.

**Netiquette: Communication Courtesies**

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](http://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](mailto: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.

### Tentative Schedule

#### Week 1

- Course Overview
- Deshpande, p.xiii-xxiii.
- Learning the Devanāgarī (देवनागरी) script, L 1
- Alphabet pronunciation and Devanāgarī (देवनागरी): L 1, Ex 2-4

#### Week 2

- Introduction to the Sanskrit Verb: L 2, Ex 1-4

#### Week 3

- Introduction to the Sanskrit Verb: L 2, Ex 1-3, continued
- Introduction to the Sanskrit Noun: L 3, Ex 1-4
- No Class, Sept 7 for Labor Day

#### Week 4

- More on the Verb (परस्मैपद): L 4, Ex 2-7 (only some of 6)
- Explanation of Cases (विभक्ति): L 5, Ex 1, some of 2

#### Week 5

- More on the Verb: imperfect (अनद्यतनभूत), imperative, etc.: L 6, Ex 1, 3, some of 4, one of 5

#### Week 6

- Personal pronouns and some indeclinable words: L 7, Ex 1, some of 2 and 3

#### Week 7

- Feminine nouns (आ, ई, ऊ), more pronouns, interrogatives, “this”: L 8, Ex 1, 3
- Masculine nouns (इ, उ), visarga, more sandhi: L 9, Ex 1

#### Week 8

- Midterm Exam (Thursday, 15 Oct 2015), Review, Catch Up, and start middle verb

#### Week 9

- The “middle” verb (अत्मनेपदिन्), more sandhi (sandhi chart): L 10, Ex 1-2, some of 3

#### Week 10

- More middle verb in imperfect, imperative, etc., clitics: L 11, Ex 2

#### Week 11

- More middle verb in imperfect, imperative, etc., clitics: L 11, Ex 2, 3
- The nominal compound and Sanskrit poetry (काव्य)

Week 12

- Visit to Harn Museum on Monday (9 Nov) and Tuesday (10 Nov)
  - Lesson on praise-poetry (the शिवस्तोत्रावली and गीतागोविन्द) and viewing scriptures, manuscripts, etc.
- No Class for Veterans Day, Nov 11
- Gerunds and infinitives: L12, Ex 1 and some of 2

Week 13

- More noun endings (ऋ, etc.), more sandhi: L 13, Ex 1-3
- More noun endings (इ, उ, ऋ), using adjectives: L 14, Ex 1
- Verbs with prepositions: L 15, Ex 2

Week 14

- No Classes all week: American Academy of Religion and Thanksgiving Break

Week 15

- The passive verb (कर्मणि प्रयोग, भावे प्रयोग), past and present, transitive and intransitive: L 16, Ex 1-5

Week 16

- The passive verb (कर्मणि प्रयोग, भावे प्रयोग), past and present, transitive and intransitive: L 16, Ex 1-5
- Review for Final Exam: Thursday December 17 2015 at regularly scheduled time in our scheduled room