

Elementary Sanskrit I (SANS0100-S01) – Fall 2013

Department of Classics, Brown University

Instructor:

David Buchta
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Location and Time:

12:00-12:50, M-F, Salomon 004

Office Hours:

M 10:30-11:30, Th 2:30-3:30 in Wilbour Hall 005, or by appointment

Introduction:

Sanskrit is one of the world's oldest and greatest languages. Its sophisticated grammar and the voluminous body of literature in fields such as poetry, theology, philosophy, natural science, music and mathematics, make it a subject of interest for students of linguistics, religious studies, philosophy, history, literature and many other fields. This introductory course will give students a grounding in the basic structure of the language and practice at reading Sanskrit sentences, allowing them to develop the ability to read independently some of the fundamental texts of the Sanskrit corpus, such as *Mahābhārata* and *Bhagavad-gītā*, *Pañcatantra*, *Rāmāyaṇa* and *Buddha-carita* by the end of the second semester, and eventually to approach more advanced texts such as *Nyāya-kusumāñjalī*, *Yoga-sūtras*, or the *mahā-kāvya*s (great, epic poems) of Kālidāsa and others. The primary focus of the course will be on learning to read and write in the Devanāgarī script and learning some of the most fundamental grammatical structures of language, though time will also be dedicated to becoming familiar with the great breadth of Sanskrit literary genres. The course will not focus on conversational Sanskrit, but will provide a solid grammatical basis for those who wish to pursue such studies.

Learning Goals:

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

- Read and write in the Devanāgarī script, as well as the standard academic roman transliteration system and the Harvard-Kyoto transliteration system.
- Separate a Sanskrit sentence into its component words by dissolving *sandhi* (euphonic combination).
- Recognize and use a limited sphere of Sanskrit vocabulary.
- Identify the declined form of various nouns, pronouns, adjectives, etc.
- Identify the active conjugated forms of verbs of all tenses *gaṇas* (classes) in various tenses, as well as non-finite verbal forms.
- Correctly analyze and use relative/correlative constructions in Sanskrit.
- Recognize a small number of verbally derived participles.
- Identify parts of speech in a Sanskrit sentence.
- Bring all this to bear on accurately interpreting and translating a circumscribed body of Sanskrit passages.

Course Textbook:

The primary textbook used in the course will be Walter Maurer's *The Sanskrit Language: An Introductory Grammar and Reader*. Students should also acquire Jan Gonda's *A Concise Elementary Grammar of the Sanskrit Language*. Both of these books should be available in the Brown University Bookstore. The course will follow the lesson plans of the former, while the latter will prove to function as a handy reference grammar. It is also recommended that students acquire or gain access to a dictionary; Monier-Williams' is recommended.

Structure of the Course:

Unlike most Brown courses, this course meets five days a week, so as to facilitate language immersion. During the semester, we will cover the first 26 chapters of Maurer's grammar, leaving the remaining 6 chapters and the appended reader for those who will continue on to a second (Spring) semester. Very short quizzes will be held every Monday (and one Tuesday) at the beginning of class. These will consist of items such as nominal or verbal paradigms that are to be memorized. The bulk of material to be memorized is not overwhelming, but failing to memorize some of the basic grammatical paradigms early on will cause difficulties later. The last 15 to 30 minutes of class time on Fridays will, if time allows, be spent introducing important Sanskrit texts in translation to offer students a taste of the vast literature available in Sanskrit or in presenting helpful resources for the study of Sanskrit. The remainder of the time in class will be spent in examining the grammatical material presented in Maurer and Gonda, and in reading through the assignment at the end of each chapter. Students must prepare an attempted translation of the reading assignment before the appropriate class session and will be called on in turn to recite, translate, and analyze the sentences of the reading passage. These prepared translations are to be turned in at the end of class, or must be submitted if a student misses a class. Those who take part in the classroom review of the readings will be graded on the completion of the attempted translation; those who miss the class will be graded on accuracy. There will be a midterm exam covering some grammatical paradigms as well as the reading selections covered to date on October 20. The final exam, similarly structured, will take place on Tuesday, December 16, at 9:00AM.

Grading:

Attendance 10%; Assignments: 10%; Quizzes: 20%; Mid-term: 20%; Final: 40%
A = 100-90, B = 89-80, C = 79-70, NC = Below 70

Attendance is worth 10% percent of the final grade. Each instance of unexcused absence or tardiness after the shopping period will result in the deduction of half a percentage point from the final grade. If students have excused absences (for sickness, an absence approved by a dean, religious observance or an absence pre-approved by the instructor), they can receive full credit by submitting the homework assignment. Any expected absences due to religious observances should be reported by the end of September.

The completion of homework assignments will be checked at the beginning of each class session. These will not be graded strictly for accuracy, so long as an effort is made to complete the assignment. The assignments will then be reviewed in class. Students are responsible to correct the mistakes in the own assignments. Please see me during office hours or consult with classmates if any confusion about the translations remains at the end of class.

There will be a quiz at the beginning of class on most Mondays. It is therefore especially important that students arrive punctually on Mondays. The quizzes are very short and easy; they are meant to help students drill the grammatical forms learned in the course. Students who miss quizzes because of excused absences are responsible to arrange with the instructor to make up the quizzes. The opportunity to make up quizzes missed because of unexcused absences may be granted at the discretion of the instructor.

The midterm and final exams will be closed-book, covering material already covered during the course, and will be graded for complete accuracy.

Schedule:

See attached Calendar. Reading and Homework assignments are to be done *before* the class session of the day on which they are noted.

Academic Integrity:

Please be aware of and abide by the Principles of the Brown University Community:
http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Dean_of_the_College/curriculum/documents/principles.pdf

Disability Assistance and Other Concerns:

Brown University is deeply committed to making the study of Sanskrit available to anyone who is interested. Students who, by nature of a documented disability, require academic accommodations for this class should feel free to discuss this with me directly or may speak with Student and Employee Accessibility Services (SEAS) at 401-863-9588 to discuss the process for requesting accommodations.

Elementary Sanskrit I - Class Calendar

September

1 No Class	2 No Class	3 Phonetics Syllabus Overview	4 Phonetics Read M 1-24 (esp 13-24); G§1-4	5 Writing Read M 25-35 HW: Transliteration Handout
8 Writing & Grammar Read M 37-50 HW: M 36 A&B remainder Quiz: Friday's HW	9 –a stem nominal Read M Lesson 1, pp.610-11; G§21, 114 HW: Devanāgarī Handout	10 Present & Imperfect Read M Lesson 2, pp. 648-50 HW: M p. 55 sentences	11 Present & Imperfect Read G§57-60 HW: M p. 62 A (7)	12 Gerund Read M Lesson 3 HW: M p. 62 rest of A
15 Gerund Read G§117 HW: M p. 70 A (7) Quiz: <i>deva</i> & <i>asti</i>	16 –ā stems & <i>tad</i> Read M Lesson 4, pp. 611, 636; G§ 22, 48 HW: M p. 70 rest of A	17 –ā stems & <i>tad</i> HW: M p. 78 (first 7)	18 Guṇa & Vṛddhi Read M Lesson 5; G§3 HW: M rest of p. 78	19 –ta participles Read M Lesson 6 HW: M p. 85 (first 7)
22 Practice Read G§102-03 HW: M p. 94 (first 4) Quiz: <i>tad</i> & <i>abhavat</i>	23 Practice HW: M rest of p. 94	24 Practice HW: M p. 103 (first 6)	25 –ī stems; <i>idam</i> Read M Lesson 8, pp.612-13 637, G§27-28 HW: M rest of p. 103	26 Decompress – Meter In-class Handout

October

Sep 29 <i>ātmanepada</i> Read M Lesson 9, pp. 647-50 HW: p. 109 (first 5) Quiz: <i>kanyā</i> & <i>jayati</i>	Sep 30 <i>ātmanepada</i> Read G§60 HW: p. 119 (first 12)	1 –i & –u stems Read M Lesson 10, pp. 611-14; G§23-26 HW: rest of p. 119	2 <i>sandhi</i> Read M Lesson 11 HW: M p. 128 (first 9)	3 <i>sandhi</i> Read M pp. 666-78, G§4-20 HW: M pp. 139-40 (first 12)
6 <i>samāsa</i> Read M Lesson 12, G§107-13 HW: rest of p. 140 Quiz: <i>jayate</i> , <i>ajayata</i>	7 <i>samāsa</i> Read M Lesson 13 HW: p. 147 (first 11)	8 relative/correlative Read M Lesson 14, G§118-19 HW: p. 165 (first 11)	9 Optative Read M Lesson 15, HW: p. 178 (first 8)	12 Śakuntalā Re-read G§59-61 HW: M pp. 188-89 (first 10)
13 No Class – Fall Weekend	14 Consonant stems Read M Lesson 16, G§32-35 HW: M rest of p. 189 Quiz <i>jayet</i> , <i>jayeta</i>	15 –at & –in stems Read M Lesson 17; G§36-45 HW: M p. 208 (first 6)	16 –an stems Read M Lesson 18 I HW: M pp. 222-23 (first 7)	17 Midterm Review
20 Midterm Exam	21 <i>Samāsa</i> Read M Lesson 18 II-III, HW: M rest of p. 223	22 Churning Read G§107-113 HW: M pp. 233-34 (first 7)	23 Future Read M Lesson 19, HW: M rest of p. 234	24 More Churning Read G§72-73 HW: pp. 244-45 (first 10)
27 Keep Churning HW: p. 245 (next 12) Quiz: <i>bhaviṣyati</i> , <i>rājan</i>	28 Dual; You & I Read M Lesson 20, G§47 HW: rest of pp. 245-46	29 Sagara HW: pp. 262-63 (first 12)	30 Perfect Read M Lesson 21 I, G§84-94 HW: Rest of p. 263	31 Decompress – Halloween In-class Handout

November

3 Imperative Read M Lesson 21 II, Re-read G§57-61 HW: p. 274 (first 7) Quiz: <i>uvāca, aham</i>	4 – <i>ac</i> stems Read Lesson 22, HW: rest of p. 274	5 More Sagara Re-read G§44 HW: p. 284 (first 10)	6 More Sagara HW: p. 284 (next 8)	7 – <i>r</i> stems Read M Lesson 23, G§29-30 HW: rest of pp. 284-85
10 Writing & Sandhi Read M Lesson 24 HW: p. 296 (first 9) Quiz: <i>jayati, ajayat, jayatu, jayet</i>	11 Sandhi review Re-read G§4-20 HW: p. 296 (next 8)	12 Pronoun review Re-read G§47-51 HW: p. 296 (next 8)	13 Future Review Re-read G§72-73 HW: rest of p. 296	14 Review – <i>i</i> & – <i>u</i> stems Re-read G§23-25 HW: pp. 307-08 (first 10)
17 Perfect Review Re-read G§84-94 HW: rest of p. 308 Quiz: <i>tvam, jayatām</i>	18 Athematic Verbs Read Lesson 25 HW: p. 325 (first 9)	19 Athematic Verbs Read G§62-64, 67, 69 HW: pp. 325-26 (next 10)	20 Athematic Verbs Read Lesson 26, pp. 338-347 HW: p. 326 (next 8)	21 Athematic Verbs Read Lesson 26 pp. 347-62 HW: rest of p. 326
24 Athematic Verbs Read rest of Lesson 26 Quiz: Surprise	25 Decompress – Puns In Class Handout	26 No Class Thanksgiving	27 No Class Thanksgiving	28 No Class Thanksgiving

December

1 Athematic Verbs Read G§65-66 HW: p. 368 (first 5)	2 Athematic Verbs Read G§67 HW: p. 368 (next 5)	3 Athematic Verbs Read G§68 HW: rest of p. 368	4 Athematic Verbs Read G§69 HW: p. 366 (1-10)	5 Athematic Verbs Read G§70 HW: p. 366-67 (11-20)
8 Final Review Churning Story	9 Final Review Sagara Story from Lessons 20-22	10 Final Review Sagara Story from Lessons 23-26	11 Final Review	12 No Class Exam Period
14 No Class Exam Period	16 Final Exam 9:00 AM Churning and Sagara Stories	17	18	19