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Fall 2020

## Introduction To Sanskrit (CLST 023) Syllabus

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# CLST 023: Introduction to Sanskrit

Time: T 6.30pm – 9.30pm  
Room: Zoom

Instructors: Dr. Varun Khanna  
Office hours: By appt.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to give students novice-mid to novice-high proficiency in Sanskrit according to the [NCSSFL-ACTFL foreign language proficiency standards](#). It introduces students to the language of Sanskrit, approaching it as a spoken as well as a written language. The course will include a weekly spoken Sanskrit session followed by reading and writing. Throughout this course, students will be covering fundamental grammatical concepts in order to develop a working knowledge of the most common forms and constructions one is likely to encounter in readings of the language. The course will mainly use handouts and external audio/video resources throughout the year, but will be largely based on Robert Goldman's *Devavāṇīpraveśikā*. There will be frequent discussions about topics surrounding the language of Sanskrit, such as related linguistic, historical, and anthropological concerns.

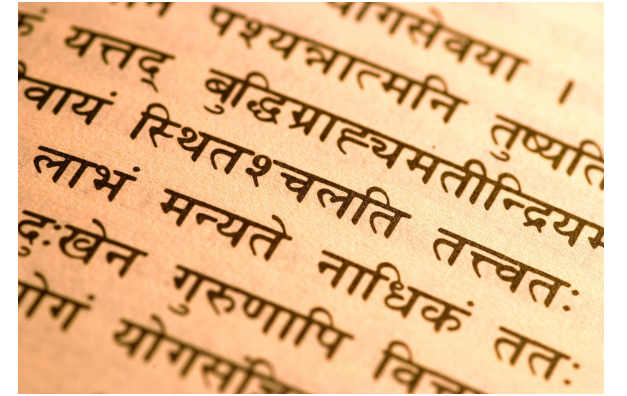
## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students will:

1. have a working knowledge of the scope of Sanskrit study as well as fundamental Sanskrit grammar and vocabulary
2. be able to understand and speak basic sentences in Sanskrit
3. be prepared to enter into intermediate-level Sanskrit study, including readings from narrative sources, *kāvya* (poetry and belles-lettres), and *dārśana* (philosophy)

## REQUIRED TEXTS

Materials will be handed out as handouts throughout the course, though students are encouraged to purchase Robert Goldman's *Devavāṇīpraveśika* to be able to make notes of their own in a consolidated primer book.



## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### (1) Attendance and Class Participation (20% of the final grade)

Since this course aims to cover a significant amount of grammatical and other material in a relatively short time, and since it meets only once a week, students are expected to attend every class in order to ensure that they can keep up with the pace of the course. Participation is also an essential component of language learning, as language is not a uni-directional process. In case a student is unable to attend any class, effort should be made to contact the instructor in advance. Exceptions will be made in case of an emergency on a case by case basis.

### (2) Quizzes (25% of the final grade)

Regular quizzes will be administered to keep track of students' progress and understanding throughout the course.

### (3) Midterm exam (25% of the final grade)

The midterm will examine elements of Sanskrit grammar and ancillary material covered in the course so far.

### (4) Final exam (30% of the final grade)

The final exam will be a cumulative exam covering elements of Sanskrit grammar and ancillary material that have been covered during the semester.

## GRADING

|       |                          |      |
|-------|--------------------------|------|
| (1)   | Attendance/Participation | 20%  |
| (2)   | Quizzes                  | 25%  |
| (3)   | Midterm exam             | 25%  |
| (4)   | Final exam               | 30%  |
| Total |                          | 100% |

## MAKE-UP WORK

Make-up work will only be given to students who provide a reason for their absence in a timely manner. Late assignments will not be accepted. Being consistently late to class may also affect your attendance grade.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic honesty is fundamental to our community. The Swarthmore Student Handbook contains a statement on Academic Integrity. A confirmed violation of it in this course will result in failure for the course. For more information about academic integrity and Swarthmore's policy on plagiarism see: <https://www.swarthmore.edu/student-handbook/academic-policies>.

## ACCOMMODATIONS STATEMENT

If you believe you need accommodations for a disability or a chronic medical condition, please contact Student Disability Services via email at [studentdisabilityservices@swarthmore.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@swarthmore.edu) to arrange an appointment to discuss your needs. As appropriate, the office will issue students with documented disabilities or medical conditions a formal Accommodations Letter. Since accommodations require early planning and are not retroactive, please contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. For details about the accommodations process, [visit the Student Disability Services website](#). You are also welcome to contact your instructor privately to discuss your academic needs. However, all disability-related accommodations must be arranged, in advance, through Student Disability Services.

## POLICY ON SECULAR AND RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Students may take a leave of absence for secular or religious holidays that they observe. However, students must inform the instructor of their secular or religious observance *before* it occurs.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

| WEEK 1      | TOPIC  | READING  |
|-------------|--|--|
| TUE SEPT 8  | Introduction; Pronunciation and Script; Intro to Spoken Sanskrit   | Goldman – Lesson 1 and 2<br>Pronunciation: <a href="https://youtu.be/2UfCGrvfmOY">https://youtu.be/2UfCGrvfmOY</a> |
| WEEK 2      |  |  |
| TUE SEPT 15 | Māheśvara sūtras; Vowel Sandhi; Consonant Sandhi   | Goldman – Lesson 3.0-3.24, 3.25-3.61   |
| WEEK 3      |  |  |
| TUE SEPT 22 | Consonant Sandhi cont'd; Parts of Speech and Components of Verbs and Nouns; The Sanskrit Sentence and -a stems   | Goldman – Lesson 3.25-3.61, 4  |
| WEEK 4      |  |  |
| TUE SEPT 29 | Vibhakti – Declining Sanskrit Words; Verbal forms for Present, Imperative, Imperfect, and Optative ( <i>laṭ, loṭ, lan̄, vidhiliṇ</i> ); the ten classes of verbs | Goldman – Lesson 4.40-4.43, 5.2-5.4, 4.19-4.24, 7.2-7.38, 11.9-11.12, 8.6-8.11, 14.12-14.15                        |
| WEEK 5      |  |  |
| TUE OCT 6   | Gender; -i and -u stems in all genders; indeclinables; personal pronouns; pronouns; demonstrative pronouns; numbers; ordinal numbers                             | Goldman – Lesson 6.1-6.2, 4.45-4.47, 5.5-5.7, 19.0-19.9  |
| WEEK 6      |  |  |

|                   |  |  |
|-------------------|--|--|
| <b>TUE OCT 13</b> | Review; Interrogative, relative, and correlative; indefinite and absolute negative; negation; feminine paradigms; noun stem strength and consonant-ending nouns  | Take-home Midterm<br>Goldman – Lesson 6.3-6.21, 7.1, 8.1-8.5                                     |
| <b>WEEK 7</b>     |  |  |
| <b>TUE OCT 20</b> | More consonant-ending noun stems; Prefixes; Active and Passive construction  | Goldman – Lesson 9.0-9.4, 8.13-8.18, 9.5-9.27  |
| <b>WEEK 8</b>     |  |  |
| <b>TUE OCT 27</b> | Nominal <i>-ṛ</i> stems; Intro to verbal adjectives; <i>Idāgama</i> – the insertive <i>-iṭ-</i> affix; <i>-tṛc</i> , <i>-tumun</i> , <i>-tavya</i> suffixes; infinitives; periphrastic future tense ( <i>luṭ</i> ) | Goldman – Lesson 10.0-10.5, 16.1, 10.0, 13.1, 16.16, 16.19.ii.b, 16.11-16.15                     |
| <b>WEEK 9</b>     |  |  |
| <b>TUE NOV 3</b>  | Past passive and past active participle, gerunds; <i>-ant</i> , <i>-mant</i> , and <i>-vant</i> stems; <i>-in</i> stems; <i>Samāsa</i> – the compound  | Goldman – Lesson 10.5-10.12, 11.4-11.8, 11.0-11.3, 12.0-12.2, 12.3-12.18, 13.4-13.16, 14.0-14.11 |
| <b>WEEK 10</b>    |  |  |
| <b>TUE NOV 10</b> | <i>Samāsa</i> cont'd; Simple future tense ( <i>lṛṭ</i> ) and Conditional mood ( <i>lṛṇ</i> ); future participle; Present participle  | Goldman – Lesson 12.3-12.18, 13.4-13.16, 14.0-14.11, 16.2-16.7, 16.9-16.10, 16.8, 15             |
| <b>WEEK 11</b>    |  |  |
| <b>TUE NOV 17</b> | Review and Q&A, Open Discussion  | Independent Reading  |

**WEEK 12****TUE NOV 24**

No Class, Thanksgiving Break

**WEEK 13****TUE DEC 1**

In-class reading

Take-home Final

**TUE DEC 8**

Take-home Final Due; No Class

Enjoy Winter Break!