Centre of Buddhist Studies, HKU

BSTC 2008 Sanskrit Language
(Joint course with BSTC6045 Sem 1)

**Course Description:** This is an elementary course meant for those who are beginners to the Sanskrit language. Students will be introduced to the Sanskrit grammar required for reading Buddhist Sanskrit texts. As the course proceeds, students will be gradually and systematically introduced to both Buddhist textual materials on the one hand, and elementary Sanskrit grammar on the other.

The purpose of this course is to enable students to understand the Buddhist śūtras in Sanskrit. The special focus will be to familiarize students with the basic Buddhist Sanskrit terminologies and read simple sentences from the Buddhist Sanskrit śūtras. All vocabularies will be selected from the Buddhist Sanskrit literature, particularly the Aṣṭasāhasrikā Prajñā pāramitā, to ensure students get familiar with Buddhist doctrines and technical terms.

**Course Content:** The course begins with basic Sanskrit grammar along with exercises. As the students learn and attempt the graded passages, all the grammars involved will be analyzed and doctrines explained to them in a gradual build-up manner. This includes the following: Sanskrit alphabets, Devanāgarī Scripts three genders, three numbers, different nouns and their declensions, different verbs and their conjugations, three tenses, participles and their functions, gerunds, compound, sandhi, classification of sentences and reading some passages from the Vajracchedikā Prajñāpāramitā-sūtra.

**Expected Outcome:** At the end of this course, students may able to read simple Sanskrit passages and will be familiar with Sanskrit Buddhist terms and basic Buddhist doctrines.

**Teaching and Learning Method:** Lectures, class discussions and tutorials.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offering Semester</th>
<th>First Semester</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecturer</td>
<td>Ven. Dr. Amrita Nanda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office</td>
<td>Rm 401, 4/F Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus</td>
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<td>Email</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schedule</td>
<td>Every Thursday from 6:30 to 9:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Venue</td>
<td>CPD 2.37</td>
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**Assessment:**

- 20% - Class participation
- 20% - Quizes
- 60% - Final examination at the end of the semester.
Lecture Schedule

Week 1
- Introduction to Sanskrit Language
- Sanskrit Alphabet
- Sanskrit Nouns
- Three Genders of Sanskrit Nouns
- Introduction to Eight Cases and their senses
- Nominative, Genitive and Locative cases

Week 2
- Declension of masculine noun a ending in a
- Adjectives
- Verb to be
- Indeclinable particles ca, vā and api
- Vocabulary and Exercises

Week 3
- Accusative case
- Ablative case
- Sanskrit verbs
- Verbal prefixes
- Three grades of strengthening verbs

Week 4
- Class I, IV, VI and X verbs
- Conjugation of class I verbs in present tense
- Vocabulary and Exercises
- Quiz 1

Week 5
- Dative case
- Further discussion on Genitive case
- Vocative case
- Declension of Feminine nouns ending in —ā
- Suffixes- tā, tva and tas
- Vocabulary and Exercise

Week 6
- Class VI, IV and X verbs
- Personal Pronouns
- Declension of masculine nouns ending in —a, neutral nouns ending in—a and feminine nouns ending in—ā.
- Vocabulary and Exercise

Week 7
- Instrumental case
- Causative verbs
Declension of masculine nouns ending in —u
Declension of neutral nouns ending in—u
Personal pronouns further discussion

Week 8
Denominatives
Past Passive Participles
Indeclinable and Adverbs
Imperative mode
Vocabulary and Exercise
Quiz 2

Week 9
Parasmaipada and ātmanepada verbs
Gerunds
Declension of masculine nouns ending in —i
Declension of neutral nouns ending in —i
Declension of feminine nouns ending in— i and ending in—ī
Vocabulary and Exercise

Week 10
Hard and soft Consonants
Vowel Sandhi
Consonant Sandhi
Visarga Sandhi
Internal Sandhi
The passive voice

Week 11
Declension of interrogative pronouns
The integrative particles
Future Tense
Present participles
Reading Vajracchedikā Prajñāpāramitā

Week 12
Future passive participles
Relative pronouns
Possessive suffix —in
Further discussion on genitive
Reading Vajracchedikā Prajñāpāramitā

Note: This schedule is both approximate and flexible. We may deviate from it depending on the pace of students’ comprehension.
Textbook:


Reference books:


*(Last updated: July 19, 2017)*