**BSTC 2008**  
Sanskrit Language I

**Course Description:**  
Sanskrit, being one of the most ancient languages known to humankind, is considered to be a key to understanding human civilization, in particular, the rich cultural, philosophical and religious heritage of India whose influence on our world continues to be felt. Students of history, history of science, comparative literature, general and historical linguistics, philosophy and religions will discover that a basic knowledge of the language greatly enriches their studies. For students who intend to specialize in different aspects of Buddhism, a reading knowledge of Sanskrit is essential. This course will give a comprehensive overview of the history, structure, and grammar of the language, covering topics such as scripts, phonetics, declensions, conjugations, and meters. Students are expected to be able to read and comprehend a simple Sanskrit passage by the end of the course.

**Course Content:**  
The course begins with basic Sanskrit grammar along with exercises selected from Buddhist texts. As the students learn and attempt the graded passages, all the grammars involved will be analyzed and doctrines will be 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.

**Objectives:**  
(1) To enable students to read and comprehend simple Sanskrit passages.  
(2) To enable understand the basic structure and grammar of the Sanskrit language.  
(3) To help students to understand Sanskrit Buddhist Literature.

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

- 50% - Coursework
  - 20% - Attendance
  - 15% - Quiz
  - 15% - Home work
- 50% - Final examination at the end of the semester.

Faculty Grade Expectations:


Lecture Schedule

Lesson 1
- Introduction to Sanskrit Language and Literature
- Sanskrit Alphabet
- Writing Devanāgarī Scripts
- Three Genders of Sanskrit Nouns
- Introduction to Eight Cases in Sanskrit

Lesson 2
- Nominative, Genitive and Locative cases
- Partial declension of masculine nouns ending in -a:
- Adjectives
- Verb to be
- Indeclinable particles ca, vā and api
- Vocabulary
- Exercises from lesson one of the textbook.
- Introduction to Eight Cases in Sanskrit

Lesson 3
- Accusative case
- Ablative case
- Partial declension of masculine nouns ending in -a:
- Partial declension of neutral nouns ending in -a:
- Introduction to Eight Cases in Sanskrit

Lesson 4
- Sanskrit verbs
- Verbal prefixes
- Three grades of strengthening verbs
- Class I, IV, VI and X verbs
- Conjugation of class I verbs in present tense
- The indeclinable particle –iti, eva and sma
- Vocabulary
- Introduction to Eight Cases in Sanskrit
Lesson 5
- Exercises from lesson 2 of the textbook.
- Dative case
- Vocative case
- Partial declension of m noun ending in -a
- Partial declension of Feminine nouns ending in —ā
- Introduction to Eight Cases in Sanskrit

Lesson 6
- Suffixes-\(\text{tā, tva}\) and \(\text{tas}\)
- Personal Pronouns: 1\(^{st}\) and 2\(^{nd}\) persons
- Class VI, IV and X verbs
- Vocabulary
- Exercises from lesson 3 of the textbook.
- Quiz
- Introduction to Eight Cases in Sanskrit

Lesson 7
- Instrumental case
- Complete declension of m noun ending in -\(\text{a}\):
- Causative verbs
- Past Passive Participles
- Declension of masculine nouns ending in —\(\text{u}\)
- Declension of neutral nouns ending in —\(\text{u}\)
- Personal pronouns: 3\(^{rd}\) person
- Introduction to Eight Cases in Sanskrit

Lesson 8
- Denominatives
- Declension of m nouns ending in -\(\text{i}\)
- Declension of n nouns ending in —\(\text{i}\)
- Declension f nouns ending in —\(\text{i}\)
- Vocabularies
- Exercise from lesson 4 of the textbook.
- Introduction to Eight Cases in Sanskrit

Lesson 9
- Declension of pronoun: \(\text{sā and eṣā}\)
- Declension of demonstratives
- Interrogative Pronouns
- Vocabularies
- Exercises from lesson 4 of the textbook.
- Introduction to Eight Cases in Sanskrit

Lesson 10
- \(\text{Parasmaipada}\) and \(\text{ātmanepada}\) verbs
- Gerunds
- Introduction to \(\text{Sandhi}\) rules
- Hard and soft Consonants
• Vowel Sandhi
• Consonant Sandhi
• Introduction to Eight Cases in Sanskrit

Lesson 11
• Visarga Sandhi
• Internal Sandhi
• External Sandhi
• Primary and Secondary Suffixes
• Introduction to Eight Cases in Sanskrit

Lesson 12
• The passive voice
• Declension of interrogative pronouns
• The integrative particles
• Exercises from lesson 4 of the textbook.
• Review

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

Textbook:

Reference books:


