Course Description:
Sanskrit, 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. It is one of the four languages in which many Buddhist teachings are preserved. Indian Buddhist schools such as Sarvāstivāda, Yogācāra, Mādhyamikā composed most of their texts in Sanskrit. Many Mahāyāna texts such as the Prajñāpāramitā literature, Saddharma-puṇḍarīka-sūtra and many more treatises were composed in Sanskrit. Therefore, for students who intend to specialize in different aspects of Buddhism, a reading knowledge of Sanskrit is essential. This course will cover structure, and grammar of the language, covering topics such as possessive nouns, numerals, relatives, and future passive participle, present participle, passive voice, imperative mood, and optative mood, different forms of past tense, declensions and conjugations.

Objectives
(1) To enable students to read and comprehend Sanskrit texts.
(2) To enable students to understand the structure, and grammar of the Sanskrit language.
(3) To help students understand Sanskrit Buddhist literature.

Course Content:
The course begins with Sanskrit grammar along with exercises selected from Buddhist texts. The students will learn and work at translating the passages, while the grammar involved will be analyzed and the doctrines will be explained to them in a gradual build-up manner. We will cover the following: possessive nouns, numerals, relatives, and future passive participle, present participle, passive voice, imperative mood, and optative mood, different forms of past tense, declensions and conjugations.

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
- Possessive suffix –in
- Subjective genitive and Objective genitive
- Future Passive Participles
- Relatives

Lesson 2
- Numerals: Cardinal
- Vocabulary
- Exercises from lesson 6 of the textbook.

Lesson 3
- Declension of bhagavant (m)
- Possessive suffixes ‘-mant’ and ‘-vant’
- The Future Tense
- Compounds — dvandva and tatpurusa
- Infinitive

Lesson 4
- Compounds — dvandva and tatpurusa
- Infinitive
- Vocabulary
- Exercises from lesson 7 of the textbook

Lesson 5
- Declension of the demonstrative
- Declension of noun ending in -an
- The Class II verbs
- Verb at the very beginning of a sentence
- The Passive Voice

Lesson 6
- Present participles
- Compounds — Karmadhāraya-samāsa
- Compounds — Ayyayībhāva-samāsa
- Mid-term quiz 1

Lesson 7
- Vocabulary
- Exercise from lesson 8 of the textbook.
• Declension of Consonant Ending Nouns
• Class IX verbs
Lesson 8
• The Imperative Mood
• Ordinal numbers
• Declension of Agent Nouns
• Periphrastic Future
• Conjugation of Class V Verbs
• Vocabulary
Lesson 9
• Exercises from lesson 9 of the textbook.
• Conjugation of Class VIII verbs
• The Optative Mood
• Compounds — Bahuvarīhi
Lesson 10
• The Past Participle Active
• Conjugation of Class III verbs
• The Imperfect Tense
• Exercises from lesson 10 of the textbook.
Lesson 11
• Locative Absolute and Genitive Absolute
• Class VII verbs
• Prohibitive (Injunctive)
• The Perfect Tense
• Exercises from lesson 11 of the textbook
Lesson 12
• The Aorist Tense
• Exercises from lesson 12 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:


Basic Sanskrit Gramma online [http://www.learnsanskrit.org/grammar](http://www.learnsanskrit.org/grammar)

Online Sanskrit-English Dictionary [http://www.sanskrit-lexicon.uni-koeln.de/monier/](http://www.sanskrit-lexicon.uni-koeln.de/monier/)