BSTC 2008 Sanskrit Language I (6 Credits)
(The course is open to students from all HKU faculties as a free elective)

**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 passages 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.

<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 409A, 4/F Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus</td>
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<td>Tel:</td>
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<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nanda@hku.hk">nanda@hku.hk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Schedule</td>
<td>Every Tuesday from 10:30 to 12:20 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Venue</td>
<td>CPD 3.04 (face to face and online teaching)</td>
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Assessment:

- **40%** - Coursework
  - 10% - Attendance
  - 20% - Quiz
  - 10% - Home work
- **60%** - Final examination at the end of the semester. It will be an open-book exam. Students will be allowed to carry the textbook, vocabulary list and Declension and conjugation tables to exam hall.

Faculty Grade Expectations: [http://arts.hku.hk/grade_expectations.pdf](http://arts.hku.hk/grade_expectations.pdf)

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. The University upholds the principle that plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and any student found plagiarizing is liable to disciplinary action in addition to failing the assessment concerned. Please read the following webpage on "plagiarism" for details:


### Lecture Schedule

**Lesson 1 (Sep 1, 2020)**
- Introduction to Sanskrit Language and Literature
- Introduction to Sanskrit Alphabet
- Writing Devanāgarī Scripts

**Lesson 2 (Sep 8, 2020)**
- Introduction to Sanskrit Nouns:
  - Three Genders of Sanskrit Nouns
  - Introduction to Eight Cases in Sanskrit
  - Nominative, Genitive and Locative cases
  - Partial declension of masculine nouns ending in -a:
- Writing Devanāgarī Scripts practice

**Lesson 3 (Sep 15, 2020)**
- Introduction to Sanskrit Adjectives
- Function of 'Verb to be' (bhavati)
- Indeclinable particles ca, vā and api
- Vocabularies
- Exercises
- Writing Devanāgarī Scripts practice

**Lesson 4 (Sep 22, 2020)**
- Introduction to Sanskrit Verbs:
  - Verbal prefixes
➢ Three grades of strengthening verbs
➢ Class I, IV, VI and X verbs
➢ Conjugation of class I verbs in present tense

• Continuation of Introduction to Sanskrit Nouns:
  ➢ Accusative case
  ➢ Ablative case
• Introduction neutral nouns ending in -a:
  ➢ The indeclinable particle –iti, eva and sma

Lesson 5 (Sep 29, 2020)
• Continuation of Introduction to Sanskrit Nouns:
  ➢ Dative case
  ➢ Vocative case
• Introduction to Feminine nouns ending in —ā.
• Vocabularies and Exercises

Lesson 6 (Oct 6, 2020)
• Introduction to Instrumental case
• Suffixes- tā, tvā, and tas.
• Causative verbs
• Past Passive Participles
• Vocabularies and Exercises.

Lesson 7 (Oct 20, 2020)
• Introduction to Personal Pronouns
• Introduction to nouns ending in—u
  ➢ Declension of masculine nouns ending in —u
  ➢ Declension of neutral nouns ending in—u
• Mid-term quiz (one hour)

Lesson 8 (Oct 27, 2020)
• Introduction to -i ending nouns:
  ➢ Declension of m nouns ending in -i
  ➢ Declension of n nouns ending in -i
  ➢ Declension f nouns ending in -i
• Vocabularies
• Exercise

Lesson 9 (Nov 3, 2020)
• Demonstrative Pronouns
• Interrogative Pronouns
• Interrogative particles.
• Vocabulary and Exercises.

Lesson 10 (Nov 10, 2020)
• Parasmaipada and ātmanepada verbs
• Gerunds
• Introduction to the Sandhi rules
Lesson 11 (Nov 17, 2020)
- Vowel Sandhi
- Consonant Sandhi
- Visarga Sandhi
- Internal Sandhi
- External Sandhi

Lesson 12 (Nov 24, 2020)
- Introduction to the Sanskrit Future Tense
- Vocabularies and Exercises.
- Review for the exam

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

Textbook:

Note: We will not follow the textbook exactly. Handouts will be provided to students before every class.

Reference books:


(Last updated: July 20, 2020)