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.
Assessment:

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

General expectations of student performance at the various grades:


About Plagiarism:

Please be aware of plagiarism. For details, please refer to
http://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/assessment/plagiarism

Lecture Schedule

Lesson 1 (2\textsuperscript{nd} Sep 2019)
- Introduction to Sanskrit Language and Literature
- Sanskrit Alphabet
- Writing Devanāgarī Scripts

Lesson 2 (9\textsuperscript{th} Sep 2019)
- Introduction to Sanskrit nominals
- Introduction to Eight Cases in Sanskrit
- Declension of masculine nouns ending in –\textit{a}.
- Vocabulary and Exercises.

Lesson 3 (16\textsuperscript{th} Sep 2019)
- Introduction to Sanskrit verbs
- The three grades of strength of Sanskrit Vowels
- Verb “to be”
- Expression of “have and has” in Sanskrit.
- Verbal prefixes
- Indeclinable particles \textit{ca}, \textit{vā} and \textit{api}
- Vocabulary and Exercises.

Lesson 4 (23\textsuperscript{rd} Sep 2019)
- Class I, IV, VI and X verbs
- Declension of neutral nouns ending in –\textit{a}.
- Adjectives
- The indeclinable particle –\textit{iti}, \textit{eva} and \textit{sma}
- Vocabulary and Exercises.
Lesson 5  (30th Sep 2019)
- Declension of Feminine nouns ending in —ā.
- Suffixes-ṭā, ṭva, and tas.
- Introduction to personal pronouns.

Lesson 6 (21st Oct 2019)
- Causative verbs
- Past Passive Participles
- Quiz

Lesson 7 (28th Oct 2019)
- Declension of masculine nouns ending in —u
- Declension of neutral nouns ending in—u
- Personal pronouns: 3rd person
- Vocabulary and Exercises.

Lesson 8 (4th Nov 2019)
- Denominatives
- Declension of m nouns ending in -i
- Declension of n nouns ending in –i
- Declension f nouns ending in –i.
- Vocabulary and Exercises.

Lesson 9 (11th Nov 2019)
- Demonstrative Pronouns
- Interrogative Pronouns
- Interrogative particles.
- Vocabulary and Exercises.

Lesson 10 (18th Nov 2019)
- Pārasmaipada and ātmanepada verbs
- Gerunds
- Introduction to Sandhi rules
- Hard and soft Consonants
- Vocabulary and Exercises.

Lesson 11 (25th Nov 2019)
- Vowel Sandhi
- Consonant Sandhi
- Visarga Sandhi
- Internal Sandhi
- External Sandhi

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

Textbook:

Note: we will not follow the textbook exactly. Handouts will be given to students in every class.
Reference books:
Online basic Sanskrit Grammar: http://www.learnsanskrit.org/grammar
Online Sanskrit-English Dictionary http://www.sanskrit-lexicon.uni-koeln.de/monier/
Writing Devanāgarī Script http://enjoylearningsanskrit.com/sanskrit-alphabet-tuto

(Last updated: July 23, 2019)