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. It is one of the three languages in which Early 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, Śraddharmapuṇḍarikā-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 is intended for those who have successfully completed BSTC 2008: Sanskrit Language I. 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.

Prerequisite: BSTC2008 Sanskrit Language I

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

Course Content: The course begins with 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 explained to them in a gradual build-up manner. This includes 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:

- **40%** - Coursework
  - 10% - Attendance
  - 20% - Quiz (open-book class quiz)
  - 10% - Homework
- **60%** - Final examination at the end of the semester. (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 (Jan 20, 2021).
- Introduction to the course
- Introduction to Possessive Suffix -in
- Future Passive Participle (FPP)

Lesson 2 (Jan 27, 2021).
- Introduction to Relatives and Correlatives in Sanskrit
- Introduction to Sanskrit Numerals
- Vocabularies and Exercises.

Lesson 3 (Feb 3, 2021).
- Introduction to Possessive Suffixes -mant and -vant
- The Future Tense
- Infinitive

Lesson 4 (Feb 10, 2021).
- Introduction to Sanskrit Compounds:
  - dvandva compound
  - tatpurusa compound
- Declension of Sanskrit Demonstrative (that)
- Vocabularies and Exercises.

Lesson 5 (Feb 24, 2021).
- Introduction to Sanskrit Consonant ending nouns
- The Passive Voice
- The Class II verbs.
- Exercises.
Lesson 6 (Mar 3, 2021).
- Present participles.
- Continuation of Sanskrit Compounds — *Karmadhāraya-samāsa*.
- Vocabularies

Lesson 7 (Mar 17, 2021).
- Exercises
- Mid-term quiz (one hour)

Lesson 8 (Mar 24, 2021).
- Compounds — *Avyayībhāva-samāsa*.
- Declension of Consonant ending Nouns.
- Vocabulary Exercises.

- Class IX verbs.
- The Imperative Mood.
- Declension of Agent Nouns.
- Vocabulary Exercises.

Lesson 10 (Apr 7, 2021)
- Periphrastic Future.
- Conjugation of Class V verbs.
- Conjugation of Class VIII verbs.
- The Optative Mood.

Lesson 11 (Apr 14, 2021).
- Compounds — *Bahuvrīhi*.
- The Past Participle Active.
- Conjugation of Class III verbs.

Lesson 12 (Apr 21, 2021).
- The Imperfect Tense.
- Vocabulary Exercises.

- The Aorist Tense
- 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 feedbacks.

**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 20, 2020)