

BSTC 2020
Sanskrit Language II

Course Description:

Sanskrit is one of the most ancient languages known to humankind. It is a key to understanding India's rich cultural, philosophical, and religious heritage, 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 basic language knowledge 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, and Mādhyamikā composed most of their texts in Sanskrit. Many Mahāyāna texts, such as the Prajñāpāramitā literature, the *Saddharmapuṇḍarikā-sūtra*, and numerous other treatises, were composed in Sanskrit. Therefore, for students who intend to specialise in different aspects of Indian Buddhism, a reading knowledge of Sanskrit is essential. This course will cover the structure and grammar of the language, including possessive nouns, numerals, relatives, the future passive participle, the present participle, the passive voice, the imperative and optative moods, different forms of the past tense, declensions, and conjugations.

Prerequisite: “BSTC2008. Sanskrit Language I” or possess equivalent knowledge.

Objectives

- (1) To enable students to read and comprehend Sanskrit texts.
- (2) To enable understanding of the structure and grammar of the Sanskrit language.
- (3) To help students understand the 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 grammar involved will be analysed, and doctrines explained to them in a gradual build-up manner. This includes the following: possessive nouns, numerals, relatives, future passive participle, present participle, passive voice, imperative mood, optative mood, different forms of the past tense, and declensions and conjugations.

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

Offering Semester	Second Semester
Lecturer	Dr. Amrita Nanda
Office	Rm 4.13, 4/F Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus
Tel:	39175077
Email	nanda@hku.hk
Schedule	To be confirmed
Class Venue	To be confirmed

Assessment:

50% coursework and 50% examination

Coursework 50%: This consists of three components:

- Class participation (10%) is assessed based on regular attendance and active involvement in discussions. Active involvement includes asking questions, offering comments or insights during class, responding to questions from the instructor or classmates, participating in group work, and respectfully engaging in classroom dialogue.
- The Mid-term Quiz (30%) will be held in the classroom after the reading week and will last 1 hour (open book). The main focus will be on identifying different declensions and conjugation forms, and forming participles from the given verbal roots.
- Weekly homework (10%), graded on accuracy and timely submission. Homework assignments will consist of short translation exercises, grammar practice, and brief reading comprehension tasks, based on material covered in class. Homework will be posted weekly on Moodle and should be submitted electronically through the platform by the stated deadline.

Examination (50%): Final examination at the end of the semester. Duration: three hours (Open book). The main focus will be on providing grammatical analysis and translation from Sanskrit to English.

Lecture Schedule

Lesson 1

- Introduction to the course
- Introduction to Possessive Suffix *-in*
- Future Passive Participle (FPP)

Lesson 2

- Introduction to Relatives and Correlatives in Sanskrit
- Introduction to Sanskrit Numerals
- Vocabulary and Exercises.

Lesson 3

- Introduction to Possessive Suffixes *-mant* and *-vant*
- The Future Tense
- Infinitive

Lesson 4

- Introduction to Sanskrit Compounds:
 - *dvandva* compound
 - *tatpuruṣa* compound
- Declension of the Sanskrit Demonstrative (*that*)
- Vocabulary and Exercises.

Lesson 5

- Introduction to Sanskrit Consonant Ending Nouns
- The Passive Voice
- The Class II verbs.

Lesson 6

- Present participles.
- Vocabulary and Exercises.

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Lesson 7

- Mid-term Quiz
- Continuation of Sanskrit Compounds — *Karmadhāraya-samāsa*.

Lesson 8

- Compounds — *Avyayībhāva-samāsa*.
- Declension of Consonant-ending Nouns.
- Vocabulary and Exercises.

Lesson 9

- Class IX verbs.
- The Imperative Mood.

Lesson 10

- Declension of Agent Nouns.
- Vocabulary Exercises.
- Periphrastic Future.
- Conjugation of Class V verbs.
- Conjugation of Class VIII verbs.

Lesson 11

- The Optative Mood.
- Compounds — *Bahuvrīhi*.
- The Past Participle Active.
- Conjugation of Class III verbs.

Lesson 12

- The Imperfect Tense.
- The Aorist Tense
- Review for the Exam

Note: The schedule provided is approximate and flexible. Adjustments may be made based on students' learning pace and interest.

Support options: Students are encouraged to seek help early if they have questions or encounter difficulties. Office hours will be available each week for individual consultation with the instructor. In addition, tutorial sessions can be arranged if there is sufficient demand.

Textbook

Dhammajoti, KL. (2021), *Reading Buddhist Sanskrit Texts: An Elementary Grammatical Guide (4th edition)*, The Buddha-Dharma Centre of Hong Kong Ltd. Hong Kong. (Those who want to have a copy can directly buy from the Buddha-Dharma centre of Hong Kong: <https://buddhadharma.co/Reading-Buddhist-Sanskrit-Texts-An-Elementary-Grammatical-Guide>.)

Handout: We will be selective in our use of the textbook. Therefore, handouts will be uploaded to Moodle before every class. Reading materials will be provided by the course instructor on Moodle before classes. In addition to the required readings, supplementary resources, and further readings will be made available to students who wish to deepen their understanding of the material. These may include recommended articles, digital libraries, reference websites, and extra passages for advanced practice.

Reference books

Ruppel, A.M. (2017). *The Cambridge Introduction to Sanskrit*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Speijer, J.S. (1998). *Sanskrit Syntax*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers.

Bucknell, R.S. (1994). *Sanskrit Manual: A quick-reference guide to the phonology and grammar of Classical Sanskrit*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers.

Thomas, E. (1994). *Introduction to Sanskrit: Part I*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers.

_____ (2000). *Introduction to Sanskrit: Part II*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers.

Whitney, W. D. (1979). *The Roots, Verbs-forms and Primary Derivatives of the Sanskrit Language*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers.

_____ (2003). *Sanskrit Grammar*. New York: Dover Publications.

Goldman, R. P., Goldman, S., Sally J. (2011). *An Introduction to the Sanskrit Language*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers.

Monier, W. (1979). *A Sanskrit English Dictionary*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers.

Some of these references will be available on the course Moodle. Students are not required to buy these books.

Online Resources:

For additional Sanskrit Grammar practice:

<https://ubcsanskrit.ca/>

Sanskrit Dictionary

1. <https://www.sanskrit-lexicon.uni-koeln.de/scans/MWScan/2020/web/webtc/indexcaller.php>

2. <http://dsal.uchicago.edu/dictionaries/apte/>

Note:

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

<http://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/assessment/plagiarism>

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Mental Health and Well-being Statement

The Faculty of Arts is dedicated to supporting your overall well-being during your studies. Prioritise your mental and physical health and seek help when needed.

Key Resources:

- **Faculty Student Wellness Counsellor**
Ms. Trinity Pun
Room 4.05, 4/F, Run Run Shaw Tower, Centennial Campus
Tel: 3917 2279 | Email: trinityp@hku.hk
- **Career Development Advisor (including wellbeing-related concerns)**
Ms. Heidy Wan
Room 4.05, 4/F, Run Run Shaw Tower, Centennial Campus
Tel: 3917 0736 | Email: heidywan@hku.hk
- **Thrive@Arts:** wellness activities to de-stress, build resilience, and connect with peers. Stay tuned for upcoming events.
- **CEDARS Counselling & Psychological Services**
Tel: 3917 8388 | Email: cedars-cope@hku.hk
Online registration: cedars.hku.hk/cope/cps/online-registration
- **TourHeart+ Platform:** Free confidential online support, assessments, and exercises.
<https://sso.cedars.hku.hk/tourHeart/>
- **Wellness@HKU Portal:** Self-assessments, resources, and workshops.
<https://wellness.hku.hk/login>

Quick Reminders:

- Feeling stressed is normal. Seeking help early is a sign of strength.
- All services are free, confidential, and available to Arts students.
- In emergencies (after hours), contact CEDARS at <https://www.cedars.hku.hk/cope/cps/reach-out-for-help>.

Your well-being matters. Reach out — support is available.