



Sanskrit in two scripts: Sharada (from Kashmir in the north) and Grantha (from Tamil Nadu in the south).

SKT 102

Elementary Sanskrit II

Winter 2017
Prof. Tim Lubin

Sanskrit, sister to Greek and Latin and aunt to most of the languages of Europe, was used to compose most Hindu and Buddhist sacred texts, and much other literature of India, including the *Mahabharata* and *Ramayana* epics, lyric poetry, drama, fables, works on yoga and meditation, poetics, logic, political theory, law (Dharma), the exact sciences, and the erotic arts. The discovery by Western scholars of the remarkably systematic ancient grammar of Panini (around 400 BCE) led to the development of the modern science of linguistics.

SKT 102 continues to cover the basic grammar of the language, with practice reading, reciting, and using simple spoken Sanskrit. We also discuss the role of Sanskrit in religious history and in Indian and Nepali society up to the present.

Course Materials

देववाणीप्रवेशिका *Devavāṇīpraveśikā: Introduction to the Sanskrit Language*, 3rd ed., by Robert P. Goldman and Sally J. Sutherland Goldman (used in previous years) OR
The Cambridge Introduction to Sanskrit, by Antonia Ruppel (new; will use if in print in time)

Sanskrit Reader, by Charles Rockwell Lanman.

A Sanskrit Grammar for Students, by A. A. Macdonell

A Sanskrit Grammar, by W. D. Whitney

Sanskrit audio files: <http://home.wlu.edu/~lubint/texts/index.htm> and handouts

Schedule

The course will meet three hours per week. We will aim to complete about one chapter of the textbook per week, adjusting somewhat for more challenging chapters. The grammar lessons will be augmented by material on Indian culture and history, Sanskrit (and related) literatures, and the role of the Brahmin caste as authors, priests, and scholars. Shortly after the midterm exam, we will begin reading from Lanman's *Sanskrit Reader*.

Class time will be devoted to: (a) presentation of new material: (b) review of assigned readings and exercises, with students taking turns reading and translating, and writing their work on the board; (c) introduction of relevant cultural, historical, literary, and religious background information.

Requirements

An in-class midterm examination (25% of the final grade); a two-hour final examination (50% of the final grade). The remaining 25% will be based on in-class work, considered cumulatively: preparation of weekly assignments, in-class reading and translation, memorization of verses, and occasional short quizzes. Absence from class (for reasons other than serious illness or emergency) tends to make the coursework much more difficult, and could result in a lowering of the final grade.

Goals

The goals of the course are:

Mastery of the basic grammar and syntax of Sanskrit by the end of two terms, with the ability to read original texts (such as those in Lanman's *Sanskrit Reader*).

The ability to recite verse.

The ability to use basic spoken Sanskrit to analyze compounds (by performing *vigraha* orally) or to chat with pandits.

Knowledge of the role and status of Sanskrit in Indian society and religion, and a basic familiarity with the extant literature in Sanskrit.