

Sanskrit 282

Intermediate Sanskrit

University of Hawaii at Manoa
Spring 2014

Timing: The Class will meet for 200 minutes per week.

Instructor: Jesse Ross Knutson, PhD
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Required Text:

1. *yogasūtravyāśabhāṣya*
2. Tubb and Bose. *Scholastic Sanskrit: A Manual for Students.*

Recommended Texts:

Apte V.S. *The Practical Sanskrit English Dictionary.*

Whitney, W.D. *The Roots, Verb Forms, and Primary Derivatives of the Sanskrit Language.*

Prerequisite: Sanskrit 181 or equivalent.

Objectives:

Student Learning Objectives (for Sanskrit 281-282):

By the end of this class students will:

1. Develop a high degree of confidence and mastery in reading both epic philosophical Sanskrit alongside their traditional commentaries
2. Develop a substantial repertoire of memorized verses
3. Refine skills in speaking and understanding simple interpretive Sanskrit to a high degree of perfection. (it is a useful skill to be able to ask and answer basic grammatical questions about a text in Sanskrit, which in turn helps to internalize some of the interpretive styles of the traditional commentaries)

This class is devoted to developing fluency in reading and understanding Sanskrit texts. To this end, we focus this semester on learning how to read a Sanskrit commentary. To become comfortable reading a Sanskrit commentary we will read a Sanskrit text and its commentary, as well as useful reference work about Sanskrit commentarial language: *Scholastic Sanskrit* by Tubb and Bose. The text we focused on last semester, *Rāmopākhyāna*, will go from being our main text to being a secondary text, which I will expect you to continue reading on your own, and which we will return to in class from time to time. We will return to the *Rāmopākhyāna* if and when you have questions about it, or to practice sight-reading when we exhaust what you have prepared of other texts. This course will require significant preparation outside of class, and will require you to continually review everything you learned from the first-year course. In return, it will develop your reading skills to a high level so that you will feel very confident next year in an advanced level seminar, as well as in reading texts independently. In other words, you will know the language well enough to read virtually any text on your own. In addition by asking and answering questions aloud in a commentarial style, we will try to refine a basic speaking competence.

Schedule: This class has one main activity which is reading. In addition, I will ask you to memorize verses on a regular basis. I will also ask each of you to lead at least one ‘interactive grammar review session’.

Evaluation:

Your grade is made up of the following three components 1. Attendance/participation: 50% 2. midterm 20% 3. final exam 30%.

The midterm (**tentative date: week 9**) and final exam (**see online schedule**) will both be cumulative.

Tentative Schedule:

Week 1 *yogasūtravyāśabhāṣya*: discussion of commentarial style

Week 2 *yogasūtravyāśabhāṣya*: discussion of commentarial style

Week 3 *yogasūtravyāśabhāṣya*: discussion of commentarial style

Week 4 *yogasūtravyāśabhāṣya*: discussion of commentarial style

Week 5 *yogasūtravyāśabhāṣya*: students analyze commentary

Week 6 *yogasūtravyāśabhāṣya*: students present analysis of commentary

Week 7 *yogasūtravyāśabhāṣya*: students present analysis of commentary

Week 8 *yogasūtravyāśabhāṣya*: students present analysis of commentary

Week 9 Midterm; *yogasūtravyāśabhāṣya*: students present analysis of commentary

Week 10 *yogasūtravyāśabhāṣya*: students present analysis of commentary

Week 11 *yogasūtravyāśabhāṣya*: students present analysis of commentary

Week 12 *yogasūtravyāśabhāṣya*: students present analysis of commentary

Week 13 *yogasūtravyāśabhāṣya*: students present analysis of commentary

Week 14 *yogasūtravyāśabhāṣya*: students present analysis of commentary

Week 15 *yogasūtravyāśabhāṣya*: students present analysis of commentary

Week 16 *yogasūtravyāśabhāṣya*: students present analysis of commentary

ATTENDANCE: You cannot afford to miss class. Barring a medical or other serious emergency (in which case I will try to help accommodate you) you should never plan to miss class.

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“The Sanskrit language is of a wonderful structure, more perfect than the Greek, more copious than the Latin, and more exquisitely refined than either.”

--Sir William Jones, Third Address to the Asiatick Society of Bengal, 1786

“Sanskrit is a celestial language repeated by great sages.” –Daṇḍin 7th century

saṃskṛtaṃ nāma daivī vāg anvākyātā maharṣibhiḥ /