

*Instructor:* Joseph LaRose  
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*Office hours:* Thursdays 12:30–14:00 and by appointment  
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*Class Time:* Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30–11:20  
*Room:* KTH 109

### **Course Description**

- Sanskrit 3A06/Religious Studies 6X06 is a full-year course in which students are introduced to Sanskrit grammar, orthography and pronunciation.
- Students will also be introduced to the historical, cultural, linguistic and religious contexts of the language.

### **Course Objectives—Upon completion of this course:**

- Students will be able to recognize and understand common grammatical features of the Sanskrit language (e.g., case, number and gender of nouns; person, number and tense of verbs, etc, etc, etc!)
- They will be able to translate simple Sanskrit texts with the aid of a grammar and dictionary.
- Students will be able to read and pronounce Sanskrit in the *devanāgarī* script.

### **Course Prerequisite**

- There are no prerequisites and the course does not presuppose any familiarity with India or Indian languages. All are welcome.

### **Required Text (available at the Campus Store)**

- Goldman, Robert P. and Sally J. Sutherland Goldman. *Devavāṇīpraveśikā: an Introduction to the Sanskrit Language*. 3rd Ed. Berkeley: Center for South Asia Studies, University of California, Berkeley, 2004.

### **Reading Schedule**

- The course is designed to complete 14 lessons of the 22 lesson textbook. These chapters cover the majority of Sanskrit grammar and students will be well prepared for the further study of the Sanskrit language at more advanced levels.
- A detailed weekly schedule, including all dates for quizzes and assignments, will be made available to students at the beginning of each term.

- Since the progress of the course tends to change each year, the reading schedule may also change. I will make regular announcements on Avenue to Learn, letting students know exactly what will be covered in each class. I will also regularly post grammar resources for students to download, print and bring to class. Students should check the course page at least every couple of days to ensure that they are preparing correctly for each class.
- Please note that the dates assigned for the writing of quizzes and for the submission of assignments will not change.

### *Evaluation*

- *4 Tests (10% each/40% total)*—Students will write tests focused on current lessons. Since language acquisition is cumulative, the second, third and fourth tests will necessarily include material from previous tests.
- *2 Group Translation Assignments (10% each/20% total)*—Once per term students will submit a group translation assignment. These assignments are to be done in groups of 2 to 4 people. All members of the group will receive the same grade. Detailed instructions for the completion of translation assignments will be handed out with the first assignment. These instructions will include the specific criteria I will use to evaluate your translation assignments.
- *2 Exams (10% December, 20% April/30% total)*—At the end of each term students will write a registrar-scheduled, instructor-invigilated exam during the regular examination period. As with tests, material covered on the exams will be cumulative.
- *Preparation, attendance and participation (10%)*—Regular preparation, attendance and participation are essential for the acquisition of any language. During class time I will present new material, review material, take up lessons, answer questions, etc. Students are expected to read each lesson carefully and, when scheduled, prepare the exercises that appear at the end of each lesson. Correcting these exercises will be an important component of the class and students will be required to participate in their correction. Students who do not regularly attend class will lose these important opportunities and will soon find themselves falling behind in the course. Participation marks will be assessed on the basis of the following three criteria:
  - *Attendance*—Students are expected to attend all classes. Missed classes will be excused only with appropriate documentation.
  - *Active participation*—Students are expected to contribute during class. There will be ample opportunity to ask and answer questions during the course. Some students might not talk every class, but they should attempt to be regular contributors to the intellectual life of the class.
  - *Homework*—Students are expected to be prepared for each class. Each class will require some preparation, whether that be reading a chapter of the textbook, reviewing notes, or downloading and printing grammar resources posted on Avenue to Learn. There will also be readings assigned as

homework to be taken up in class. Students will be required to participate in the taking up of this assigned homework.

### *Late Submission/Missed Tests*

- Translation assignments handed in late will be penalized at a rate of 3% per day unless documentation can be provided.
- MSAFed tests will be written at a later date.

### *Student Accessibility Services*

- Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone (905)525-9140 x28652 or email sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.

### *Course Website*

- Please check the Avenue to Learn page for this course regularly—at least once or twice a week and especially when you are preparing for class.

### *University/Faculty/Department Statements*

#### *1. Course Modification Warning*

- The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

#### *2. Statement on Academic Integrity (from McMaster University website)*

- You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.
- Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.
- It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the

Academic Integrity Policy, located at

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>

- The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty: 1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained. 2. Improper collaboration in group work. 3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

*3. Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy*

- Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

*4. Department of Religious Studies Assignment Submission Policy*

- Staff in the office of the Department of Religious Studies will neither date-stamp nor receive papers and other assignments. Arrangements must be made with the instructor for any submission made outside of regular class time.

**Important Sanskrit 3A06 Dates for Fall 2016 (25 classes):**

Tuesday, Sept. 5	Term 1 Begins	Week 1
Wednesday, Sept. 13	Drop-and-Add Ends	Week 2
Thursday, Oct. 5	Test 1	Week 5
Thursday, Oct. 5	Translation Assignment 1.1 Out	Week 5
Oct. 9–15	Midterm Recess	Week 6
Thursday, Nov. 2	Translation Assignment 1.1 Due	Week 9
Tuesday, Nov. 7	Translation Assignment 1.2 Out	Week 10
Tuesday, Nov. 14	Test 2	Week 11
Tuesday, Nov. 28	Translation Assignment 1.2 Due	Week 13
Nov. 30–Dec. 7	Test Ban	
Tuesday, Dec. 6	Term 1 Ends	Week 14
Dec. 8–21	Exam Period	

**Important Sanskrit 3A06 Dates for Winter Term 2017 (25 classes):**

Thursday, Jan. 4	Term 2 Begins	Week 1
Friday, Jan. 12	Drop-and-Add Ends	Week 2
Thursday, Feb. 1	Test 3	Week 5
Thursday, Feb. 1	Translation Assignment 2.1 Out	Week 5
Feb. 19–25	Midterm Recess	Week 8
Thursday, March. 1	Translation Assignment 2.1 Due	Week 9
Tuesday, Mar. 6	Translation Assignment 2.2 Out	Week 10
Tuesday, Mar. 13	Test 4	Week 11
Tuesday, Mar. 27	Translation Assignment 2.2 Due	Week 13
Friday, Mar. 30	Good Friday Holiday—No Classes	Week 13
Apr. 3–Apr. 10	Test Ban	
Monday, Apr. 9	Term 2 Ends	Week 15
Apr. 11–26	Exam Period	

**Term 1 Schedule (topics in brackets are indicative, not exhaustive)**

**Nb. the Term 2 Schedule will be distributed at the beginning of the second term.**

Week	Topic	Assessment
1 Sept. 5 Sept. 7	Course Introduction; Lesson 1—The Sanskrit Syllabary in Transliteration Lesson 2—The <i>Devanāgarī</i> Script, Conjunct Consonants	
2 Sept. 12 Sept. 14	Lesson 2—Conjunct Consonants cont. Lesson 3— <i>Sandhi</i> , External Vowel <i>Sandhi</i>	

3 Sept. 19 Sept. 21	Lesson 3—External Vowel <i>Sandhi</i> cont., Consonant <i>Sandhi</i> Lesson 3—Consonant <i>Sandhi</i> cont.	
4 Sept. 26 Sept. 28	Lesson 3— <i>Visarga Sandhi</i> Lesson 3— <i>Visarga Sandhi</i> , Lesson 3 Exercises A 1–4 (pp. 44–6)	
5 Oct. 3 Oct. 5	Lesson 4—Introduction to Case Lesson 4—Case cont., a-stem Noun Paradigms	Test 1 Translation 1.1 Out
6	**Midterm Recess—Enjoy your Break!**	
7 Oct. 17 Oct. 19	Lesson 4—Adjectives, First- and Second-person Pronouns Lesson 4—Indeclinables, the Sanskrit Sentence	
8 Oct. 24 Oct. 26	Lesson 4 Reading (p. 75) Lesson 5—Case cont., ā-stem Noun Paradigms, Third-person Pronouns	
9 Oct. 31 Nov. 2	Lesson 5—Demonstratives, Adjectives of Pronominal Declension Lesson 5 Reading (p. 88)	Translation 1.1 Due
10 Nov. 7 Nov. 9	Lesson 6—Relative/Correlative Construction Lesson 6—Relative/Correlative Construction cont.	Translation 1.2 Out
11 Nov. 14 Nov. 16	Lesson 6—Relative/Correlative Construction cont. Lesson 6—Indefinite Construction	Test 2
12 Nov. 21 Nov. 23	Lesson 6 Reading (p. 108) Lesson 7—The Thematic <i>Gaṇas</i>	
13 Nov. 28 Nov. 30	Lesson 7—The Athematic <i>Gaṇas</i> Lesson 7—The Athematic <i>Gaṇas</i>	Translation 1.2 Due
14 Dec. 5	Lesson 7—The Athematic <i>Gaṇas</i> cont., Review	
Dec. 8–21	Exam Period	Exam