Sanskrit Language III (Online Course)

Instructors: Main Class: Joseph LaRose
joseph.larose@ryi.org

Traditional Class: Neela Sharma Bastola
neelasharma.bastola@ryi.org

Class times: S1, Friday, 7:45 pm – 9:45 pm (Nepal time)
Main class:
S2, Thursday, 2:45 am – 4:45 am (Nepal time)

Class times: T1, Friday, 7:45 am – 8:45 am (Nepal time)
Traditional class:
T2, Monday, 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm (Nepal time)

Office Hours: online, by appointment

The Sanskrit Language Program at RYI:

- The Sanskrit Language program at RYI is designed so that students complete Sanskrit grammar during their third semester of study. During Sanskrit Language I and II, the students focus almost exclusively on the study of grammar. In Sanskrit Language III, students will complete their study of Sanskrit grammar and begin to translate texts. Further study of Sanskrit (Sanskrit Language IV–VI) will focus on the reading of selected texts, with increasing emphasis placed on independent reading of Sanskrit texts. Students will also continue their study of spoken Sanskrit and the chandas of Sanskrit poetry.

Sanskrit Language III Course Description:

- Sanskrit Language III completes the students’ formal study of Sanskrit grammar.
- When the study of grammar is complete, students will begin reading Sanskrit texts.
- Students will be introduced to various resources, print and electronic, to aid their understanding and translation of Sanskrit texts.
- Students will begin to translate Sanskrit texts.
- There will also be some discussion of the historical, cultural, linguistic and religious contexts of the language. These aspects of the course will not be part of the assessments.

Sanskrit Language III Course Objectives:

- Students will be able to recognize and understand all of the common grammatical features of the Sanskrit language.
- Students will be familiar with the variety of resources to aid their translation of Sanskrit texts, in both print and electronic formats.
- Students will begin translating Sanskrit texts.
Students will develop a more sophisticated understanding of the South Asian context that produced the texts they read.

Course Prerequisite:

- Students registered in Sanskrit Language III must have completed Sanskrit Language I and II, or have taken equivalent courses at another institution.

Required Text:

- There is no required text for this course. The instructors will distribute all necessary materials electronically, including video lessons, grammar documents, homework assignments and vocabulary lists.

Optional Texts:

- Sanskrit grammars—Initially, students will use the Goldmans’ *Devavānīpraveśikā*, or another Sanskrit primer, as their main grammar. As the course progresses, students may wish to consult a more comprehensive reference grammar such as W. D. Whitney’s *Sanskrit Grammar*.
- Sanskrit-English dictionaries—Monier-Williams’ *Sanskrit-English Dictionary* is preferred, but students may choose to use another one, such as A. A. MacDonell’s *A Practical Sanskrit Dictionary*, or V. S. Apte’s *The Practical Sanskrit-English Dictionary*.
- Neither the purchasing nor the carrying around of a heavy dictionaries or grammar books are necessary. An important aspect of this course is developing the students’ familiarity with free, online versions of these resources.

Evaluation:

**Main Class (80% of final grade):**

- 1 Midterm Exam (10%)—In the week before the midterm break, students will write a midterm exam focused on the consolidation of grammatical concepts. The midterm exam will also serve as good practice for the final exam.
- 1 Final Exam (50%)—During the exam week, students will write an exam designed to demonstrate their consolidation of all the grammar taught in the course.
- 4 Homework Assignments (10% each/40% total)—Students will submit four homework assignments. These assignments are to be done individually.

**Traditional Class (20% of final grade):**

- The assessments for the Traditional Class will be announced during the first class of the semester.
Attendance Requirement:

- Students are expected to attend and be prepared for all classes. Given the relentlessly cumulative nature of language learning, missing even one class can put a student significantly behind.
- In order to receive credit for the course, students must attend at least 80% of classes in both components of the course.

Academic Integrity:

- Students must be familiar with what academic integrity (or dishonesty) and plagiarism mean and behave accordingly. (Refer to the Student Guidebook for further details.) In case of uncertainty about what academic integrity means, please consult with the instructor. Academic integrity expectations have not changed with the online format of the course. All work done by students must be the result of their own individual efforts.

Not For Credit (NFC) Students:

- Learning Sanskrit requires consistency and commitment. For your Sanskrit studies to be worth your time, it is necessary to be engaged with the material and take the time to review it properly. NFC students will not have to take the tests or final exam, but are expected to maintain 80% attendance, prepare for all classes, and complete all homework assigned throughout the semester.

The RYI Grading System:

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<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Grade Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>93.3-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.67</td>
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<td>83.3-86.5%</td>
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<td>80.0-83.2%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0-59.9%</td>
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The Online Structure:

- Sanskrit Language III will be delivered entirely online. The course will use a combination of prerecorded grammar lessons and live sessions to teach the course material.
- A typical week will have both a prerecorded and a live component:
  
  *Prerecorded Component:* students watch assigned video material (approximately 90 minutes)
Live Component: on Fridays, we will have a live session to review material and take up homework (120 minutes)

- The Traditional class for the course will meet in a live session one hour per week.
- Please note that the timing of the live sessions will depend upon the time zones of the students. The class will be divided into two groups depending on time zone, and the live sessions will be repeated for each of these two groups.
- This two-day format approximates the two-day format of the in-person version of this course.
- As a result of the online nature of the course, all homework has to be submitted electronically as either a .pdf or .doc file. Images of handwritten homework will not be accepted. The electronic nature of homework submission requires students to become familiar with both diacritic and devanāgarī keyboards early in the course.