

**Sanskrit Language V (Online Course)**

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**Office Hours:** online, by appointment

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**Class Time (in Nepal—UTC +5:45)**

F21 SLAN 301 S1 Class (Joe)  
TBD

F21 SLAN 301 T1 Class (Neela)  
TBD

**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.

**Sanskrit Language V Course Description:**

- Sanskrit Language V continues the students' focus on the independent reading of Sanskrit texts.
- The course will focus on the translation of Buddhist Sanskrit texts. To that end, the students will be expected to prepare and discuss a Buddhist Sanskrit text during weekly meetings.
- Students will use various resources, print and electronic, to aid their understanding and translation of Sanskrit texts.
- There will also be 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 V Course Objectives:**

- Students will be able to explain all of the common grammatical features of the Sanskrit language.
- Students will be able to translate Sanskrit texts with the aid of a grammar and dictionary.
- Students will begin to understand the particular features of what is called Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit.

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- Students will work easily with resources to aid their translation of Sanskrit texts.
- Students will develop a sophisticated understanding of the South Asian context that produced the texts they read.

**Course Prerequisite:**

- Students registered in Sanskrit Language V must have completed Sanskrit Language I–IV, 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—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—I prefer Monier-Williams' *Sanskrit-English Dictionary*, 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—Western (80% of Final Grade):**

- *1 Midterm Exam (10%)*—In the week before the midterm break, students will write a midterm exam focused on material covered in class. 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.
- *1 Translation Project (20%)*—Students will complete an independent translation project on a text of their choosing (subject to approval by the instructor). The aim of the translation project is to have students translate Sanskrit independently.
- *Preparation and Participation (20%)*—Students will be expected to come to all classes with assigned material prepared for discussion during class time. They will be expected to demonstrate that preparation through regular and required participation during class time. Students will also be expected to participate in the ongoing revision of a common translation document.

***Evaluation—Traditional (20% of Final Grade):***

- *1 Midterm Exam (25%)*—In the week before the midterm break, students will sit a midterm exam focused on the mastery of the skills taught in the course.
- *1 Final Exam (50%)*—During the exam week, students will sit an exam designed to demonstrate their mastery of the skills taught in the course.
- *Assignments (25%)*—Students will submit five assignments during the term. Details of these assignments will be discussed in class.

***Attendance Requirement:***

- Students are expected to attend and be prepared for all classes.
- 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:***

Letter Grade	Grade Points	Percentage
A	4.00	93.3-100%
A-	3.67	90.0-93.2%
B+	3.33	86.6-89.9%
B	3.00	83.3-86.5%
B-	2.67	80.0-83.2%
C+	2.33	76.6-79.9%
C	2.00	73.3-76.5%
C-	1.67	70.0-73.2%

D	1.00	60.0-69.9%
F	Fail	0-59.9%

***The Online Structure:***

- Sanskrit Language V will be delivered entirely online. The course will use live, online sessions to cover the course material.
- Each week there will be a 120 minute meeting to read texts.
- Each week there will be a 60 minute meeting with the traditional teacher.
- As a result of the online nature of the course, all homework will have 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.

***Reading Schedule:***

TBD