



**Wisconsin Intensive
Summer Language Institutes**
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Elementary Sanskrit (ASIALANG 317 & 327)

Land Acknowledgement

The University of Wisconsin–Madison occupies ancestral Ho-Chunk land, a place their nation has called Teejop (day-JOPE) since time immemorial. In an 1832 treaty, the Ho-Chunk were forced to cede this territory. Decades of ethnic cleansing followed when both the federal and state government repeatedly, but unsuccessfully, sought to forcibly remove the Ho-Chunk from Wisconsin. This history of colonization informs our shared future of collaboration and innovation. Today, UW–Madison respects the inherent sovereignty of the Ho-Chunk Nation, along with the eleven other First Nations of Wisconsin.

We would like to begin by acknowledging that Tiohtià:ke/Montréal is located on unceded Indigenous lands. The Kanien'kehá:ka Nation is recognized as the custodians of the lands and waters on which we gather today. Tiohtià:ke/Montréal is historically known as a gathering place for many First Nations. Today, it is home to a diverse population of Indigenous and other peoples. We respect the continued connections with the past, present and future in our ongoing relationships with Indigenous and other peoples within the Montreal community. (adapted from the land acknowledgement of Concordia University)

Institution Name: University of Wisconsin–Madison

Credits: By the end of the program, you will complete two, four-credit language courses.

Course Designations and Attributes: First and Second-semester language courses

Course Description: Introductory Sanskrit provides students with a systematic introduction to the rules of Sanskrit grammar. Over the course of eight weeks, students will master the basics of the grammar, develop a working vocabulary, and begin to read texts written in classical Sanskrit. The course aims for students to acquire the ability to read and write in Sanskrit, comprehend simple sentences orally, and hone translation skills. Upon the completion of this course, they will have the necessary skill set to join the intermediate Sanskrit class at their home institutions.

Requisites: First-semester language courses require no prior knowledge of the language.

Meeting Time and Location: 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. (CDT), [Zoom meeting ID:]

Link:

Instructional Modality: online

Instructor Contact Info: Dr. Timothy Lorndale

Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday 1:35 – 3:35 PM (CDT)

Link:

E-mail address: .

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of the program, students will be able to:

- Read and write in the *Devanāgarī* script
- Firmly grasp the fundamentals of Sanskrit's grammar
- Memorize important verbal and nominal paradigms and be able to recite them
- Develop a working vocabulary in Sanskrit
- Produce sentences that use a variety of forms and constructions
- Read short narratives composed in classical Sanskrit with the help of a dictionary and parse their grammatical forms
- Listen and to comprehend simple sentences orally
- Join the intermediate Sanskrit class at the student's home institution

How Credit Hours are Met by the Course

The credit standard for each of the 4-credit courses is met by requiring at least **180 total hours of student engagement** with course learning activities, consistent with the UW–Madison standard of **at least 45 hours of learning activities per credit**. These learning activities include scheduled instructor-student meeting times as well as asynchronous reading, writing, listening, speaking, preparation, homework, projects, studying, and other course-related activities. **Required co-curricular programming** will take place on Fridays, which includes lectures, language practice, cultural sessions, and other structured activities designed to support and extend course learning.

Regular and Substantive Student-Instructor Interaction

This course meets the regular and substantive student-instructor interaction requirement. By engaging students in teaching, learning, and assessment through direct instruction, providing feedback on student work, providing information about course content, and facilitating discussion of course content on a weekly basis. Regular and substantive student-instructor interaction, as defined by the US Department of Education (Within 34 C.F.R. §600.2), is always a requirement of UW-Madison for-credit learning activities.

Course Overview

The first semester will lay the foundation for the study of the language. Students will not only learn how to read and write in the *Devanāgarī* script, but they will also work to master *sandhi* and gain familiarity with the basic nominal paradigms and the present-system of verbs. In the second semester, the focus will be on advanced aspects of Sanskrit grammar. Students will master these new aspects of the language through reading, writing, and translation exercises. Toward the end of the course, they will also begin to read select stories from texts like the *Hitopadeśa* (Friendly Advice), the *Vikramacarita* (The Adventures of King Vikrama), and the *Kathāsaritsāgara* (The Ocean of Rivers of Stories).

Course Website and Digital Instructional Tools

- SASLI: <https://wisli.wisc.edu/sasli/>

• Semester 1: [REDACTED] ; Semester 2: [REDACTED]

- Zoom: [REDACTED]

Required Textbook, Software, and Other Course Materials

Required Textbook: Ruppel, A.M. *The Cambridge Introduction to Sanskrit*. Cambridge UP, 2017.

•Textbook's Website : <https://www.cambridge-sanskrit.org/>

Other Required Materials: Pencils, lined paper, and notecards

Non-Required Textbooks: Ruppel, Antonia M. *An Introductory Sanskrit Reader*. Brill, 2022 (I will provide students with excerpts from this reader in the second semester).

•Any other materials used in the class, such as handouts, notes or audio recordings will be distributed on our course's Canvas page.

Software: Flashcards for script practice & vocabulary Flashcards will be added to QUIZLET. You may find links to individual sets of flashcards on our canvas page, or you may refer to this [REDACTED]

Homework and Other Assignments

Homework will be assigned as a part of every class. I ask that students please **handwrite** every assignment. This work will be due the following morning, at the start of class (**8:30am CDT**). Students must upload their assignments **on Canvas**, by either scanning it or uploading a photo of it (cellphone pictures are fine!).

It is also important to note that **homework is graded solely on the basis of its submission** and not on its correctness. The goal of these at-home assignments is to allow students to practice and experiment with the language without worrying about being penalized. I will promptly provide everyone with comments and corrections on their work, **so please be sure to go over these carefully!**

Exams, Quizzes, Papers, and Other Major Graded Work

Quizzes

Between Monday and Thursday, class will begin with a short quiz (8:30-8:45 am). Its aim is to test students' comprehension of the material covered on the previous day. The quizzes will focus on topics like the *Devanāgarī* script, nominal declensions, verbal conjugations, *sandhi*, and other parts of speech. **All the quizzes will be hosted on Canvas. Please log-in to zoom (w/ your camera on) first before you start your quiz.**

•Semester 1 quiz dates: **Week 1**–June 16-18; **Week 2**–June 22-25; **Week 3**–June 29-July 2;

Week 4–July 6-9

•Semester 2 quiz dates: **Week 5**–July 13-15; **Week 6**–July 20-23; **Week 7**– July 27-30.

Tests

There will be a test every Friday morning during the first half-hour of class (8:30-9am), in which students will be asked to put into practice what they learned during that particular week. **All tests must be handwritten. After each test, students will receive a few minutes to scan/photograph their work and upload it onto Canvas. Also, during tests, students must be logged into zoom and have their cameras on.**

•Semester 1 test dates: June 19, June 26, July 3

•Semester 2 test dates: July 16 (Thurs.), July 24, July 31

Other details for the weekly quizzes & tests

•The materials covered in the quizzes and tests are cumulative.

- The vocabulary will be drawn from the relevant chapters in the textbook.
- Tests and quizzes will be **closed book**.
- There will be no make-up quizzes or tests, without prior authorization from SASLI's administration.
- For the duration of the quizzes and tests, students must be logged into zoom and have their cameras on.

Final Exams

This course will have two final exams. The first semester exam will take place on **July 10**, and the second semester's will be on **August 7**. More information about each exam will be provided closer to the date.

Course Schedule/Calendar

Daily Schedule

- Between Monday and Thursday, our daily schedule will look like this:

	Activities
8:30-8:45am (CDT)	Quiz
8:45-10:30am (CDT)	Grammar Lessons / Practice / Homework Review / Small Group Work
10:30-11:30am (CDT)	Break
11:30am-1:00pm (CDT)	Grammar Lessons / Practice / Homework Review / Small Group Work
1:00-1:30pm (CDT)	Recitation of Nominal and Verbal Paradigms

- On Fridays, the class will meet from 8:30-10:30am. But, from 11:00am-1:30pm, WISLI has organized some co-curricular programming. These events are **REQUIRED**. So our schedule for Friday will be:

	Activities
8:30-9:00am (CDT)	Weekly Test
9:00-9:09am (CDT)	Scan/photograph your tests and upload them to Canvas
9:10-10:30am (CDT)	Review material covered during the week and small group work
10:30-11:00am (CDT)	Break
11:00am-1:30pm (CDT)	WISLI co-curricular programming

Required co-curricular Friday programming is as follows:

Friday, June 19	11:00 am	Global Professionals Panel Sessions
Friday, June 26	11:00 am	Language Practice Tables (plans w/2 nd year class TBA)
Friday, July 3	TBD	WISLI Research Symposium
Friday, July 10	8:30 am	Final Exams
Friday, July 17	–	Asynchronous Review/Study Day (8:30am-1:30am)
Friday, July 24	11:00 am	Language Practice Tables (plans w/2 nd year class TBA)
Friday, July 31	11:00 am	Intercultural Learning Session
Friday, August 7	8:30 am	Final Exams

Schedule for the first two weeks (June 15-26)

Weekly schedules will be distributed throughout the course. The following two weeks are subject to change, but they are meant to provide students with an idea of the pace we are aiming for this summer.

Week 1 (June 15-19)

Date & Time	Lesson Topic, Skills and Activities	Assignment & Deadline	Learning Outcome
Day 1 June 15, 2026	*Introductions & Syllabus review *Devanāgarī script (ch. 1) -Initial forms of vowels -Consonants (stops, semi-vowels, and sibilants)	*Due June 16 (8:30am): 1. ex. 1 (p. 16) 2. Ruppel's Devanāgarī practice sheet *Read: -Ch. 0 (pp. 1-6) -Ch. 1 (pp. 9-15) -Ch. 2 (pp. 18-21)	*Introduce students to Sanskrit's rich cultural and material histories. *Learn how to write the initial-vowels and consonants in Devanāgarī script, and to correctly pronounce them.
Day 2 June 16, 2026	*Devanāgarī script (ch. 1) -Finish any consonants not covered on day 1 -Writing consonants with non-a vowels -How to write words -Conjunct consonants *Sanskrit Phonology (ch. 2) -Organization of the syllables -Voicing & aspiration -Places of articulation	*Due June 17 (8:30am) 1. Ex. 2 (p. 16) 2. Ex. 3 (p. 16) 3. Ex 4 (p. 17) *Read: -Ch. 2a (pp. 25-27) -Ch. 3 (pp. 29-34)	*Master the basic vowel and consonant forms *Learn to write the consonants with all the different possible vowels *Gain familiarity with how words are constructed using the Devanāgarī script
Day 3 June 17, 2026	*Devanāgarī script (ch. 1) -Conjunct consonants, cont. -Script wrap-up *Phonology (ch. 2) wrap-up *Basic introduction to verbs -Number, person -Key terminology -Guṇa & vṛddhi (vowel strengthening)	*Due June 18 (8:30am) 1. Ex. 1 (p.22) 2. Ex. 2 (p. 22) 3. Ex. 3 (p.23) 4. Ex. 4 (pp. 23-24) *Read: -Ch. 4 (pp. 38-40)	*Answer any questions that remain about the Devanāgarī script *Gain familiarity with the linguistic principles that govern the ordering of the syllables. *Introduce students to Sanskrit's verbal system
Day 4 June 18, 2026	*Present indicative verbs (ch. 4) -Basics of verbal conjugation -Classes one, four, and six *Composing one-word sentences	Due June 19 (8:30am) 1. Ex. 1 (p. 36) (ch. 3) 2. Ex. 1 (p. 41) (ch. 4)	*Learn how to conjugate verbs in the present indicative. *How to transform a verb root from a verb root to a verbal stem and then to a fully conjugated verb. *Using verbs to create one-word sentences
Day 5 June 19, 2026	Present indicative verbs, cont. (ch. 4) *Continue practicing *Test 1: Script & Phonology	*Due June 22 (8:30am) 1. Ex. 2 (p. 41) 2. Ex. 3 (p. 42) *Read: -Ch. 5 (pp. 43-50) -Ch. 6 (pp. 57-60)	*Review how verbs are used to create one-word sentences, using different persons and numbers.

Week two (June 22-26)

Date & Time	Lesson Topic, Skills and Activities	Assignment & Deadline	Learning Outcome
Day 1 June 22, 2026	*Introduction to Sanskrit nominals *a-stem nouns (masc. & neu.) *how to decline them *Creating sentences with both nouns & verbs	*Due June 23 (8:30am) 1. Ex. 1 (p. 61) 2. Ex. 2 (p. 61) 3. Ex. 3 (p. 62) *Read: -Ch. 7 (p. 71) (Class X verbs only) -Ch. 20 (pp. 200-202) (only read about the <i>tad</i> paradigm)	*Learn the basics of Sanskrit nouns *The purpose of each case and the meaning assigned to it *How to decline nouns that end in short-a. *Form sentences using both verbs and nouns.
Day 2 June 23, 2026	*Creating sentences with both nouns & verbs, cont. *Class 10 verbs (p. 71) *3 rd p. pronoun (p. 201) <i>tad</i> (m.,f., n.)	*Due June 24 (8:30am) 1. Ex. 4 (pp. 62-63) 2. Ex. 2 (p. 203, #1-4, 6-11, 14, 17-19) *Read: Ch. 32 (pp. 310-311)	*Create sentences using a wider variety of case-endings, persons, and numbers. *Reinforce the basic methods of composing sentences in Sanskrit *Learn the 3 rd p. pronoun and begin practicing how to use it in sentences
Day 3 June 24, 2026	*1 st p. pronouns (ch. 32) - <i>asmad</i> & <i>yusmad</i> *Review all the skills learned so far: -Conjugating verbs & declining a-stem nouns -Creating sentences of varying lengths and sorts -Using pronouns correctly	*Due June 25 (8:30am) 1. Write 10 sentences in Sanskrit using the vocabulary from chapters 3-6; two sentences may be one-word sentences, while the rest must use nouns & pronouns that are correctly declined. 2. ex. 1 (pp. 311-312) *Read: Ch. 8 (pp. 80-86)	*Review and practice the material learned thus far through two translation exercises. *Learn the 1 st and 2 nd p. pronouns and begin to use them in sentences.
Day 4 June 25, 2026	*Introduction to Sanskrit participles -Absolutives (<i>ktivā</i>) -ta-participles (<i>ktā</i>) -Infinitives *Introduction to Internal Sandhi	*Due June 26 (8:30am) 1. Ex. 1 (p. 88) 2. Ex. 2 (pp. 88-89) 3. Ex. 3 (p. 89) (*except #8 & 17)	*Explore the usage of participles in Sanskrit sentences to create new clauses *Practicing agreement in number/gender/case between nouns and the participles that modify them. *Learn to form two types of participles using verb roots learned in earlier chapters *Introduce students to the idea of internal <i>sandhi</i> and show how these rules are put into practice to form certain participles.
Day 5 June 26, 2026	*Review of material covered this past week Test 2: Sentence construction, verbal conjugation, (pro-/)nominal paradigms.	*Due June 29 (8:30am) 1. Ex. 4 (pp. 89-90) 2. Write 4 sentences in Sanskrit; 2 must use an absolute, the other 2 must use a <i>ta</i> -participle *Read: Chs. 9 (pp. 92-6); 10 (101-3)	

Grading

- Attendance & Active participation: 15%
- Homework: 25%
- Quizzes: 15%
- Tests: 15%
- Exams: 30%

A	AB	B	BC	C	D	F
100-92%	91-89%	88-83%	82-80%	79-71%	70-65%	64-0%

•As described below, students are expected to attend every class and to arrive on time. Excessive tardiness will not be tolerated.

•To earn points for active participation, students must come to class on time and be ready to participate in the course's activities. They should prepare that day's material ahead of time, bring questions that they would like further clarification on, and be willing to work with their fellow classmates in a respectful manner. **Also, please be sure to have your cameras switched on during class.**

•Final grades for this course will not be curved.

•Students will receive a grade at the end of each semester. The grades **are not cumulative** between the two semesters,

•Grades on homework, tests, and quizzes will be maintained on the course's Canvas page, so students may track their progress throughout the summer.

WISLI Program Policies

Attendance Policy

Students may miss one class per semester without penalty; a second absence can result in a full grade deduction; three or more absences may lead to an additional grade reduction or automatic failure.

Tardiness Policy

Tardiness is defined as arriving more than 5 minutes late to the start of class as well as the time immediately following scheduled breaks. **Excessive tardiness** is arriving more than 10 minutes late to class. Tardiness in excess of 30 minutes will be considered a half- or full-day absence. In instances of repeated tardiness:

- **Three instances of tardiness** will result in a warning. A fourth instance of tardiness will require a meeting with an Academic Director.
- **Three instances of excessive tardiness** (arriving more than 10 minutes late but less than 30) will be counted as a half-day absence.
- **Repeated tardiness in excess of 30 minutes** will be subject to the WISLI absence policy.
- **Continued tardiness or excessive tardiness** may result in further penalty or dismissal.

WISLI understands that unforeseen circumstances can occur. Please notify the course instructor of any tardiness or absences as soon as possible.

WISLI Technology Policy

There are many helpful online tools available to language learners, and these tools should be used responsibly and in alignment with UW-Madison expectations of [academic integrity](#) and guidelines on [generative artificial intelligence](#). Do not use translation software or AI tools unless instructed to use these tools for assignments or projects. In these instances, these tools are to be used only in the manner permitted by the instructor. Ask for clarification if you have any questions about what is allowed.

“The use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools and applications (including, but not limited to, Copilot, Gemini, and others) for course assignments and assessments does not support the learning objectives of this course and is prohibited. Using them in any way for this course is a violation of the course expectations and will be addressed through UW–Madison’s [academic misconduct policy](#), specifically UWS 14.03(1)(b) Uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise.”

UW-Madison Academic Policies and Statements

- [Academic Calendar and Religious Observances](#)
- [Academic Integrity](#)
- [Accommodations for Students with Disabilities](#)
- [Course Evaluations](#)
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