



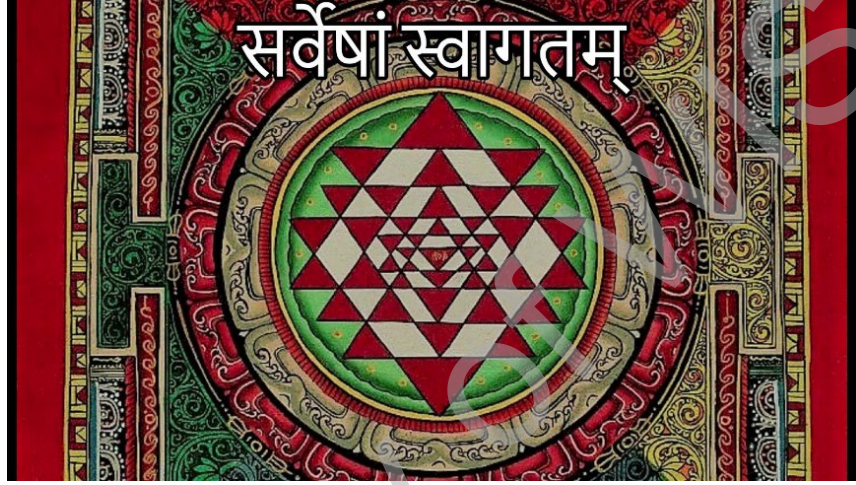
**Wisconsin Intensive
Summer Language Institutes**
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

South Asian Summer Language Institute (SASLI) Intermediate Sanskrit:

Semesters III and IV

ASIALANG 417

ASIALANG 427



Dates: June 15 to August 7, 2026

Modality: online, synchronous

Time: 8:30 AM–1:30 PM Central Time

9:30 AM—2:30 PM EST

Instructor: Jessica S. Merritt, Ph.D.

Email: [REDACTED]

Office hours: online, by appointment

Course Description:

Intermediate Sanskrit is designed to expand the student's ability to read and analyze classical Sanskrit literature, and it builds upon the student's knowledge of elementary Sanskrit grammar to facilitate the continual mastery of the linguistic structure of the language. This intensive, eight-week course offers ample instruction and practice in reading, writing, translating, grammatical analysis, listening, and pronunciation. Through grammar lessons, reading practice, paradigm recitation, listening exercises, writing exercises, journal entries, in-class homework review, speaking exercises, presentations, and independent projects, students will significantly improve their abilities to comprehend Sanskrit grammar and literature and to produce original works in Sanskrit.

Requisites:

Third semester Intermediate Sanskrit requires the successful completion of semesters I and II of Elementary Sanskrit. Fourth semester Intermediate Sanskrit requires the successful completion of Intermediate Sanskrit III.

Credits:

By the end of the program, students will complete two, four-credit language courses.

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.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this eight-week course, students will be able to:

- Read, translate, analyze, and comprehend a variety of classical Sanskrit texts with the help of a dictionary.
- Properly pronounce Sanskrit words.
- Conjugate verbs in all tenses, modes, and voices.
- Understand the Perfect System and the Aorist.
- Understand the secondary conjugations of verbs.
- Decline nouns, pronouns, and numerals.
- Create verbs from verbal roots (*dhatu*-s).
- Create nouns, adjectives, and adverbs from verbal roots (*dhatu*-s).
- Write original stories, journal entries, and short passages in Sanskrit.
- Give short presentations in Sanskrit.
- Ask and answer questions about class readings and assignments in Sanskrit.

- Engage in basic conversational Sanskrit.

Course Overview:

This course focuses on developing intermediate-level proficiency in Sanskrit grammar and is designed to enhance students' ability to read, interpret, and analyze classical Sanskrit literature and produce original Sanskrit works. Along with these, students will also gain experience with proper pronunciation, reading aloud, sight reading, dictation, conversation, and giving presentations. In addition to language study, this course will explore the cultural, historical, and intellectual contexts of Sanskrit literature, facilitating discussions beyond the linguistic content of the texts, and encouraging students to learn from one another.

Students in Intermediate Sanskrit already know what it takes to succeed as Sanskritists—steadfastness, sincerity, humility, perseverance, consistency, accuracy, and the resilience to make mistakes again and again, and to learn from them. Hardworking students embodying qualities like these are sure to succeed. Students in this course all share the same goal—to master Intermediate Sanskrit—but everyone is approaching the language from a different angle or perspective, and everyone brings with them different interests, strengths, and skillsets. As a collective, students have the opportunity to learn from each other, benefit from different skillsets, and expand their knowledge of Sanskrit and beyond. Students are highly encouraged to speak and contribute to the class. Students are also strongly encouraged to be forthcoming about their interests in Sanskrit and their reasons for studying the language so the reading material and discussions can be curated to reflect these interests.

Course Materials:

- Required Textbook:** Robert Goldman and Sally Sutherland, *Devavāṇīpraveśikā: An Introduction to the Sanskrit Language*. Latest edition.
- Notebook and Pencil:** All Sanskrit work must be handwritten, unless otherwise indicated.
- Worksheets, handouts, readings, and other supplemental materials** will be available as pdfs on Canvas.
- Recommended textbook:** Deshpande, Madhav. *Samśkr̥tasubodhinī: a Sanskrit Primer*. Ann Arbor, Mich.: Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of Michigan, 1997. Charts and lists from this textbook will be available as pdfs on Canvas.

Course Website and Digital Instructional Tools:

- WISLI website - <https://wisli.wisc.edu/>
- Canvas page - [REDACTED]
- Zoom link for class - [REDACTED]

Resources:

- Online Sanskrit Dictionary - <https://www.learnsanskrit.cc/>
- Sanskrit keyboard – transliteration - https://www.lexilogos.com/keyboard/sanskrit_latin.htm
- Sanskrit keyboard – *devanāgarī* - https://www.lexilogos.com/keyboard/sanskrit_devanagari.htm
- Sanskrit declension and conjugation - <https://sanskrit.inria.fr/DICO/grammar.html>

Breakdown of Assignments and Grading:

1. Daily homework assignments (textbook, handouts, worksheets, and study guides)
 - a. Monday-Thursday
 - b. 10 pts. each
2. Daily class participation (attendance, timeliness, preparedness, paradigm recitation, reading aloud, conversation, engagement with activities, etc.)
 - a. 10 pts. each/400 pts. total
3. Daily in-class reading passages:
 - a. 10 pts. each
 - b. During each class, students will engage with classical Sanskrit literature by sight-reading and analyzing passages from a variety of genres. Some of the texts we'll be working with include: The *Bhagavad-Gītā*, Vālmīki's *Rāmāyaṇa*, the *Bhāgavata Purāṇa*, *Yoga Sūtra*-s of Patañjali, *Pañcatantra*, *Hitopadeśa*, and the *Jātaka* stories.
 - c. Each student's interests will be taken into consideration when choosing the reading materials for the course.
4. Journal entries on various topics, submitted as homework, and read and discussed in class.
 - a. Five entries total
 - b. 20 pts. each/100 pts. total
5. Weekly exams covering the information from that week's lessons (Fridays).
 - a. Five exams total
 - b. 50 pts. each/250 pts. total
6. Final Exam consisting of three sections
 - a. Two final exams (scheduled for the Fridays of weeks four and eight).
 - b. 150 pts. each/300 pts. total

***Please note:** Grades are not cumulative. While students are participating in a single eight-week program, they are enrolled in two distinct courses with their own grades.

UW-Madison Grading Scale:

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

Homework:

Students will be assigned daily homework exercises which must be completed by the beginning of class. Homework is essential to learning Sanskrit, so students will be assigned homework on a daily basis unless otherwise indicated. I will grade the daily homework assignments based on completion and sincere effort rather than on accuracy. If a student has put in a sincere effort to complete the entirety of the assignment to the best of their ability, they will receive a 10/10 score. We will go over all homework together in each class period to clarify and perfect the lesson and answer all student questions. In addition to facilitating the mastery of each new lesson, the homework exercises offer students opportunities to read aloud in class, practice pronunciation, ask and answer questions in Sanskrit, and engage in cultural and linguistic discussions related to the lesson.

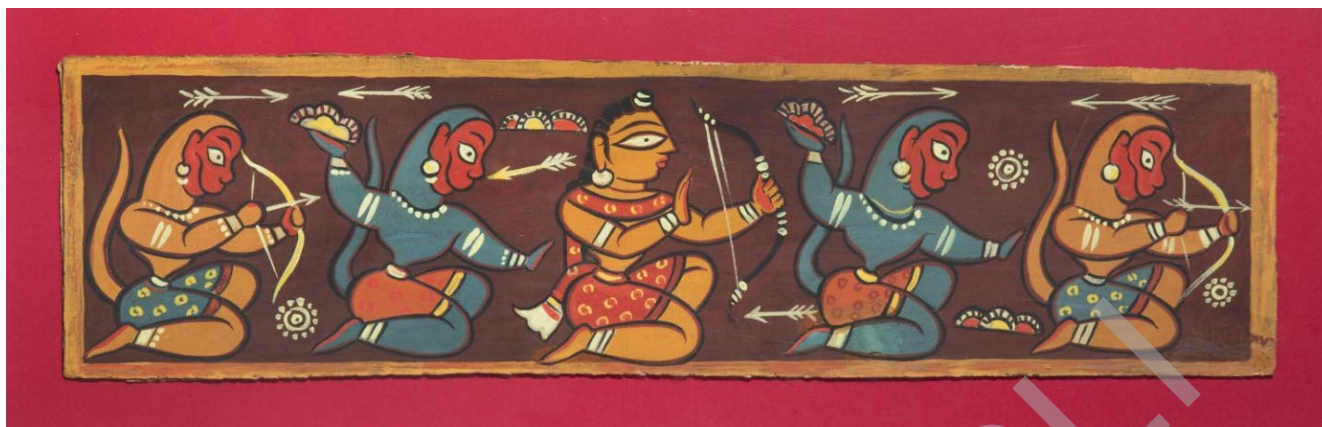
Assignments should be hand-written in pencil, skipping every other line on the notebook paper. After an assignment is completed, students should scan or take a picture of it and submit it to Canvas. All homework assignments should be submitted by 8:30 AM on the dates given on Canvas. Because this is an accelerated course, late homework will not be accepted.

Exams:

Weekly and final exams will not be proctored. The exams will be given in class, and students will handwrite, scan, and submit the exam at the end of the designated period. Weekly exams will cover the material from that week, and final exams will be cumulative, covering the material from each semester. Except for the evaluation exams and week one's review exam, all weekly and final exams will be open-book.

Journals:

Students will keep a writing-journal where they will compose original pieces on a variety of topics. Students are required to submit five journal entries by the due dates given below. Journal entries will be submitted on Canvas before class on select Thursdays (see schedule below). Each journal entry is worth 20 points and will be evaluated for grammatical accuracy along with completion, sincere effort, and creativity.



Daily Itinerary (Monday-Thursday)

Time-EST

Time	Session	Activity
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Class One	Paradigm recitation/Conversation practice
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Class Two	Vocabulary/Reading preparation
10:30 AM – 10:45 AM	Break	
10:45 AM – 11:45 AM	Class Three	Grammar lesson/HW review
11:45 AM – 12:30 PM	Lunch Break	
12:30 PM – 2:30 PM	Class Four	Group Reading

Exam, Journal, and Co-curricular Programming Schedule

Week Two:

Thursday, June 25	Journal Entry 1
Friday, June 26	Exam 2: The Perfect System Language Practice Tables

Week Three:

Thursday, July 2	Journal Entry 2
Friday, July 3	WISLI Research Symposium

Week Four:

Monday, July 6	Exam 3: Secondary Conjugations
Friday, July 10	Final Exams

Week Five:

Thursday, July 16	Journal Entry 3
Friday, July 17	Asynchronous Review/Study Day

Week Six:

Thursday, July 23	Journal Entry 4
Friday, July 24	Exam 4: Nominal Derivations Language Practice Tables

Week Seven:

Thursday, July 30	Journal Entry 5
Friday, July 31	Exam 5: Intercultural Learning Session

Week Eight:

Friday, August 7	Final Exams
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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.

UW-Madison Academic Policies and Statements

- [Academic Calendar and Religious Observances](#)
- [Academic Integrity](#)
- [Accommodations for Students with Disabilities](#)
- [Course Evaluations](#)
- [Diversity and Inclusion](#)
- [Student Health, Well-Being & Basic Needs](#)
- [Privacy of Student Records and the Use of Audio Recorded Lectures](#)
- [Remote Proctoring with Honorlock \(if applicable\)](#)
- [Students' Rules, Rights and Responsibilities](#)
- [Teaching & Learning Data Transparency](#)