

Sanskrit: A Language for Eternal Use

All Bachelor Degree Courses

2019 - 2020

Course Category: [Proficiency]

Schedule of Offering: [Even Semester II]

Course Credit Structure: [4]

- Lecture: 3 Hours per week
- Tutorial: 1 Hour per week
- Total : 4 Hours per week

Course Instructors : Dr. Anil Narayanan. N & Dr. Sudarshan Chiplukar

1.Introduction

Very often people think that the knowledge in Sanskrit texts is archaic and irrelevant to day-to-day lives. The reason for this is that we do not find the applications of Sanskrit language in our day to day life. The present foundational course is designed to create a sense of awareness about Sanskrit. After providing an introduction and fundamentals of the language, the course provides a fresh and insightful view of the language system and explains the charm and possibilities of the language. The manifold aspects of Sanskrit are revealed through the course.

2.Course Objectives

The course is designed with the following main objectives:

- To introduce the students the charm and importance of Sanskrit language.
- To familiarise the various knowledge systems in Sanskrit language.
- To provide the learners various methods by which they can access knowledge of Sanskrit and to apply these methods for improving their life skills.

3.Pre-requisites

The course has no pre-requisites.

4. Module-wise topics

The suggested structure is as follows:

Module 1: Introduction to the charm of the Sanskrit language**3 Sessions**

(This module is to introduce the students the richness of Sanskrit language. What make Sanskrit unique will be discussed in the first three sessions.)

- Richness of Semantic tradition, Well described language, Antiquity, Language of India's soul.

(How one single root can be constructed into several words, Free word order, Words with several meanings (For ex- Word हरि has fourteen meanings) and several words with a single meaning, How letters are pronounced etc.)

- Creative verse styles (Riddles, puns, word play)

(Verses written with certain constraints on the use of consonants. Such as - कः खगौघाडचिच्छ्रौजा झाःज्ञोऽटौठीडडण्डणः । तथोदधीन् पफर्बाभीर्मयोऽरिल्वाशिषा सहः । (सरस्वतीकण्ठाभरणम्), Selected Riddles such as - य एवादिः स एवान्तः मध्ये भवति मध्यमः । य एतन्नभिजानाति तृणमात्रं न वेत्ति सः।, and some selected verses to convey the charm of Sanskrit literature.)

- Various disciplines in Sanskrit

(Sanskrit texts deals with various modern disciplines such as Science, Economics, Mathematics etc. With the help of the text '*Pride of India*' such aspects will be shown to the students to enhance their interest towards the language and all pervading nature.

Essential reading

1. *The Wonder that is Sanskrit* - Sampad & Vijay, Sri Aurobindo society, Pondicherry, 2002, ISBN: 978-81-7060-182-1(Sri Aurobindo Society), pp.1-32, 153-161.

Additional Reading

1. <https://venetiaansell.files.wordpress.com/2008/09/sanskrit-language.doc>
2. https://static.mygov.in/rest/s3fs-public/mygov_147386094043427761.pdf
3. *Pride of India: A glimpse of India's scientific heritage*, Samskrita Bharati, New Delhi.

Module 2: Learning Sanskrit: Excerpts from Sanskrit Dramaturgy 8 Sessions

(This module is designed to enable the student to read, understand and to speak Sanskrit language. *Karṇabhāra* is a play written in Sanskrit by Bhāsa 2000 years ago. This play is based on the incidents of *Mahābhārata*. *Karṇabhāra* is an epitome for the charm of Sanskrit language. Through the text, students are introduced to the basics of Sanskrit literary concepts.

Essential reading

1. [The text Karṇabhāram](#) (Under the Project of Content Generation with a view to develop E-Databank, E-Learning and E-Sources of Sanskrit Text.)

Additional reading

2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zOeiv8wnZRs>

Module 3: Maxims in Sanskrit (*laukikanyāyāḥ*) 6 Sessions

(Maxims can be used in various aspects of the life, sometimes just as phrases to bring beauty to a sentence and sometimes as a guide or solution to certain problems. In this module, students will be introduced to about 4-5 maxims/sessions. The uses of some of the maxims will be taught in the class and some will be given as a task of reading for the students.)

- Discussing 45 selected maxims like अन्धगोलाङ्गूलन्यायः, कण्ठचामीकरन्यायः, काकतालीयन्यायः etc.
- Illustrating the uses of these maxims.
- Exploring the applications of the maxims.

Essential reading

1. न्यायवलि: - Sanskrit Maxims and Proverbs - This study material prepared on selected maxims will be provided to students.

Additional reading

1. *Attitude Shift - Sanskrit Maxims for Contemporary Life and Leadership*, Shashikant Joshi, Thinking Hearts Publications, Bengluru, 2010.
2. <https://ia801407.us.archive.org/3/items/handfulofpopular01jacioiala/handfulofpopular01jacioiala.pdf>
3. http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/19920/8/08_chapter%201.pdf

Module 4: Ethics and Values in Sanskrit literature**10 Sessions**

(The wise says that on this earth, there are three jewels - water, food and *Subhasita*. *Subhashita* is a literary genre of Sanskrit epigrammatic poems and their message is an aphorism, maxim, advice, fact, truth, or a lesson. Selected *Subhasita*-s from the text *Subasitasahari* , on personal, family and societal values will be covered in this module. As the text *Viduraniti* talks about the essential qualities for wise rulers like Self-awareness and Self-control Lofty ideals, Clarity of goals, Industriousness, Ethical conduct, selected verses from *Viduraniti* will be taught to familiarise these lessons of ethics)

- Selected verses from *Subhasitasahasri*
- *Viduraniti* - Verses 1-20, 40 - 70, .

Essential Reading

1. *Subasitasahari*,(Ed.) SatyavrataSastri, Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi, 1996, pp. 13,17,22,28,46,67-75, 83-89.
2. https://ia801308.us.archive.org/29/items/Sanskrit_EBooks_Assorted_Titles/ViduraNitiSnaskritTextWithEnglishTranslation.pdf, pp.2-12, pp. 20 - 37.

Module 5: Scientific Heritage in Sanskrit literature**11 Sessions**

(The ancient Sanskrit literature contains various marvellous concepts of Science and Technology. India's scientific heritage is an area of growing interest and opportunities. This module is designed to teach lessons on health, architecture and environmental issues as discussed in Sanskrit literature)

1. *Ayurveda (Dirghamjivitiya adhyaya of Caraka Samhita)* – Chapter-I.
2. *Vastusastra (only Bhumicayana and Grhanirmana)* from *Brhatsamhita*, Chapter-55
3. Surapala's *Vrksayurveda* (Chapter- I to IV)

Essential Reading:

1. *Caraka Samhita (7 Vols.)* (Text with English Translation & Critical Exposition Based on Cakrapani Datta's *Ayurveda Dipika*), R.K. Sharma and Bhagwan Dash, Chowkhamba Publications, Varanasi, Chapter I.
2. *Brhatsamhita* (with Hindi Commentary by Chowk & Achyutanand Jha) , Chowkhamba Vidya Bhavan, Varanasi, 2015, Chapter 55.

3. Surapala's *Vrksayurveda*, by Lallanji Gopal, Sandeep Prakashan, New Delhi, 2000, Chapters I - IV

Additional Reading

1. *Vastu - Astrology and Architecture*, (Ed.) Gayatri Basudev. Motilal Banarasi-das Publishers, Delhi.
2. *Vrkshayurveda - An Introduction to Indian Plant Science*, Lokswasthi Parampara Samvardhan Samithi, Madras.
3. *Environmental Science and Sanskrit Literature*, Aruna Goal, Motilal Banarsi-das, 2003.

Module 6: Modern writings in Sanskrit

7 Sessions

(This module is designed to make the student aware about the changing scenario of contemporary creative writing in Sanskrit. Selected portion from *Isvaradarsanam* and *Badarisastotra* will be used.)

- Modern writings in Sanskrit
- Readings from *Isvaradarsanam* and *Badarisastotra*
- Conclusions on SLEU

Essential Reading:

1. *Isvaradarsanam*, Chinmaya International Foundation, Veliyanad, 2006, pp. 8 -12
2. *Hymn to Badarinath*, (Tr. & Comm.) Swami Chinmayananda, Central Chinmaya Mission Trust, Mumbai, 2001, Verses 1-15.

5. Pedagogy

The teaching method used in this course will be discussion-oriented lectures. Students have to make presentations on tutorial classes so as to supplement the learning process and fortnightly quiz to facilitate continuous internal assessment will be conducted

6. Evaluation Pattern

Assignments (and Quiz)	-	15%
Class room Presentations	-	20%
Mid-term Examination	-	25%
End term Examination	-	40%