

Sanskrit I (A002908)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 1)	Dutch	Gent	seminar
			lecture
			independent work

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

van Brussel, Noortje	LW21	staff member
De Clercq, Eva	LW21	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India)	5	A
Exchange Programme Oriental Languages and Cultures	5	A
Elective Set Languages of Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Sanskrit

Position of the course

Sanskrit is the classical language of India, used since at least 3500 years. As such it is the central language to the religious, literary, scientific and political culture of South Asia in premodern times. Moreover, all modern Indian languages either directly derive from Sanskrit, or incorporate a considerable amount of its vocabulary. Sanskrit, as well as Greek and Latin, has an extensive nominal and verbal system of inflection. The course gives the students and introduction into the Sanskrit grammar and teaches them the basics of the script, Devanagari.

Contents

The course starts with a theoretical exposition of Sanskrit script (Devanagari) and grammar: phonology and elementary morphology. The theory is put to practice in exercises, through which the student gradually learns and practises the script, translation, thematic translation, the application of the rules of assimilation (sandhi) and the elementary nominal and verbal inflection.

Initial competences

A basic knowledge of general grammatical terminology.

Final competences

- 1 a decent knowledge of the Sanskrit script (Devanagari), active and passive
- 2 active and passive knowledge of Sanskrit basic vocabulary
- 3 active and passive application of the rules of assimilation
- 4 active and passive knowledge of the most frequently employed nominal and

verbal conjugations

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures on Sanskrit grammar (videos)

Seminar: exercises that are assessed in group.

Independent work: the students go through the videos on grammar and have to prepare the exercises at home.

There are recordings of the lectures, not of the seminars.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Grammatica van het Klassieke Sanskrit

Indicative price: € 30

Optional: no

Type: Reader

Name: -

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Type: Audiovisual Material

Name: video's explaining grammar

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: yes

Available on Ufora : Yes

References

- SCHARPÉ, A. Grammatica van het Klassieke Sanskrit, Lannoo 2021

- DESHPANDE, M. *Samskratasubodhini - A Sanskrit Primer*, Michigan 2007⁵

Course content-related study coaching

The teachers are at the disposal of the students on fixed hours for additional information and guidance.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

The written examination comprises:

- active adaptation of the rules of assimilation on a piece of unseen text
- translation of unseen Sanskrit sentences + identification of verbal/nominal forms, based on the vocabulary lists.
- translation of sentences from Dutch to Sanskrit (including in-pausa form, adapting the assimilation rules and form in Devanagari script), based in the vocabulary lists.

Calculation of the examination mark

Exam: 90%

- exercise of assimilation rules = 25%
- translation Sanskrit-Nederlands+identification of forms = 55%
- thematic translation = 15%

Participation: (presence in class, making home work, preparations) 10%

Facilities for Working Students

1. Concerning exemption from educational activities: in agreement with the lecturers, the student may get an exemption from class attendance. The student goes through the course material on Ufora an his/her own and regularly submits homework.

2. Concerning rescheduling of examinations: possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year

3. Concerning alternative time for feedback: feedback can be given by email, telephone or during an appointment during or after office hours

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy