

Modern Languages of South Asia: Language, Text and Context 1 (A005131)

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

Credits 6.0

Study time 180 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026

A (semester 1)

English, Hindi

Gent

independent work
seminar

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Zrnic, Biljana

LW21

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject Oriental Languages and Cultures)

crdts

offering

6

A

Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India)

6

A

Exchange Programme Oriental Languages and Cultures

6

A

Teaching languages

Hindi, English

Keywords

Hindi, Braj, Indian literary history, religious traditions

Position of the course

This specialized course broadens and deepens the knowledge of and insight in South Asian language and literature, with the introduction of the grammar of early Hindi (Braj, Avadhi, Hindavi, etc.). We discuss texts representative of the main religious current (bhakti) in contemporary North India, and precursors of modern Hindi literature in early Hindi (Braj, Avadhi, Hindavi). Secondly, texts (short stories, novels, poetry, etc.) from modern Hindi literature are read and discussed. Each student presents a theme from Hindi literature and explains it by way of selected fragments.

Contents

- 1 Overview of grammar and stilistics of Early Hindi, contextualized reading of selected passages (e.g. Surdas, Keshavdas, etc.), their contemporary significance.
- 2 Reading and contextualization of a selection of religious texts in Early Hindi.
- 3 Reading, analysing and discussing texts from modern Hindi literature
- 4 Presenting texts from Hindi literature (intermediary to advanced level).

Initial competences

A thorough knowledge of Hindi and/or Sanskrit grammar and literature, and of the basics of South Asian religious traditions.

Final competences

- 1 Having a basic knowledge of the grammatical and stilistic peculiarities of early Hindi. Being able to analyse, translate and explain early Hindi texts read in class with regard to their cultural context.
- 2 Being able to analyse and explain texts read in class from the repertoire of modern Hindi literature (advanced level).
- 3 Being able to translate an unseen passage from an author discussed in class from the repertoire of earlyHindi literature (advanced level).
- 4 Being able to autonomously present, analyse and explain a text from the repertoire of Hindi literature (intermediary to advanced level).

5 Being able to sketch the broader sociocultural context of the discussed texts.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Seminar: reading and analysing texts.

Self reliant study: individual analysis and study of predetermined texts (early Hindi and modern Hindi), background literature, preparation of presentation.

Study material

None

References

References are available on Ufora

Course content-related study coaching

- The teachers are at the disposal of students at fixed hours for additional guidance
- Interactive support via Ufora (forums, e-mail)

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment

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

Assignment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

paper: essay (in Hindi) about a text, author or theme discussed in class

Oral exam: 1. evaluation of insight in the texts discussed in class, and of the knowledge of their background and context (periodic);

presentation of a selected Hindi text

Calculation of the examination mark

Paper (50%)

Oral exam: evaluation (30%);

Presentation (20%)

Students who do not take part in the assessment of one or more parts of the course evaluation or obtain a mark of less than 10/20 for one of its parts cannot pass the course evaluation. Should the average mark be higher than 10/20, the final mark will be reduced to the highest non-pass mark (= 9).

Facilities for Working Students

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

2 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