

Classical Languages of South Asia: Language, Text and Context 1 (A005134)

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

Gent

independent work

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

De Clercq, Eva

LW21

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

crdts

offering

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

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

English

Keywords

Sanskrit, Prakrit, Indian literary history, Jainism

Position of the course

This specialized course broadens the knowledge of and insight into classical literary Indian languages, by introducing Prakrit language and texts. Secondly, knowledge of and experience with Sanskrit is deepened further by reading a text from among the Jain classics, in the frame of academic discourses on Indian literary and cultural history.

Contents

- 1 Overview of Prakrit language and literature
- 2 Overview of the grammar of Prakrit (Maharashtri)
- 3 Reading and analysing a text from the Jaina repertoire. Framing of this text within the broader religious and literary context of Jainism.
- 4 Reading and analysing a text from the classical Jain repertoire in Sanskrit. Framing of this text within the broader religious, social, political and literary context.

Initial competences

This course requires a knowledge of Sanskrit (at least intermediary level) and of the basics of the religious traditions of India (jainism and the hindu traditions).

Final competences

- 1 Have a basic knowledge of Prakrit grammar and phonology.
- 2 Have a basic knowledge of Jaina literature.
- 3 Being able to read and explain the Sanskrit and Prakrit texts discussed in class.
- 4 Being able to sketch the historical frame of the treated 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

(Proposal)

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lecture: background of the texts

Seminar: reading and analysing texts.

Self reliant study: preparation, background literature.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: A Reference Manual of Middle Prakrit Grammar

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Author : Frank Van Den Bossche

Type: Handouts

Name: -

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

References

- Dundas, Paul. *The Jains*. London, N.Y. Routledge. 2nd ed. 2002.
- Flood, G. *Introduction to Hinduism*. Cambridge CUP, 1996
- Pollock, S. *Language of the Gods in the World of Men*. Berkeley: UCP, 2009

Course content-related study coaching

Interactive support via Ufora (forums, e-mail) or after appointment

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

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

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

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Oral assessment, Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

paper:1. assignments to practice the Prakrit grammar; 2. final paper

Oral exam: possibly in group, analyse and present a Prakrit verse

Calculation of the examination mark

- Oral exam (30%)
- Paper: assignments (30%); paper (30%)
- Participation: being present, and thinking along actively during class (10%)

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 exemption from educational activities: presence is obligatory.

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

