

## Classical Languages of South Asia: Language, Text and Context 2 (A005136)

**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 2)

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**

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

**crdts**

6

**offering**

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, Apabhramsha, Indian literary history, Jainism

**Position of the course**

This specialized course broadens the knowledge of and insight into classical literary Indian languages, by introducing Apabhramsha language and texts from the Jaina repertoire. Secondly, knowledge of and experience with Sanskrit and Prakrit is deepened further, for instance by reading a text from among the *kāvya* repertoire, in the frame of academic discourses on Indian literary and cultural history, and by reading inscriptions. Finally, the student chooses a text (Sanskrit/Prakrit/Apabhramsha), which s/he will present and explain using fragments.

**Contents**

- 1 Overview of Apabhramsha language and literature
- 2 Overview of the grammar of Apabhramsha
- 3 Reading and analysing a text from the Apabhramsha Digambara Jaina repertoire. Framing of this text within the broader religious and literary context of Jainism.
- 4 Reading and analysing a text from the classical *kāvya* repertoire. Framing of this text within the broader religious, social, political and literary context. Reading inscriptions.
- 5 Presenting a Sanskrit, Prakrit or Apabhramsha text chosen by the student, and contextualizing it (social, religious, arthistorical,...) using fragments.

**Initial competences**

This course requires a thorough knowledge of Sanskrit, of the basics of the religious traditions of India (Jainism and the Hindu traditions), and a basic knowledge of Prakrit.

**Final competences**

- 1 Have a thorough knowledge of Prakrit and Apabhramsha grammar and phonology.
- 2 Being able to read and explain the Sanskrit, Prakrit and Apabhramsha texts discussed in class.
- 3 Being able to present and contextualize a Sanskrit, Prakrit or Apabhramsha text of choice using fragments.

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

#### **Teaching methods**

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

#### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

Lecture: background to Apabhramsha language and literature

Seminar: reading and analysing texts.

Independent work: individual analysis and study of predetermined texts

(Sanskrit/Prakrit/Apabhramsha), background literature, preparation of presentation.

#### **Study material**

Type: Handbook

Name: The Life of Padma vol. 1 & 2

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Type: Handbook

Name: The Apabhramsa of Svayambhudeva's Paumacariu

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Type: Handouts

Name: -

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

#### **References**

- Dundas, Paul. *The Jains*. London, N.Y. Routledge. 2nd ed. 2002.
- 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**

examination during the second examination period is possible

#### **Extra information on the examination methods**

Oral exam: presentation of analysis and contextualisation of selected text

Paper: homework assignments

participation: being present and actively participating in the discussions.

#### **Calculation of the examination mark**

Presentation: 40%

Paper: homework assignments 50%

Participatie: 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