

Linguistics 623 TOPICS IN INDIC LINGUISTICS

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Office Hours: M W 9:30 - 10:15 or (preferably) by appointment

Focus of Course: History of Sanskrit / Sanskrit Historical Grammar

Goals: To investigate and learn about:

- a. the prehistory of Sanskrit
- b. the development of the language within its historical attestation (Vedic into Classical Sanskrit)
- c. the external history of the language; effects of language contact and the sociolinguistic setting in ancient India
- d. those aspects of the synchronic grammar of Sanskrit that receive particular illumination when viewed in the context of their historical background and development

and in so doing, to further understanding of methods and practices of historical linguistics.

Specific Topics To Be Covered (more or less in this order):

- a. basics on comparative grammar, the comparative method, and language relatedness
- b. Sanskrit in its Indo-European context; connections with other IE languages
- c. Sanskrit within Indo-Iranian
- d. Sanskrit within Indic; the relationship of Sanskrit with Prakrit
- e. Sanskrit historical phonology (viewed against its IE background):
 - the relationship between IE ablaut and Sanskrit vowel gradation
 - the historical sources of nasal strengthening
 - Sanskrit sandhi peculiarities viewed historically
 - aspiration alternations viewed historically
- f. Sanskrit historical morphology, especially concerning the verb, and especially:
 - the origin and development of the present classes
 - the perfect system
 - secondary formations, especially desideratives and causatives
 - aorist classes viewed historically
- g. (Time permitting) Sanskrit historical noun morphology

Requirements:

- a. Reading: T. Burrow *The Sanskrit Language* (now out of print: a copy is on reserve in the Main Library reading room and one copy is in the department library); Chapters 1, 2, and optionally 8 pertain to topics (a) - (d) above, chapter 3 pertains to topic (e), and chapter 7 pertains to topic (f); chapters 4, 5, and 6 are relevant to the project assignment (d) below. Other readings will be recommended, but most are in French or German.

- b. Homework assignments: 3 to 5 homework problems will be distributed, mostly aimed at strengthening your understanding of aspects of the historical phonology and providing a basis for some in-class discussion
- c. Etymology assignment: a small-ish paper (2 pages maximum) laying out the facts on the etymology of your favorite Sanskrit root, drawing on Mayrhofer's *Kurzgefasstes etymologisches Wörterbuch des Altindischen*; details to be announced.
- d. Class report: everyone must give a 20-minute report to the class, in the last week of classes, on some aspect of the history of Sanskrit not covered in class, e.g. on the Sanskrit noun or pronoun (giving the comparative evidence and the Sanskrit-internal evidence bearing on the history and development of a grammatical category in the nominal system, either a particular case, a compound-type, a derivational formation, etc.); on periphrastic formations in the verb, on the future tense, on moods, or the like; more on the sociolinguistics of Sanskrit historically in South Asia; etc.

Academic Misconduct: To state the obvious, academic dishonesty is not allowed. Cheating on tests or on other assignments will be reported to the University Committee on Academic Misconduct. The most common form of misconduct is plagiarism (the representation of someone else's ideas or words as your own, without attribution). It is critical to recognize that any time you use the ideas or the materials of another person or persons, you must acknowledge that you have done so in a citation. This includes material that you have found on the Web. The University provides guidelines for research on the Web at <http://gateway.lib.ohio-state.edu/tutor/>.

Students with Disabilities: Students who need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor to arrange an appointment as soon as possible to discuss the course format, to anticipate needs, and to explore potential accommodations. The Office of Disability Services will be called in for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing accommodation strategies. Students who have not previously contacted the Office for Disability Services are encouraged to do so (614-292-3307; www.ods.ohio-state.edu).