

<b>PHIL 441/541 RELIG/LING 407 BEGINNING SANSKRIT Fall 2004</b>		
Instructor: Dr. Richard P. Hayes	Classroom: HUM 518	
Office hours: Tue 2:00–3:00PM	Or by appointment	
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## 1 Objectives of the course

Sanskrit is a precise language that was written by authors who were extensively trained in the principles of grammar as observed and codified by Pāṇini (fl. 400 BCE?) and many generations of his followers. Learning to think about language as the Sanskrit authors thought about it is the best way to learn to read the language accurately. The principle focus of this course, therefore, will be on learning Sanskrit through the categories traditionally used in India, complemented at times with principles of modern linguistics. Learning these principles is necessary but not sufficient for mastering the fundamentals of the language. Also required is memorization of the many forms of this morphologically complex language. The beginning stages of learning Sanskrit are challenging, but the rewards of being able to work with the language later more than compensate for the difficulties at the beginning.

## 2 Textbook

Robert P. Goldman and Sally J. Sutherland Goldman, *Devavāṇīpraveśikā: An Introduction to the Sanskrit Language*. Third edition. Berkeley: University of California, 2004.

## 3 Assignments and evaluation

In learning a new language, it is important to maintain a steady pace. To facilitate keeping a steady pace, there will be a quiz at the end of each chapter, except the first, and one written homework exercise per week, with the exception of the first and last weeks of the semester and the week of the midterm examination. The written assignments will usually be based on exercises in the book. In calculating your quiz average, I will drop the lowest quiz grade. During the year I will also assign two optional supplemental homework assignments that can be done to replace your lowest homework grade above a zero.

In addition to the quizzes and homework assignments, there will be a midterm examination and a final examination. The values of these various assignments will be as follows.

Assignment	Due date	Weight
Quizzes	End of each chapter	20%
Home assignments	Weekly	35%
Mid-term exam	October 18	20%
Final exam	December 13	25%
Total		100%