

ID

TM30_DIP_UMA

Teach Mob – Visiting Professors

Academic year 2015/2016

1st term

COURSE TITLE

Sanskrit Language and Literature

Scientific area

Indology and Tibetology

Department of Humanistic Studies

Language used to teach

ITALIAN, FRENCH, ENGLISH

Course summary

Sanskrit from an emic perspective: an overview of Panini's grammatical system.

The course aims at presenting an overview of Sanskrit morphology as described in the most ancient and hitherto unrivalled Sanskrit grammar, Panini's Astadhyayi (IV B.C.). It will concentrate on some crucial phenomena, namely primary and secondary nominal derivation, composition and verbal derivation which will be analysed in the light of the relevant rules of the Astadhyayi and, when necessary, of later commentators.

This course is intended both for students in Indology who want to acquire some basic tools to deal with a tradition which, though crucial for the development of Sanskrit culture, is often neglected in European studies, and for students in Linguistics interested in a descriptive method that has deeply influenced some modern linguists (Saussure and Bloomfield above all).

Therefore the material to be studied will always be carefully transliterated and translated so as to grant comprehension also to non specialists in Sanskrit. Either a good knowledge of Sanskrit grammar or a good command of modern morphological descriptions are nevertheless crucial to fully benefit from the course. The final exam will be oral.

Learning objectives

The student will acquire the basic tools and concepts of Panini's descriptive method and will be able, by the end of the course, to read and understand at least the general rules of the Astadhyayi which frame the description of the principal morphological phenomena.

This will enhance the student's interpretative skills and his/her capacity of delving deeply into the philological analysis of Sanskrit texts. Students in Linguistics will on the other hand profit from a refined and emic description of the morphology of a language whose first attestations are crucial for the comprehension of Indo-European morphological facts.

Lab activities

10 hrs lab activities will be offered to Sanskrit students to help them specifically in reading and translating the rules of the Astadhyayi. On this occasion the most common tools (translations/ digests/ indexes/ technical lexicons/ commentaries) that help in interpreting such a difficult text will also be introduced and explained.

The aim of these lab activities would be to offer to the students the possibility of dealing autonomously with the interpretation of Panini's rules when, as it often happens, they are quoted in text and commentaries of other traditions (philosophical schools, rhetoric, poetics)

Other activities besides the course: i.e. seminars and conferences addressed to PhD students and research

fellows, dissemination conferences

The grammatical tradition is little studied in European Universities in general and students get acquainted with it –if ever- very late in their curriculum. For this reason the course proposed (or parts of it, in particular the laboratory) can easily be addressed also to PHD students in Indology.

An opening conference to present the author and its relevance for linguistic studies is also contemplated.

Provisional title: Panini's notion of zero and the possibility to signify without a sign.

Visiting Professor Profile

The Visiting Professor must have a recognised knowledge and expertise of the complex Sanskrit grammatical tradition (vyakarana) attested by his/her research activities and publications. Attested previous experience in teaching traditional grammar at various levels is to be considered a plus.

Moreover it is important that he/she has, as far as possible, documented interests in the domain of modern linguistics and the capacity to liaise with students and teachers working in that domain.

The Visiting Professor must have some skills in Italian even though the teaching language may be English if required.

Contact person at the Department

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