

*Instructor:* Joseph LaRose  
*Office:* UH 129  
*Office hours:* Thursdays 12:30–14:00 and by appointment  
*Email:* laroseja@mcmaster.ca  
*Telephone:* (905) 525–9140 x23109

*Class Time:* Mondays 19:00–22:00pm  
*Room:*

### ***Course Description***

- Sanskrit 4B06/Religious Studies 6XI6 is a full-year course in which students are expected to translate selected Sanskrit texts for presentation and discussion during class time.
- Students will be taught to justify their translations in class through meticulous attention to the grammar, genre and diction of the Sanskrit text.
- Students will be introduced to the historical, linguistic and religious contexts of the texts they are reading.
- Students will be introduced to various resources, print and online, to aid their translation of Sanskrit texts.

### ***Course Objectives—Upon completion of this course:***

- Students will be able to recognize and understand all of the common grammatical features of the Sanskrit language.
- Students will be able to translate Sanskrit texts with the aid of a grammar and dictionary.
- Students will develop a more sophisticated understanding of the South Asian context that produced the texts they read.
- Students will be familiar with resources to aid their translation of Sanskrit texts.

### ***Course Prerequisite***

- Students registered in Sanskrit 4B06 must have completed Sanskrit 3A06 at McMaster University or a comparable introduction to Sanskrit grammar at another institution.

### ***Required Texts***

- A Sanskrit-English Dictionary. I prefer Monier-Williams' *Sanskrit-English Dictionary*, but students may choose to use another one, such as A. A. MacDonell's *A Practical Sanskrit Dictionary*, or V. S. Apte's *The Practical Sanskrit-English Dictionary*. Neither the purchasing nor the lugging-around of a heavy dictionary are necessary. The dictionaries of Apte and MacDonell are available

online at the University of Chicago’s Digital Dictionaries of South Asia website:

<http://dsal.uchicago.edu/dictionaries/>

Monier-Williams’ dictionary is available online at:

<http://www.sanskrit-lexicon.uni-koeln.de/monier/>

- A Sanskrit Grammar. Initially, students will use Goldman’s *Devavāṇīpraveśikā* as their main grammar. As the course progresses, students may wish to purchase a more comprehensive reference grammar such as W. D. Whitney’s *Sanskrit Grammar*.

### **Reading Schedule**

- For the first half of the first term, we will continue to work from *Devavāṇīpraveśikā*, covering up to chapter 14. During this period the students will also learn to use the online version of Monier-Williams’ Sanskrit-English dictionary.
- For the second half of the first term, we will read from the *Mahābhārata*. This well-known text has been translated many times into English and I will supply a translation for students to use as they study the text. The translation will inform the students’ reading as they work through a Sanskrit text for the first time.
- For the first half of the second term, we will read a text from the Hindu tradition. We will read from the first book of the *Rāmāyaṇa*. The extensive textual apparatus of critical edition will be used to introduce students to themes of regional and historical variation in the texts of South Asia.
- For the second half of the second term, we will switch our focus to a Buddhist text, reading selected passages from the *Mūlasarvāstivādinaya*. This Buddhist collection will provide an interesting counterpoint to the preceding selections, not only in terms of style (prose vs. verse) but also in terms of theme and register. That is, its mundane and often humorous subject matter will contrast importantly with the metaphysical and theological concerns of the prior readings. By following the activities of mostly one character, the monk Upananda, we will see how this text is structured and how it functions as a guide for the behaviour of Buddhist mendicants.
- Since the progress of the course tends to change each year, the reading schedule may also change. I will make regular announcements on Avenue to Learn, letting students know exactly what will be covered in each class. I will also regularly post grammar resources for students to download, print and bring to class. Students should check the course page at least every couple of days to ensure that they are preparing correctly for each class.
- Please note that the dates assigned for the writing of quizzes and for the submission of assignments will not change.

### *Evaluation*

- *2 Midterms (15% each/30% total)*— Once per term students will write a test focused on current material. These midterms, as well as the two exams, will be closely connected to the weekly readings. Their content and style will be modeled on class readings.
- *2 Group Translation Assignments (15% each/30% total)*—Once per term students will submit a group translation assignment. These assignments must be done in groups of 2 or 3 students. All group members will receive the same grade. Detailed instructions for the completion of translation assignments will be handed out with the first assignment. These instructions will include the specific criteria I will use to evaluate your translation assignments.
- *2 Exams (15% each/30% total)*—At the end of each term students will write a registrar-scheduled, instructor-invigilated exam during the regular examination period.
- *Preparation and participation (10%)*—Regular preparation, attendance and participation are essential for the acquisition of any language. During class time we will review assigned translations and learn new grammar as it occurs in the readings. Students who do not attend class will miss these important learning opportunities and will soon find themselves falling behind in the course. Participation marks will be assessed on the basis of three criteria:
  - *Attendance*—Students are expected to attend all classes. Missed classes will be excused only with appropriate documentation.
  - *Active participation*—Students are expected to contribute during class. There will be ample opportunity to ask and answer questions during the course. Some students might not talk every class, but they should still attempt to be regular contributors to the intellectual life of the class.
  - *Homework*—Students are expected to be prepared for each class. Each class will require some preparation, whether that be reading a chapter of the textbook, reviewing notes, or downloading and printing grammar resources posted on Avenue to Learn. There will also be readings assigned as homework to be taken up in class. Students will be required to participate in the taking up of this assigned homework.

### *Late Submission/Missed Tests*

- Translation Assignments handed in late will be penalized at a rate of 3% per day unless documentation can be provided.
- An MSAFed midterm test will be written at a later date.

### *Student Accessibility Services*

- Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Academic accommodations must be arranged for

each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone (905)525-9140 x28652 or email [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca). For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.

***University/Faculty/Department Statements:***

*1. Course Modification Warning*

- The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

*2. Statement on Academic Integrity (from McMaster University website)*

- You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.
- Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.
- It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>
- The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty: 1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained. 2. Improper collaboration in group work. 3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

*3. Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy*

- Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an

instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

*4. Department of Religious Studies Assignment Submission Policy*

- Staff in the office of the Department of Religious Studies will neither date-stamp nor receive papers and other assignments.

***Important Sanskrit 4B06 Dates for Fall 2017 (12 classes):***

Tuesday, Sept. 5	Term 1 Begins	Week 1
Wednesday, Sept. 13	Drop-and-Add Ends	Week 2
Monday, Oct. 2	Translation Assignment 1.1 Out	Week 5
Oct. 9–15	Midterm Recess	Week 6
Monday, Oct. 23	Midterm Test	Week 8
Monday, Oct. 30	Translation Assignment 1.1 Due	Week 9
Monday, Nov. 6	Translation Assignment 1.2 Out	Week 10
Monday, Nov. 27	Translation Assignment 1.2 Due	Week 13
Nov. 30–Dec. 7	Test Ban	
Tuesday, Dec. 6	Term 1 Ends	Week 14
Dec. 8–21	Exam Period	

***Important Sanskrit 4B06 Dates for Winter Term 2018 (13 classes):***

Thursday, Jan. 4	Term 2 Begins	Week 1
Friday, Jan. 12	Drop-and-Add Ends	Week 2
Monday, Feb. 12	Midterm Test	Week 7
Monday, Feb. 12	Translation Assignment 2.1 Out	Week 7
Feb. 19–25	Midterm Recess	Week 8
Monday, Mar. 5	Translation Assignment 2.1 Due	Week 10
Monday, Mar. 5	Translation Assignment 2.2 Out	Week 10
Monday, Mar. 26	Translation Assignment 2.2 Due	Week 13
Friday, Mar. 30	Good Friday Holiday—No Classes	Week 13
Apr. 3–Apr. 10	Test Ban	
Monday, Apr. 9	Term 2 Ends	Week 15
Apr. 11–26	Exam Period	