



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Reading Rama Stories - 35332

Last update 04-09-2015

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: asian studies

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Yigal Bronner

Coordinator Email: yigal.bronner@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Staff:

Prof Yigal Bronner

Course/Module description:

In this class we will read from the vast Rāma pool of stories in Sanskrit, in particular from the Vālmīki Rāmāyaṇa (Kiṣkindhakāṇḍa) and the Abhiṣekanāṭaka, a play ascribed to Bhāsa. The texts will be in easy Sanskrit, and emphasis will be put on developing the skill of fast reading.

Course/Module aims:

The goal of this class is to impart the students with a quick and smooth technique of reading Sanskrit. We will not aim, then, at decoding the text by means of a dictionary, a grammar, transliterating, and translating it (although we will, of course, explain any grammatical questions that may arise), but to get used to reading it just as we read a novel in a second language. Reading is a skill that is acquired through a lot of practice--by reading, rereading, and additional reading--and practice we will: before, after, and during class.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

To read smoothly and quickly an easy Sanskrit text, to feel confident when facing a new text, to get used not to copy, transliterate, or translate the text, to become familiar with the epic genre and the dialogues and verses of the so-called "Bhāsa plays."

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Reading, rereading, and reading again and again. This requires preparation at home on a daily basis and active participating in class.

Course/Module Content:

We will read the story of Rāma's intervention in the fight between the two monkey brothers in the Rāmāyaṇa's Kiṣkindhakāṇḍa, and then the drama version of the same story as found in the first act (also known as the Balivadha) of the Abhiṣekanāṭaka. For the exact reading portions, please consult the Moodle site.

Required Reading:

For a detailed description of the required passages in Sanskrit and suggested

secondary readings, please see the Moodle site.

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 60 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 10 %

Project work 0 %

Assignments 0 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 30 %

Other 0 %

Additional information: