



(sample text from Leiden Plate 1 verso)

SKT 301

## Advanced Readings in Sanskrit

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Advanced Readings in Sanskrit presupposes completion of two years of study of Sanskrit language, or the equivalent level of proficiency. Readings will be selected to match the skills and (where possible) interests of the student. The course will present the readings in the context of their social, historical, and intellectual situation, the conventions of the genre, and their impact on the tradition to which they belong. Texts will be read with traditional commentary, where it is available. A portion of each term will be given over to reading texts from manuscript or inscription to give the student an understanding of the philological problems posed by the material form of the text, of variant readings, and the constitution of printed texts. Grammar and syntax will be reviewed as needed. The course may be repeated with new readings.

Graded work includes: written translation and, oral grammatical and syntactic analysis in class, giving evidence of thorough preparation (cumulatively 50% of grade); a three-hour final exam (50% of grade). **Exempli gratia, the following are readings from past years:**

### **Normative Codes (*Śāstra*) and Scholastic Commentary (*Bhāṣya*)**

Readings from the Kauṭīliya *Arthaśāstra* (*Treatise on Statecraft*, parts of chs. 2–4) with excerpts from the commentary of Prabhāmati, the *Mānava-Dharmaśāstra* (*'Laws of Manu'*, *gr̥hastha-dharma* and *rāja-dharma* sections) with the excerpts from the commentaries of Bhārucci and Medhātithi, and the *Yājñavalka-Dharmaśāstra* (*rājadharmā* section) with excerpts from the commentaries of Viśvarūpa and Vijñāneśvara.

### **Legal Sanskrit and Sanskrit Inscriptions from India, Cambodia, and Java**

Further readings from chapters 3 and 4 of the *Arthaśāstra*, followed by examples of copper-plate and stone inscriptions from India, Cambodia, and Java, reading directly from the estampages or photographs, beginning with plates written in Devanagari but introducing Gupta-era Brahmi and the south Indian and Southeast Asian variants (as in the 'Leiden Plates') of Pallava script later in the term.

### **Selections from Early Upaniṣads and Bhaṭṭoji Dīkṣita's *Āhnikam* ('Daily Duties')**

Reading selected from the older Upaniṣads, with attention to variant readings. In the second half of term, we compared readings from manuscript copies of the first part of Bhaṭṭoji's chapter on daily ritual duties and personal hygiene (from his *Commentary on the Twenty-Four Doctrines*).