

**Comments from Students Enrolled in the Erasmus Academy
Sanskrit Course, May 21 – July 12, 2018
Taught by Dr. Bergljot Chiarucci**

This “real time” course is dramatically better than other kinds of online courses. The class size was small, allowing for regular questions from the students and moving at a pace matching our needs, covering and returning to concepts based on our learning requirements, rather than a fixed agenda.

I have been strongly reminded by this course that I very much enjoy learning Sanskrit and look forward to studying further.

It’s a great class to get many of the fundamentals in place. A student needs significant time to commit to doing this course well.

The instructor, Dr. Chiarucci, is attentive, deliberate, effective at explaining concepts, good at zeroing in on what we need to know based on our level of learning; she didn’t overwhelm us with information but worked to ensure we had begun assimilating materials before giving us new concepts. The goal was to get us reading, even if we didn’t necessarily understand why one verb strengthens in a certain way versus another, for example, and I appreciated that. I also appreciated that she regularly pointed out to us forms and constructions that would be common or uncommon in wider Sanskrit literature. It helped me to focus on what I need to be sure I pick up. She is clearly extremely knowledgeable about the language and it shows in how she teaches.

The text book was great! As were the supplemental learning handouts given. Goldman is challenging to read but very helpful as a supplement. The homework from the book was quite good. I would have appreciated more reading exercises, both in class and for homework, that more or less matched our level of understanding up till that point in the course. We did do this in class, and those were great, but more would have been helpful.

Derek M. July 21, 2018