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GH 191.02: ST - Elementary Hindi I

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Elementary Hindi

GH 191, Elementary Hindi I

Spring 2019
MTWR 01.00-01.50
Room
4 credits

This class fulfills the General Education Language requirement.
It also counts towards the 18-credit South & South-East Asian Studies minor.

Instructor information

Instructor: Ekta Gupta
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Email: ekta.gupta@umontana.edu
Office hours: Tuesday 12.00 PM- 1.00 PM; Thursday 3.00 PM- 4.00 PM, and by appointment
Supervisor: Prof. Vanita
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Office hours: Tuesday 8.30-9.30; Thursday 2.00-3.00, and by appointment.
Please feel free to contact Dr Vanita on email and meet her during office hours or by appointment for help, revision or questions.

Introduction and Course Objectives

This is the first part of Elementary Hindi. It is designed for people with no prior knowledge of the language. Hindi is one of the two main languages of India, spoken by more than 40% of India's population and approximately 422 million people worldwide. It derives from Sanskrit, which is a member of the Proto Indo-Iranian group of languages and is a distant relative of Old Persian. Today, it has most words from Sanskrit and local languages and also has many words from Persian and Arabic.

Spoken Hindi is the same as spoken Urdu, which is one of India's 24 main languages and is also the national language of Pakistan. Taken together, Hindi and Urdu are the second-most widely spoken language in the world.

We are continuing to learn Modern Standard Hindi (Khari Boli), written in the Devanagari script. This is a four-credit course, with four fifty-minute classes and a one-hour conversation session every week. You are also required to spend time listening to and working with the CDs which are part of the text book.

Learning Outcomes

1. To develop beginning-level proficiency in speaking and understanding Hindi, and to make further progress with learning how to read and write the language.
2. To acquire a basic knowledge of Hindi and to be able to speak and comprehend Hindi at an elementary level.
3. To be able, by the end of the semester, to converse on a few simple topics related to daily life and to read and write simple words and sentences; to introduce oneself by speaking in simple sentences and to understand simple sentences when spoken by others.
4. To be introduced to elements of traditional and contemporary Indian society through the language. This will be done informally and will not be part of the evaluation process.

Required textbook

Rupert Snell and Simon Weightman, *Complete Hindi with two Audio CDs* (McGraw-Hill, 2011). ISBN-13:978-0071766081 ISBN-10:0071766081
Available at UM Bookstore and on amazon.com

Requirements

Students are required to

- (a) Attend classes regularly. More than eight absences not explained to our satisfaction and backed up with documentation will result in a zero for attendance; leaving early or coming late without explanation will be treated as an absence. Classes can sometimes be made up by attending my office hours; discuss this with me in advance, in each instance. Explanations (preferably in advance of the absence) must be backed up with documentation, communicated to us (Prof Vanita and me) in writing and accepted by us.
- (b) keep up with the assigned reading, bring the text to class, and participate in discussion; come prepared with questions on review days
- (c) complete all homework on time
- (d) **A language cannot be learned just by attending class. In order to achieve basic proficiency, students must review at home what has been done in each class, and memorize and practice all the vocabulary covered. Expanding vocabulary is the most important part of language learning. This can only be done by you. Your success depends on your doing this.**
- (e) Take the mid-term and final exams, all tests, and complete all assignments.
- (f) **Check UM email regularly**, especially the day before class. I send out notifications and changes by email. The best way to communicate with me is by email. This syllabus and schedule may be updated from time to time.

Disability modifications

If you have any condition, such as a physical or learning disability, that will make it difficult for you to complete the work as I have outlined it, please discuss it with me in the first week of class.

Plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any kind, in any assignment, will result in your failing the class and may also result in other penalties such as expulsion from the University (for further details, refer to the section on Academic Misconduct in the Student Conduct Code).

Grades

Assignment	Grade Percentage
Class attendance	20%
Homework	20%
Class performance	10%
Mid-term exam	15%
In-class tests	20%
Final Exam	15%

Opportunities for Extra Credit

South & South-East Asian Studies is organizing three events this semester in collaboration with other departments. You can obtain one point of extra credit for attending any two of these events (two points can make a significant difference in your grade):

1. Bharata Natyam performance by Ganesh Vasudevan. Bharata Natyam is India's oldest and most androgynous form of classical dance. 19th March evening (time TBA)
2. Prof. Vasudha Narayanan, Distinguished Prof of Religious Studies at U Florida, will deliver an illustrated lecture on "Global Hinduism," focusing on the US and South-East Asia. 22 April, 6 p.m in the Dell Brown Room.
3. Prof. Gautam Basu, biophysicist from Kolkata, will speak on "J.C. Bose: the Road not Taken" on 19 April at 6 p.m. J. C. Bose was a major Indian scientist who worked on the emotional life of plants, among other things, and was also a pioneering science fiction writer.
4. You can earn up to 2 points extra credit by attendance at the conversation sessions.

Schedule

This schedule is tentative and will change from time to time. It is the student's responsibility to keep up with changes and to obtain homework given during his/her absence.

Dates	Topic
10 January	Introduction to Hindi and the course. Learning how to greet, how to ask someone's name and how to tell your name. Beginning to read, pronounce and write Hindi vowels (which are different from and more in number than English ones).
14 January	Learning another simple question and answer. Continuing to read, write and pronounce the vowels.
15 January	Reading the Introduction to the text book. Understanding how the Hindi alphabet is organized and how certain sounds unique to Indian languages are pronounced. Understanding the concepts of vowel signs (not found in European languages), and aspirated sounds.
16 January	Reading, pronouncing, recognizing and writing vowels and the first five consonants.
17 January	Vowel and consonant practice

Dates	Topic
22 January	Practicing recognizing, reading and writing vowels, the first vowel sign and the next five consonants. Writing a simple sentence.
23 January	More consonants and the other vowel signs
24 January	Continuing to recognize, read and write the consonants; learning how to pronounce those that are unique to Indian languages.
28 January	Test. How to pronounce and write conjunct characters.
29 January	Learning another simple question and answer. Continuing and practicing conjunct letters
30 January	Revising and practicing consonants, vowels, vowel signs, and conjunct characters
31 January	Starting chapter 1. Reading the first dialogue. Understanding word order, the honorific ji, question word kya, and other vocabulary
4 February	Variations in greetings. Drills: recognizing consonants with and without vowel signs, and some words. Read about personal pronouns with their “to be” verbs. Vocabulary drill.
5 February	Understanding the politeness and familiarity system for personal pronouns and attached verbs. Drill on vocabulary. Asking and answering simple questions about identity and place of origin
6 February	Drill on personal pronouns and attached verbs. Pronouns for objects. Continue identity Q&A. Exercises.
7 February	Test. Read dialogue 1b. Understand vocabulary; word order; adjectives and their gender and number relation to nouns.. Start learning numbers zero to 10.
11 February	Practice describing objects with “to be” verbs. Read 1.3. Practice numbers. Vocabulary drill
	Conversation sessions begin in October
12 February	Vocabulary drill. Read 1.4 and 1.5.
13 February	Practice numbers. Do exercises and Test Yourself in Chapter 1. Revision of grammatical rules. Adjective drill. Practice vowel sounds. Decide on time for conversation session.
14 February	Start Chapter 2. Read dialogue 2a and attached vocabulary list
19 February	Read 2.1. Understanding question words with gender and number. Practice asking and answering different types of questions
20 February	Read 2.2., 2b, and attached vocabulary. Vocabulary drill
21 February	Read 2.3 and 2.4. Forms of address. Start exercises from Chapter 2.
25 February	Pronoun drill. Q&A activity. Chapter 2 exercises and Test Yourself.
26 February	Revision of Chapters 1 and 2.
27 February	Mid-term exam. Vocabulary drill.
28 February	Start Chapter 3. Read dialogue 3a. and attached vocabulary list.
04 March	Vocabulary drill. Re-read dialogue 3 a. Asking and answering questions about families and homes
05 March	Read 3.1. Understanding how postpositions work.
06 March	Activity using postpositions. Vocabulary drill. Read 3.2. Start discussing oblique case.
07 March	Continue working with 3.2. Practice counting.

Dates	Topic
11 March	Test (up to and including 3.1). Re-read, discuss and practice list of cases in 3.2.
12 March	Read dialogue 3b and attached vocabulary list. Drill on oblique case. Vocatives.
13 March	Read and discuss 3.3. Possessive pronouns. Activity on pronouns and adjectives in the oblique case.
14 March	Start doing exercises in Chapter 3. Vocabulary drill. Read 3.4 and practice pronouns in the oblique case.
18 March	Exercises 3.a.1, 3.b.1 and Test Yourself
19 March	Test on pronouns in the oblique case. Vocabulary drill. Continue Chapter 3 exercises.
20 March	Start Chapter 4. Read dialogue 4.a and attached vocabulary. Past tense “to be” verbs.
21 March	Practice past tense paradigms 4.1. Read and discuss 4.2. Practice counting
01 April	Vocabulary drill. Read and discuss 4.3, comparative adjectives. Practice postpositions and obliques.
02 April	Drill on the past tense. Read dialogue 4.b and attached vocabulary
03 April	Drill on past tense. Start 4.4, uses of ‘ko’ and ‘ki’. Vocabulary and pronunciation drill.
04 April	Test (up to and including 4.1). Chapter 4 exercises and Test Yourself.
08 April	Drill on ‘ko’. Start Chapter 5. Read dialogue 5.a and attached vocabulary.
09 April	Chapter 5 Dialogue revision and practice
10 April	Activity: following instructions. Read and discuss 5.1. and 5.2, use of the infinitive.
11 April	Activity: giving each other instructions, and following them. Read dialogue 5.b and attached vocabulary. Use of ‘ki’ and ‘kee’
15 April	Read 5.3. the possessive. Drill on ‘ki’ and ‘kee’ and oblique case.
16 April	Drill on the possessive. Read 5.4. Indirect objects. Vocabulary drill.
17 April	Read 5.5. Exercises and Test Yourself from Chapter 5
18 April	Drill on chapter 5 and revision
21 April	Drill on uses of the oblique pronoun. Continue with exercises on Chapter 5.
22, April	Test on Chapter 5. Start review for final exam
24, 25, 26 April	Continue review and drills
30 April, 3.20-5.20	Final Exam

South & South-East Asian Studies Minor

South Asia comprises the Indian subcontinent and South-East Asia is the Thailand-Vietnam-Indonesia region. You can combine this 18-credit minor with any major. No language is required, but seven of your Hindi language credits will count towards this minor, so you are well on your way! We offer interesting classes on subjects such as gender and sexuality in Indian cinema;

Gandhi; Tibetan Civilization; Indonesia and the Philippines; the Bhagavad Gita; myth and ritual in South-East Asia. For more information or to sign up, contact Prof. Vanita: ruth.vanita@umontana.edu