

GĪTĀ SANSKRIT

PROSPECTUS

Māyāpur Online Education

[Māyāpur Online Education](#) is an initiative of the international headquarters of ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness) for teaching online courses on Vedic scriptures annotated by His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedānta Swāmī Śrīla Prabhupāda, ISKCON's founder-ācārya. As of March 2010, these courses have been made available: *Basic Bhagavad-gītā Study*, *Basic First Canto Study*, *Essence of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, *Overview of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, *Nectar of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and *Gītā Sanskrit*.

Gītā Sanskrit

Since study of scripture is enhanced by a study of Sanskrit, we have decided to also include courses on Sanskrit. Our first offering in this area is Gītā Sanskrit, a course that teaches Sanskrit through the text of Bhagavad-gītā.

Śrīla Prabhupāda desired that Sanskrit be taught through the text of the Bhagavad-gītā.¹ This course will introduce Sanskrit grammar, vocabulary and usage through small steps as the teacher moves through the Bhagavad-gītā, verse by verse, word by word. Though students can move at their own pace, they would be able to complete the course in twelve months.

A student who completes this course will have a thorough grasp of Sanskrit grammar and vocabulary to be able to explicate the text of Bhagavad-gītā.

How the course is conducted

The course is conducted in English. The teacher sends the student a lesson and the student goes through it. If he understands the lesson, he confirms that he has understood the lesson. If he hasn't understood the lesson fully, he can ask the teacher questions after checking our [extension website](#) where questions posed by students are presented along with answers lesson by lesson. The teacher answers the student's question. If the student is still unclear, they enter into a discussion until the lesson is understood by the student. The teacher then sends the student the next lesson, and the process is set rolling again.

Course structure

The course begins with two preliminary lessons. There are two modules in this course.² Each module is divided into seven sections. In Module 1, the first section contains 38 lessons covering the first ten texts of Bhagavad-gītā, slowly introducing elements of Sanskrit grammar and vocabulary. Each of the subsequent sections in Module 1 contains ten lessons. Each lesson in the second section covers two Gītā texts while each lesson in the third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh sections covers five, ten, fifteen, twenty and twenty-five Gītā texts respectively. Module 2 is structured similarly though the lessons involve etymological analysis of each nominal and verbal derivative, etc.

¹ He mentioned this in a morning walk on April 13, 1976.

² First of all, a verse is taken up and broken into isolated words (*pada-cchedah*). Then each word is analyzed according to principles of grammar (*padārthoktiḥ*). In this way, each verse will be covered. All of this is in Module 1 of the course. In Module 2, the student is taught etymology of each nominal and verbal derivative as well as analysis of compound words (*vyutpattiḥ*). Then, the syntactical connection between each word in each verse will be presented according to the traditional system (*ākāṅkṣā* or *kathambhūtinī vākya-yojanā*).

Tests

There will be tests at the end of each section and module.

Study materials and accessories

Students should be able to read PDF files. They should have an e-mail client that can display Unicode characters. We prefer that students have Gmail, but students can exercise their choice. They should also download the program [DiacWin Unicode](#) through which they can input Sanskrit diacritical markings.³

Certification

A student who completes this course will be awarded a certificate of successful completion issued by ISKCON Māyāpur Educational Divisional Heads.

Enrollment

Anyone who is interested in taking up this course should write to moe.inquiry@gmail.com. They will be sent an application form. Candidates can see [here](#) how to submit the course fee. The fee for this course is Rs 2,500 within India, and USD 125 outside India. This is regardless of the nationality of the students. Registration is open throughout the year.

Course code

The course code for *Gītā Sanskrit* is GS. This code should be quoted in all correspondence.

Teacher

Vidvān Gaurāṅga dāsa began studying Sanskrit informally in 1987. When he joined ISKCON at its international headquarters in Śrī Māyāpur, he joined the Vedic Gurukula and took up formal studies of Sanskrit and scripture. He took initiation from HH Jayapatākā Swāmī and with his approval and encouragement, continued in his Sanskrit and scriptural studies. Since 2004 his studies have been under the guidance of Śrī Gopīparāṇadhana dāsa Adhikārī, a great scholar and teacher of Sanskrit and Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam at Govardhana town, Uttar Pradesh, India. From 2005 Vidvān Gaurāṅga dāsa has been teaching Bhagavad-gītā and Sanskrit in Māyāpur.

³ Download this zip file, and unzip it into a folder. Then double-click diacunic.exe to run it. An tree icon will be seen in your system tray. Right-click it and click *Active*.