



Beginning Hindi

HIND 1003 - 1503 (3 Credits / 45 hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
India: Public Health, Gender, and Community Action

PLEASE NOTE: This syllabus represents a recent semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

Course Description

This *Beginning Hindi* course is designed to develop student proficiency and communication in *khari boli* Hindi. While emphasis is placed primarily upon oral comprehension and conversational skills (i.e., listening and speaking), reading and writing are highlighted as crucial to the reinforcement of those skills. Thus, the course is designed not only to help students acquire *khari boli* Hindi, but also to grasp cultural practices in India. Cultural context is built into the course and introduced through experiential activities accompanying the textbook. Beginning Hindi introduces students to pronunciation and writing systems of basic grammar, basic vocabulary and sentence structure. Emphasis is placed on the functional use of the language to enable students to participate in basic conversational exchanges, understand native speakers of Hindi accustomed to dealing with non-native Hindi speakers, complete written compositions describing daily events or personal experiences, and to read basic texts on familiar topics such as weather, seasons, food, family, studies and friends.

Language Levels and Placement

Non-beginning participants are placed into appropriate language course levels based on oral proficiency interviews and written exams (placement tests) conducted during orientation in India.

Learning Outcomes

The *Beginning Hindi* course comprises of 45 hours of instruction (3 credits). Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- To acquire basic grammatical structures necessary for rudimentary conversation
- To communicate information about daily functions
- To ask for directions
- To negotiate simple transactions in the homestay, at the chemist, in the market, etc.
- To tell some facts about themselves and also to ask for information from others
- To have rudimentary reading and writing in *devanagari* script

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Course Requirements

Every day, class begins promptly at 9:00 am, and commences with a brief 15-minute quiz. Hindi Faculty conduct classes in small groups of 8-9 students, taught in rotation. Material appearing on written examinations is solely drawn from the Rupert Snell text. Students' abilities in written Hindi are tested daily via quizzes and brief homework assignments. Generally, one grammatical topic will be taught each day in first period and the topic will be reviewed in the second period by using drill exercises. Further practice is then provided via daily homework assignment.

Throughout the semester, but particularly while on excursion, students are expected to collect rough material for their Hindi Final Project (see below). Students should also frequently meet with the Hindi Instructors to verify points of spelling and usage before transferring rough material to their Hindi Final Project. In addition to this, students should prepare for written examinations, which will follow each major excursion, by doing self-drills and attending optional review and drill classes.

Students are expected to take responsibility for learning the material. In addition to completing written assignments, **students must scan the next day's material the night before.** Since SIT semester curriculum includes extended travel outside of Delhi, classroom hours are important because they provide grammatical explanation of each topic and introduction to relevant drills.

Students are expected to interact frequently with their homestay families to immerse themselves in the surrounding Hindi speaking environment. Likewise, students should reinforce classroom lessons with drills from all the textbook chapters conducted alone or with classmates while on excursion. Students are expected to continue drill sessions while in the field.

Readings

Students are responsible for all the required readings, and should be prepared to bring them to bear on discussions in class. The readings will help place the classes in their context, to challenge and engage lecturers, to generate questions for class discussions and to deepen one's knowledge of particular aspects discussed in class.

Course Textbook

The main textbook used for this course, *Teach Yourself Complete Hindi*, 2010 by Rupert Snell and Simon Weightman, published by Hodder Education, adopts an approach shared by many institutes teaching East- and South-East Asian languages, which, like Hindi, use a unique script and are largely non-cognate to English. Snell's approach limits introduction of idioms and comprehensively teaches grammatical structures with limited vocabulary by means of clear explanations and dialogues based on the grammar just learned. Snell's communicative approach is ideally suited to the needs of short-term students living in a Hindi-speaking environment wishing to acquire a solid university level foundation of Hindi grammar. Although *Teach Yourself Complete Hindi* provides transliteration of the Hindi script, students are encouraged to become familiar with the script from the outset. Please note there will be **no transliteration** in any of the tests or exams, and **all homework has to be completed in Devanagari.**

Daily Class Schedule (*minimum of 2 contact hours Monday-Friday, except during excursions*):

- Classes are scheduled from 9:00-11:00.
- Every class will begin with a short quiz of vocabulary words and translation of sentences.
- There will be one written and one oral mid-term exam. There will be one written and one oral final exam.

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Classes start promptly at 9:00 AM

09:00 - 09:45 Quiz and grammar class

09:45 - 10:00 Chai/Coffee Break

10:00 - 11:00 Drills

Course Topics

- Introduction to Hindi – Script and Sound
- Personal Pronouns and *to be* form (Present & Past)
- Nouns and Adjectives
- Question framing –Yes/No, “Wh” words = “K” words. Where is....?
- Verb: Instruction, Commands and Request (polite commands)
- Case – Post Position, Oblique (Nouns), Oblique (Adjectives) Singular and Plural
- Possession: to have something / to have someone
- Tenses: Present and Past: Habitual, Progressive, Future, Subjunctive and Simple Past
- Special Verbs: Can, Like, Want, Need, To Know, To Find, To Get
- Comparative and Superlatives, **Hi & Bhi**.

Conversational Practice

- Introduction and Greetings
- Asking for Directions and Taking Auto Rickshaw/Taxi
- Bargaining and Shopping
- Ordering food at the restaurant
- Time, date and Numbers
- Taking appointments thru phone – Doctors, NGO head etc.
- Changing money, adding minutes to cell phones.
- Public Health Vocabulary

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

In this 3-credit introductory course, students cover material included in a year long, non-intensive course in Introductory Hindi. With the linguistic reinforcement of the homestay environment, SIT students are able to learn efficiently: Hindi classes are small, intense, and productive. Hindi class spans approximately 27 days, and includes two written examination days. Attendance at daily office hours is mandatory if daily quiz performance reflects a need for additional grammatical practice.

Students can expect to acquire a solid foundation in standard *khari boli* Hindi to enable interaction with Hindi speakers both in North India and throughout the world. It is expected that students will take the opportunity to make rapid progress in both speaking and listening comprehension by using Hindi outside of class as much as possible, particularly with homestay family members. Although dedicated students should acquire a strong, functional ability to communicate in Hindi, students expecting to interact substantively with Hindi speakers for their Independent Study Project (ISP) should still plan to extensively collaborate with a translator.

A weighted letter grade will be assigned according to the following criteria:

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| (1) Daily Quizzes/Written Work, Attitude & Participation (overall) | 30% |
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| (2) Two Oral Examinations (averaged together) | 20% |
| (3) Hindi Final Project | 20% |
| (4) Two Written Examinations (averaged together) | 30% |

- 1. All written assignments are to be completed in pencil.** Materials written in pen (after the pre-program assignment) will not be accepted and will have to be rewritten. The Hindi Final Project is expected to be written in pencil in this case students need to consult with Hindi teachers on the spelling of material to be added.
- 2. All components of the course listed below must be completed satisfactorily** to receive a passing grade.
- 3. Language instructors may grant extensions for daily quizzes and other assignments pending documentation of a medical emergency.** If make-up assignments are not completed within the mutually negotiated time frame, a grade of zero will be recorded for that assignment. Unexcused late assignments will not be accepted.
- 4. While studying in India, students should be sure to allow extra time for unpredictable obstacles, such as extended power cuts or illness – they should not leave things for the last minute.**

Methods of Evaluation

Daily Quizzes

Short quizzes will begin every class **exactly at 9:00 am** and should be viewed as an opportunity for students to display mastery of grammatical topics and vocabulary items. If students have carefully done the 'follow-up' for each day, they should find daily quizzes straightforward. **Lateness will result in a score of zero for that day's quiz.** Students who have missed class for medical reasons will be given the opportunity to make up the quiz on the day they return to class. Although the two lowest quiz scores from the semester will be dropped, zeroes acquired from non-medical absence/lateness will be factored into students' final grade. If students score zero on daily quizzes due to a pattern of lateness, they will be put on academic probation. While in Delhi, daily quizzes will be ready for collection before lunchtime; these should not be left in the program house overnight. Students are expected to take home quizzes and written assignments in order to review and correct work that same night.

Written Work

Daily homework assignments reinforce oral material taught through classroom drills. Each student should try his/her best to develop respectable handwriting to ensure review of written work will be orthographically unchallenging for the reader.

Two Oral Examinations

The First Oral Examination will be held during Week 7 in the program center and will be approximately 15 minutes. Each student will be asked general questions to test his/her mastery of the grammatical structures covered in class. While students may use simple vocabulary, they should be able to respond appropriately to questions, describe their immediate environment (i.e. classroom), family members and simple daily activities. Students will also be tested on logistical

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questions (i.e. how much is a ticket? where is the train station?) and ability to understand simple directions.

The Second Oral Examination will be held during Week 11, and will be approximately 15 minutes. Each student should be able to generate a set of prepared sentences to convey the following information: self-introduction, brief description of his/her ISP project and basic details about his/her homestay experience in Hindi using vocabulary, phrases, idioms, and sentences collected in his/her 'Hindi Final Project' since the beginning of the semester. Although students may consult the Hindi Final Project to remember a crucial vocabulary item, they are expected to be able to produce a set of simple sentences on each topic from memory, without hesitation. They will also be tested on time expressions.

Hindi Final Project

Each student should hand in his/her Hindi Final Project. The Final Project should take the form of a notebook, which serves as a record of each student's independent study of Hindi outside the classroom. This notebook should contain the specialized and advanced vocabulary students have learned from their own experiences of living and studying in India, particularly areas of interest to students themselves. Although based on written language, the Final Project may also be supplemented by visual items of students' choosing, including pictures, advertisements, and found text. Among other sentences, the Final Project should include phrases in Hindi that have caught students' attention, words that students have learned from homestay families, specific sentences students have used while pursuing specialized SIT coursework and any Hindi words that students have copied from their environments. As students learn new material over the semester, they should check spelling and pronunciation with the Language Directors, before recopying this material into their Hindi Final Projects. Although the Final Project should contain a minimum of **50-60 sentences and 25 words**, it should document each student's consistent efforts throughout the semester to learn about his/her homestay, ISP topic, and new cultural environment *in Hindi*. It may also be helpful for students to understand their Hindi Final Project as the basis for their review and preparation for the Second Oral Examination in Week 11.

Two Comprehensive Written Examinations

Each cumulative exam will be two hours. Please see the semester schedule for details. Prior to exams, in addition to regular office hours and meetings by appointment, optional review and drill sessions will be given.

Grading Scale: The grading scale for all classes is as follows:

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|----------|----|
| 94-100% | A |
| 90-93% | A- |
| 87-89% | B+ |
| 84-86% | B |
| 80-83% | B- |
| 77-79% | C+ |
| 74-76% | C |
| 70-73% | C- |
| 67-69% | D+ |
| 64-66% | D |
| below 64 | F |

Grading Criteria

An "A" grade for an assignment entails superior (not just "very good") performance in terms of structure and organization of assignments, analysis, logical argumentation and consistency, and the provision of factual, numerical and/or historical evidence. In terms of class participation, an

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“A” grade refers to full attendance, punctuality, attentive listening and active engagement in lectures, discussions, field trips and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior. The level, frequency, and quality of student participation will be monitored and taken into account.

Additional Information

Homestays

As a complement to the language classes, homestays provide students with the opportunity to learn from different people and to use their language skills continually in a multilingual learning environment. Our goal is to help students develop the necessary communication tools which they can use with their host families, neighbors and Indians on the street.

Field Exercises

Once a week, through field assignments, students enrich their classroom learning experience and their ability to function in real life language situations, assimilate everyday life issues and immerse in the host culture. Field assignments are done both individually and in groups.

Office Hours

Office hours are from 2-4pm each day. The teacher may also have additional office hours for students who need further support.

Expectations and Policies

Class attendance is mandatory and absences are penalized by reducing the language grade, except for illness cases, when the student is expected to provide a medical certificate. In addition, two repeated and unjustified delays are also counted as an absence and may impact the student's participation grade.

Show up prepared. Be on time, have your assignments completed and points in mind for clarification. Complying with these elements raises the level of class discussion for everyone.

Have assignments completed on schedule, and done according to the specified requirements. This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.

Ask questions in class. Engage the lecturer. Teachers are highly respected in India. Your polite and engaged behavior is expected.

Comply with academic integrity policies (no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical).

Respect differences of opinion (classmates', teachers'). You are not expected to agree with everything you hear, but you are expected to listen across difference and consider other perspectives with respect.

Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment and the academic appeals process.

Disability Services: Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Disability Services at disabilityservices@sit.edu for information and support in facilitating an accessible educational experience. Additional information regarding SIT Disability Services, including a link to the online request form, can be found on the Disability Services website at: <http://studyabroad.sit.edu/disabilityservices>.

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