Why Learn A World Language?

♦ In an increasingly globalized world, the knowledge of a world language becomes an indispensable skill important not only for personal enrichment, but also for broadening employment opportunities.

♦ According to a study from the University of Chicago, knowledge of a world language helps you boost decision-making skills.

♦ Students who study world languages score higher on standardized tests, as a study from York University in Toronto showed.

Students who study a world language for at least one year score an average of 38 points higher on the SATs.

♦ Knowledge of a world language increases your chances of landing a good job, as demonstrated in a recent poll of The Economist.

An MIT study shows that people who know two or more languages earn an average of $128,000 more over their lifetimes.

♦ Learning a second language has compelling health benefits, as suggested by a study from York University in Toronto that connects prevention of the onset of dementia with foreign language learning.

Contact Us:

Center for Language Excellence
Indiana University - Bloomington
College of Arts and Sciences
Main Office:
1900 E. Tenth Street
Eigenmann Hall 1131
Bloomington, IN 47406-7512
Outpost Office:
Global & International Studies Building
355 N. Jordan Ave., GA 1032
Bloomington, IN 47405-1105
iucle@indiana.edu
812.855.4060
www.indiana.edu/~iucle/

For more information regarding Majors, Minors, courses, and other available resources in this language:

Dhar India Studies Program
Indiana University - Bloomington
College of Arts and Sciences
Global & International Studies Building
355 N. Jordan Ave.
Bloomington, IN 47405-1105
india@indiana.edu
812.855.5798
http://www.indiana.edu/~isp/
Sanskrit, one of the oldest languages of the world, developed in the Gangetic Plain on the South Asian subcontinent. It is the mother of such modern North Indian languages as Hindi, Bengali, Gujarati, Punjabi, and more. Students interested in historical linguistics will find knowledge of Sanskrit useful. Its most famous grammarian, Pāṇinī, who probably lived in the 4th century BCE, inspired the great contemporary US linguist Noam Chomsky. Those interested in any of the religions born in India — Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism — will need Sanskrit to read relevant texts. With Sanskrit's 3,500 year literary history, its scope encompasses religion, philosophy, drama, poetry, and biography.

Who speaks Sanskrit?
While you couldn't use Sanskrit to bargain for mangoes in the market, it remains the liturgical language for Hindus. It has served as a lingua franca among Indian scholars throughout history, and even today linguists can debate fine points of grammar using the language. From time to time there is a push to make Sanskrit the national language, rendering the language itself an important figure in contemporary Indian politics and sparking interest in reviving Sanskrit as a spoken language.

Indiana University is one of only two institutions in the Midwest, and the only one in Indiana, to offer Sanskrit. The Dhar India Studies Program offers 3 years of Sanskrit instruction. Undergraduate students can use Sanskrit to satisfy their foreign language requirements.

Why Study Sanskrit?

Take a Sanskrit class!
Contact the Dhar India Studies Program:
Prof. Rebecca J. Manring
Director of Language Instruction
Dhar India Studies Program
rmanring@indiana.edu

Scene from the Battle of Kurukshetra from the Sanskrit epic, the Mahābhārata

Intermediate Sanskrit students studying in Prof. Manring's office

Languages
Indiana University is home to as many as 70 world languages!

- Akan/Twi
- American Sign Lang
- Arabic
- Avestan
- Azerbaijani
- Bamana
- Bengali
- Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian
- Serbian
- Catalan
- Chinese
- Czech
- Dari
- Dutch
- Egyptian (Demotic)
- Egyptian (Middle)
- ESL
- Estonian
- Finnish
- French
- Georgian
- German
- German (Old High)
- Greek (Classical)
- Greek (Modern)
- HaitianCreole
- Hausa
- Hebrew (Biblical)
- Hebrew (Modern)
- Hindi
- Hungarian
- Indonesian
- Italian
- Japanese
- Kazakh
- Korean
- Kurdish
- Kyrgyz
- Lakota
- Latin
- Macedonian
- Mongolian
- Norwegian
- Old Church Slavonic
- Pashto
- Persian
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Quechua
- Romanian
- Russian
- Sanskrit
- Spanish
- Swahili
- Tajik
- Thai
- Tibetan
- Turkish (Ottoman)
- Turkish
- Turkmen
- Ukrainian
- Urdu
- Uyghur
- Uzbek
- Wolof
- Yiddish
- Yoruba
- Yucatec Maya
- Zulu