

# Introductory Kannada

## An introduction to the modern standard written Kannada language

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**Format:** 4 hours per week

**Prerequisites:** interest in the subject; general aptitude for learning languages; internet connection

**Language of instruction:** English

**Dates:** October 17, 2022 to February 10, 2023

**Time:** Mondays 14:00 to 16:00 (2 to 4 PM), Thursdays 16:00 to 18:00 (4 to 6 PM) CET, online (through Zoom)

**Optional:** 6 ECTS credit points (LMU registration and exam required)

### *Contents of this document:*

- Description of the course
- Topics to be discussed
- Required materials
- ECTS credits
- Registration

### **Description of the course:**

This course for academic researchers and students introduces the participants to standard modern literary Kannada, the sole official language of the Indian state of Karnataka. Although it is spoken today by well over sixty million people, it has been granted the status of a classical language by the Government of India for its historical significance. It was one of the leading literary languages of India in pre-modern times and still is one today.

At the end of the full course (i.e., when the manual has been studied completely), the learner will be able to read short non-belletristic texts with the aid of a dictionary. In previous years, one semester usually was sufficient to complete the full basic course, but this largely depends on the aptitude of the participants and cannot be fully guaranteed. Most probably there will be a sequel to this course in the summer term of 2023 (mid-April to mid-July), which will guarantee that the entire material in the manual will have been discussed fully and some examples of modern prose are read.

For further information, please see <http://lmu.zydenbos.net> –  
<http://lmu.zydenbos.net/kannada-eng-web.xhtml> (as web page)  
<http://lmu.zydenbos.net/kannada-eng-web.pdf> (as PDF document)  
<http://lmu.zydenbos.net/CCL-Kannada.html> (as web page in German)  
<http://lmu.zydenbos.net/CCL-Kannada.pdf> (as PDF document in German)

**Topics to be discussed:**

Kannada grammar (morphology, phonetics, syntax, sandhi); Kannada script. Although this is not a course in conversational Kannada, correct pronunciation and some features of colloquial speech will also be discussed.

**Required materials:**

The main course material is *A Manual of Modern Kannada*, which is an OpenAccess publication, available as a gratis PDF download at the [University of Heidelberg](#)<sup>1</sup> (the same web page also offers the possibility of ordering a real book on paper, hard- or softcover). A good dictionary is strongly recommended, and although online sources exist, experience shows that it is best if the learner has a 'real' dictionary of one's own on good old-fashioned paper.

Examples of good Kannada-English dictionaries:

- Bucher, J., *Bucher's Kannada-English Dictionary*
- Venkatasubbiah, G. a.o., *IBH Kannada-Kannada-English Dictionary*
- Kittel, F., *Kittel's Kannada-English Dictionary* (also available digitally online:  
[https://digitalroses.net/que/process.php?book\\_shelf=kittel](https://digitalroses.net/que/process.php?book_shelf=kittel)  
<https://dsal.uchicago.edu/dictionaries/kittel/>)

The Kittel dictionary is famous, and all the best later dictionaries are based on it, but it is rather too comprehensive for beginners and lacks many modern words.

**ECTS credits:**

Optionally participants can acquire 6 ECTS points by successfully passing a written examination (Klausur) at the end of the course. There are no fees for students of the LMU; students from outside must register as external students with the relevant bureau of the LMU and pay the necessary fee. Students at partner universities in the European ERASMUS program should contact the relevant bureau at their home universities for enrolment and eligibility for examinations.

**Registration:**

If you are interested in participating, you must apply with the teacher (Prof. Zydenbos: email [kannada-course@lrz.uni-muenchen.de](mailto:kannada-course@lrz.uni-muenchen.de)) by August 31, 2022 at the latest, with a few words of helpful information about yourself: why you wish to join the course, and the languages (Indian and other) which you have already learnt. In order to facilitate the active participation of all participants, the number of admissions will necessarily be limited. Those who wish to write the exam and earn ECTS credits must also register with the LMU, as mentioned above.

*Caveat:* All the above has been stated in the assumption that the technical and administrative possibilities and situation at the LMU will remain the same throughout the winter term as at the time of writing (which we may presume will be the case).

Munich, August 7, 2022

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<sup>1</sup><https://hasp.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/catalog/book/736?lang=en> – and please do not forget to download also the corrigenda from that same page.