

HIN 432K — Flagship III — Syllabus & Schedule

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Office hours (provisional): TTH 11.00-12.30, WCH 5.104a.

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Office hours — TBA.

Prerequisite: Flagship Hindi II.

Classes: TH 5.00–6.30 in GAR 1.134.

Course booklet: सात आत्मकथाएँ — *Selections from Seven Hindi Autobiographies*.

Overview of the course. We shall continue to work on the four skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening that formed the focus of your first-year Flagship syllabus; but as we encounter different styles and registers of Hindi, we will discover which kinds of language and vocabulary are best suited for which purpose. We will frequently use online media as sources for news and current affairs, and will range widely across numerous different styles of formal and informal language. A theme running through the semester will be *autobiography*, whose narratives give a unique insight into Indian society; the course-book selections from seven widely diverse autobiographies will form the backbone of our work here. *Readings are to be prepared in advance.* Weekly homework assignments are very varied, with no two tasks being alike.

Homework is due 5pm *Tuesdays* and is to be left in my mailbox, either in HUF or in DAS (WCH 4th floor); it will normally be returned with comments at the Thursday class. As the assignments are set in advance, don't let any one of them take you by surprise – prepare early! Advice on homework can be sought in office hours, or by email at any time. Assignments involving writing in Hindi should be 500-600 words in length unless otherwise specified. Follow the instructions for each assignment closely.

Grading and assessment

Homework	50%
Three exams @ 10%	30% (Wednesdays 9/23, 10/21, 11/18)
Class participation	20%

UT notice regarding disability: Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259.

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1, August 27 — Introductions; course procedures, aims and objectives; current news stories on Hindi-medium websites.

HOMEWORK 1, due Tuesday 1 September — *Your* account of a current news story as described in this week's Hindi media. (Go to samachar.com and click हिन्दी). Cite the URLs you have used, give your article an appropriate title, and include your own reactions to the item.

WEEK 2, September 3 — (a) Presentation & discussion of two of the news stories used in homework. (b) Reading and discussion of Javed Akhtar's introduction to *Tarkash*.

HOMEWORK 2, due Tuesday 8 September — Summarize the opening pages of Javed Akhtar's introduction to *Tarkash* (use third person throughout).

WEEK 3, September 10 — (a) *Tarkash* continued. (b) Words and word origins.

HOMEWORK 3, due Tuesday 15 September — A passage from your own autobiography (publication date 2049) recounting an event from your childhood. Include the *title* of your autobiography!

WEEK 4, September 17 — Reading Harishankar Parsai's autobiography; discussion of his language, the register he uses, alternative styles of expression.

HOMEWORK 4, due Tuesday 22 September — 4-minute audio or video recording of discussion with a friend or classmate (*anybody* whose Hindi is as good as yours) about a current news event. Recording to be mailed to rupertsnell@mail.utexas.edu.

WEEK 5, September 24 — (a) Dictation. (b) Reading Kaushalya Baisantri's autobiography.

HOMEWORK 5, due Tuesday 29 September — *Who are the Dalits?* An essay researched through Hindi media by Googling “दलित”. Cite your sources.

WEEK 6, October 1 — More from Kaushalya Baisantri's autobiography, and discussion of her style.

HOMEWORK 6, due Tuesday 6 October. *Meri Hindi* — not an essay, but a bullet-point discussion of any problems you have in learning Hindi, together with your strategies for overcoming them.

WEEK 7, October 8 — News stories from the Hindi media, including *Karwa Chauth*.

HOMEWORK 7, due Tuesday 13 October — *What is the significance of the Karwa Chauth festival?* Research it online and write a 250-word article with the heading करवा चौथ. Then give one- or two-sentence definitions in Hindi of the following words: व्रत, पर्व, उपवास, त्यौहार, पक्ष, चौथ, चतुर्थी, सूर्योदय.

WEEK 8, October 15 — *Amitabh's accident*: reading the autobiography of Harivansh Rai Bachchan.

HOMEWORK 8, due Tuesday 20 October — *The meaning of Madhushala*: your interpretative commentary on four stanzas that you choose from Bachchan's celebrated poem (available on Blackboard). May be presented either in writing, or in an audio/video recording; either way, quote the four stanzas in full.

WEEK 9, October 22 — Reading from the autobiography of Rajendra Prasad, the first president of the Republic of India.

HOMEWORK 9, due Tuesday 27 October — Translation into Hindi of a passage from Nirad Chaudhuri's *Autobiography of an Unknown Indian* (1951). A longer passage will be available on Blackboard, s to show the context.

WEEK 10, October 29 — (a) More from Rajendra Prasad. (b) Role play: interviewing India's first president from the perspective of today, looking particularly at the ways in which India has changed in recent decades. (Any volunteers for Rajendra Babu's role here?)

HOMEWORK 10, due Tuesday 3 November — summary of the class discussion on *Autobiography*. As with homework 8, this may be either recorded or written.

WEEK 11, November 5 — Hindi vocabulary: where does it come from, what are its cultural meanings?

HOMEWORK 11, due Tuesday 10 November — Investigate the individual list of words given to you, looking into their etymology, their connections with related words, any synonyms, any idioms in which they appear, and any other points of interest. Your main sources will be OHED and Platts. You may use a mixture of English and Hindi in this assignment.

WEEK 12, November 12 — Reading the autobiography of Yashpal, Hindi writer and “freedom fighter”.

HOMEWORK 12, due Tuesday 17 November — When is a terrorist not a terrorist? Essay on the use of violence in politics.

WEEK 13, November 19 — What is autobiography? What do autobiographers choose to reveal about themselves, and why? Prepare *three* discussion points in advance for this class discussion.

HOMEWORK 13, due Tuesday 24 November — **आत्मकथा** : summary of the class discussion on Autobiography. As with assignments 8 and 10, this can be either written or recorded.

WEEK 14, November 26 — A final look at the news in the media.

HOMEWORK 14, due Tuesday 1 December — **वेब की बोली** : make a survey of the Hindi words and expressions used for media functions such as “download”, “save” etc in a variety of Hindi-medium websites, and write a report on your findings. How is Hindi adapting to these new demands?

WEEK 15, December 3 — An encounter with the *Arđhakathānak* of Banarasidas (1641 A.D.), considered “India’s first autobiography”.

NO HOMEWORK ! छुट्टी !