

# ***~List of Resources for the Promotion and Preservation of the Punjabi Language~***

Version 1.0 -- Barebones; cultural section to come!

## **Introduction**

The file before you is an attempt to address the need for a list which brings together all of those resources most efficient and effective for learning the Punjabi language.

The authors have included lists of textbooks, grammars, readers, dictionaries, reading primers, and numerous online resources of all kinds. Also included is information on formal academic programs in universities across North America for the study of Punjabi, as well as courses in India geared towards instructing foreigners.

We also discuss the process of *learning* itself. How does one learn a new language? Where does one begin? Which techniques are most effective, and how much study time is necessary? All of these questions will be discussed at length.

# How to Learn a Language

There are many language-learning techniques. Each student is unique; nobody learns the same way. Each student must therefore ask themselves two basic questions: what are my goals in learning this language, and how do I enjoy learning new things?

The first question is of paramount importance. Are you learning Punjabi because you are in a Bhangra Troupe and want to understand the music? Do you want to speak with your relatives? Do you want to *read* Punjabi poetry? Do you want to use Punjabi professionally? There are many skills which *each and every single learner* needs to develop, but there are others which require less attention, depending on what it is you want to accomplish.

The second question relates to your own personal way of thinking. How do you best acquire new skills? Are you a visual learner? Do you enjoy sitting down and doing grammar exercises (such people **do** exist!), or do you prefer to go out into the world and use the language?

We will keep both of these core issues in mind as we proceed with addressing how one should learn a language. In order to keep this section as accessible as possible, we will present information in the format of *frequently asked questions*.

## **Q: I want to learn Punjabi. Where do I begin?**

A: Everyone learns differently, but it is important that you incorporate a little bit of each method into your studies in order to develop a strong hold on reading, writing, speaking, and understanding Punjabi.

We highly recommend you work through a Punjabi textbook, even if you hate studying. Spend 30 minutes maximum on textbooks each day if you find them deathly boring. The fact of the matter is, you will not learn to eliminate all of the tiny mistakes from your speech if you do not spend time *studying*. You can pick up a lot of Punjabi through speech with friends and regular practice, but you will not be able to polish up your speech or understand **nuance** unless you study. Check out the list of materials included in this file if you are investigating which book to purchase.

You should make it a habit right from the start to listen to Punjabi music and have small, simple conversations with Punjabi speakers. It can be quite intimidating to approach people when you have no skills whatsoever, but many will be willing to help you out. Do not feel discouraged if some of your relatives laugh at your horrible pronunciation or your childish errors; everyone has to start somewhere. What is most important is that you do not give up. You can never develop speaking skills through reading textbooks. Speaking skills develop through speaking.

One very useful location in which to find conversation partners is your local Gurdwara (or

Masjid, of course!). Attend *langar*, have a meal, and try to speak with the person next to you. If they are rude, so what? Find someone else. You will eventually come across a partner who will be thrilled to help you out with your Punjabi.

**Q: Is it really necessary to learn to read Punjabi? Isn't it difficult?**

A: Yes, it is necessary! Trust us, do **not** put off learning how to read. The way Punjabi is written in the "English" (Roman/Latin) alphabet is **not** precise enough. The sounds which exist in Punjabi are not properly represented by our alphabet, unless you are using all kinds of marks around the letters, as is done by scholars.

The two writing systems used for Punjabi are Gurmukhi and Shahmukhi. The former is used by Indian Punjabis and the latter by Pakistanis. Gurmukhi is much easier to learn, as it was developed specifically for Punjabi. 10 hours of practice are needed, at most. Shahmukhi is a modified form of the Persian script, which is a modified form of the Arabic script. It looks like Urdu, but there are a few extra letters sometimes used by authors. It contains many irregularities, but can be learned after 15-20 hours of practice.

Trust us. Learn to read. You do not want to be cut off from Punjabi literature, newspapers, or even the banners and such that you see on television. Imagine how much more limited a life you would live if you could not read English!

**Q: For how long must I study each day?**

A: Half-an-hour minimum. An hour is preferable. This sounds like a lot of time, but it's really not! How much time do you spend watching TV and listening to music? Try converting some of that media into Punjabi. When you are in the initial stages of learning Punjabi and need to study grammar, you'll be fine if you dedicate 30 minutes to grammar and the other 30 to media. The most important thing is that you make Punjabi part of your daily routine. It is much less effective to sit down and study for 5 hours on one day than to study for an hour each day, over five days.

**Q: How long until I'm fluent?**

A: "Fluency" is difficult to define. Those who have never studied languages before are often guilty of setting the bar too low, whilst those who study often are guilty of setting the bar too high. If you are setting your bar at "native-level ability", be prepared for disappointment. It is *extremely* difficult for a teenager or adult learner to ever reach the level of a native speaker. Studies of the brain have shown that even those who are highly skilled in a second language are not making the same neurological connections as native speakers.

Having said that, what's the problem? Think back to meeting someone who spoke English almost **flawlessly**, only giving away their secret with the smallest little mistake or feature of pronunciation. Did you think less of that person's abilities? If you are truly ambitious, make that skill level your goal! Perfection is out of grasp.

So, how long until you reach that level? It is hard to say. Punjabi is a language which ranks

somewhere between Arabic and Spanish in difficulty. It is not *extremely* difficult, but there are a few difficult points of grammar which take some time to absorb, and the vocabulary is often completely removed from English. Modern Punjabi is full of English loan words, but the advanced vocabulary usually derives either from Arabic, Persian, or Sanskrit.

Naturally, if you speak Hindi or Urdu, you will make quick progress in Punjabi. Grammar will be a piece of cake; the grammars of the three are nearly identical. You will simply have to learn a new script (Gurmukhi), new patterns of pronunciation, and new vocabulary. If you study Punjabi each day for an hour or so, you should be *very* comfortable after a single year. Even six months will take you quite far.

If your native language is English, you will have to work hard for two years before you are able to read newspapers and draw from a large pool of vocabulary in speech. Another year or two might be necessary before you're at an extremely advanced level in the language. This sounds like a long time, but do not panic! It is normal. Many report five or six years of study before reaching a highly advanced level in Arabic or Chinese, so it could be worse! Looking for an "easy" language? It still takes two years in French, Spanish, or Italian.

We are not trying to scare you. We just want you to have realistic expectations. You do not need to be at a "highly advanced" level before you can joke around with your friends or understand the latest Punjabi song. That stuff can be part of your learning process right away. Just don't expect to pick up a copy of "Heer Ranjha" after two months and breeze on through. Learning a language takes time, but it is not all work; you should **enjoy** the learning process itself! If you are not having fun, you are doing something wrong!

**Q: How do I improve my accent? All of my relatives laugh at me.**

A: Pronunciation is a funny thing. Many people believe it to be the most difficult part of learning a new language. These very same people rarely ever spend time **working** on their accent, however! Pronunciation is not something which you will just *get* without making any effort.

Some of you may find it helpful to read up on phonetics on Wikipedia. Knowing some of the basic properties of phonetics makes it a *lot* easier to understand the difference between sounds in Punjabi. Other may find this a bit too complex and overwhelming. It's not necessary, but it helps.

The key to perfecting your Punjabi pronunciation is in doing your **best** to repeat what you hear. Listening to music with headphones and singing along is extremely effective. It will take native English speakers quite some time to learn the unique sounds present in the Punjabi language. Do not be afraid to repeat these sounds to yourself over and over again. The tongue will only be trained through use!

Please see ihaveacomputer's Youtube video on Punjabi pronunciation for audio and charts which you might find useful.

[www.youtube.com/ihaveacomputer](http://www.youtube.com/ihaveacomputer)

**Q: How do I learn new words?**

A: The jury is divided on the best method through which to acquire vocabulary. Nevertheless, whichever is best, all work, in some shape or form. Some people are most comfortable studying words themselves. Others prefer soaking them up naturally. We will discuss both, as well as offer a form of compromise between the two.

Those who prefer to study individual words often make word lists. One common technique is to draw three separate columns. The first contains the word in Punjabi, the second in English, and the third is blank. Study the list, and then cover the Punjabi side while looking at the English words. Fill in the blank third column with Punjabi words in order to test your memory. Review your lists every now and then to reinforce your memory.

Other prefer to use flashcards. Write English on one side and Punjabi on the other. Test yourself regularly and carry your flashcards around with you. Take a glimpse whenever you can.

While the above methods work for some, they are somewhat clumsy and awkward. Much more efficient is the use of a spaced repetition software. Basically, these programs use **electronic** flashcards which are spaced out according to how well you know a word. For example, let's say you are given the word "vicch", which means "in". Once you press the spacebar, the English answer will display, and you'll have to choose how well you knew the word. If you failed, it will display again. If you *just* squeezed by, it may display again in 2 days. If you knew it quite well, then after 4 days. If you knew it extremely well, then after a week. These intervals of time increase as you are exposed to a card more and more often. It may reach a point after which an "easy" ranking puts the card a year or two into the future!

We personally recommend the use of "Anki" for electronic flashcards, but others prefer Mnemosyne or SuperMemo. You may prefer to make cards which use an entire sentence rather than a single word. This allows you to see the word **in context**, which is much more effective. It also adds to the time it takes to review each day, however, so be careful to pace yourself.

Many prefer to learn words in context, as they cannot stand sitting down and studying. Many have successfully learned foreign languages this way. How do they do it? They **use** the language! They read, even if they don't understand each word. They speak with friends and they learn new words in conversation. They listen to music, find translations online, and sing along. These methods are all extremely important, even if you're more of a bookworm. It all helps out!

**Q: How do I study grammar? I can't stand exercises.**

A: Unfortunately, as an adult learner, there's no dancing around the need to sit down and study grammar. There are many who make claims about techniques which eschew grammar study entirely, but it's *extremely* inefficient to try and learn advanced grammar through exposure alone, especially for a language such as Punjabi.

Don't think of grammar as a chore, but as an interesting collection of facts which make Punjabi easier and easier to understand. Some burn out much more quickly when studying grammar, and that's ok; if you can only stomach 15 minutes of grammar per day, that's fine, but don't skip out on those 15! Every little bit counts. Learning grammar is like building a house! It's done one small step at a time.

If there's a piece of grammar you just do not understand, try asking a native speaker for help. Note that the majority will not be able to give you a perfect answer, as they probably aren't trained linguists, nor have they ever viewed their own language through a gaze similar to your own. You'll have to tease the solution out of them by using similar sentences and asking them to clarify the exact difference in meaning.

**Q: Reading is so difficult. I feel like I need to look up every word in the dictionary. How do I deal with this?**

A: Reading too far above your skill level can indeed be extremely frustrating. One way to gauge whether or not a text is appropriate is for you to read a page or two and see if you get the *gist* of what's going on. If you do, the text is fine... Even if you don't understand 20 words on a single page. A lot of these words will become comprehensible through *context*! You will acquire them naturally through exposure.

Having said that, "close reading" can be very effective. You should take some time to read through a page and understand each and every word, each and every piece of grammar. That should not exceed any more than 20% of the time you spend reading, however. You will quickly burn out and perceive reading to be a boring chore. Keep things exciting by just jumping in!

# Punjabi Textbooks

*Colloquial Punjabi* by Mangat Rai Bhardwaj. Includes Audio CDs.

- Effective introductory course to the Punjabi language which makes a point to note a variety of spoken forms
- Does not use Gurmukhi in the core lessons of the text. Uses a system of transliteration which many find somewhat clumsy, at first. Gurmukhi is taught in a set of lessons at the end of the book
- Contains a small sampling of literature at the end
- Contains linguistic terminology which doesn't get in the way for non-specialists, but which is extremely valuable for those who understand! Particularly useful for understanding tense vs. aspect

*Teach Yourself Punjabi* by Surjit Kalra, Navtej Kaur Purewal, and Sue Tyson-Ward. Includes Audio CDs.

- Newest edition entitled, "Complete Panjabi: A Teach Yourself Guide".

*Teach Yourself Panjabi* by Hardev S. Bahri.

- Published by Punjabi University, Patiala. A bit difficult to locate abroad, but not impossible

*Introduction to Punjabi: Grammar, Conversation and Literature* by Gurinder Singh Mann.

- No audio
- Intended for use with an instructor. Does not include an answer key
- The best book on the market for a systematic introduction to the Punjabi language, **but only available on Amazon's UK site and in India**, at Punjabi University, Patiala. Sold by the Publishing Bureau on campus in "Kitab Ghar", opposite Gol Market.
- Divided into two: the first half covers grammar and basic vocabulary, whilst the second includes an introduction to Punjabi literature, both poetry and prose. Second section quite difficult to complete without the help of an instructor
- Excellent in its use of Punjabi words which are still common in Pakistan, but no longer in India. Very important for building a base of such vocabulary in order to chat with Punjabis on both side of the border. Does not teach Shahmukhi; such words are written in the Gurmukhi script

## **Punjabi Grammars**

*Punjabi (Descriptive Grammar)*, by Tej Bhatia

- Geared towards linguists, not students. Nevertheless, a student may find some of the entries rather valuable.

*Punjabi, Hindi and Urdu Comparative Grammar*, by Anonymous

- Found online
- Compares the grammar of Punjabi, Hindi and Urdu. Can be used for any of those three individually.
- Uses Gurmukhi, not Shahmukhi.

## **Punjabi Readers**

*Punjabi Reader Level 1 and 2*, by Ved Prakash Vatuk. Available online for free.

- Uses Gurmukhi. Both levels in separate files. Watch out for typos.
- These are NOT books for beginners. Complete a beginner's course before studying with these materials
- Very useful introductions to Punjabi literature, but the use of dialectical forms is extremely common. The student may encounter significant difficulty without an instructor or a native speaker as a partner.

*Punjabi Reader in the Arabic Script* by Mumtaz Ahmed. ISBN: 0-931745-65-9, Dunwoody Press.

- Uses Shahmukhi. Must buy online at the Dunwoody Press website
- Quote: "Fifty selections in this volume provide the intermediate student of Punjabi a wide variety of current newspaper stories with sufficient lexical and grammatical aids to facilitate their comprehension."

*Punjabi Newspaper Reader* by Omar N. Koul, Madhu Bala. ISBN: 9788186323274, Dunwoody Press.

- Uses Gurmukhi. Must buy online at the Dunwoody Press website. Watch out for numerous typos.
- Quote: "This book is intended for the students who are already familiar with the spoken language to some extent, or who have studied Punjabi for a year or so and would like to improve their knowledge of the language."
- Quote: "The reader is divided into 3 sections: selections, translations, and glossary. The first section contains 50 selections of news articles from the Punjabi Tribune - a

prominent newspaper in India. Each selection is followed by a list of vocabulary in the order of their occurrence in the selection and their meanings in the particular context of the selection. Brief grammatical and cultural notes follow the vocabulary lists. The second section gives English translations of the Punjabi selections. The third section is an alphabetical glossary of the vocabulary from the selections."

## **Punjabi Dictionaries**

*Punjabi University Punjabi English Dictionary* (ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਯੂਨੀਵਰਸਿਟੀ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ-ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਕੋਸ਼)

- The best Punjabi-English dictionary on the market.
- Available online (with some glitches) at <http://dic.learnpunjabi.org/>

*Students' English-Punjabi Dictionary*, by Gurkirpal Singh Sekhon. Punjabi University Patiala.

- Useful, though not as large as it should be. Omits some words one would not expect to be omitted. Doesn't always provide full context for the different nuances of the words provided. Lots of obsolete vocabulary included which one would encounter in 19th century literature, but not in the contemporary period.

*[Arabi-Farsi vichon utpan Punjabi shabdawali (sarot te viakhya sahit)]*, by [Dr. Amarwant Singh]. Punjabi University Patiala.

- Extremely interesting etymological dictionary which analyses those words in Punjabi which have their source in Arabic or Persian. Shahmukhi is included with each entry.

*[Malwai Shabad Kosh]*, by [Manmandar Singh]. Punjabi University Patiala.

- A dictionary containing words used in the Malwa region of Punjab. Extremely useful introduction which discusses the unique features of Malwai.

*[Lehndi Kosh]*, by [Dr. Hardev Bahri]. Punjabi University Patiala.

- A dictionary containing numerous words from Pakistani Punjabi dialects. Does not contain Shahmukhi, nor is there an introduction discussing these dialects. Strangely contains many words which belong to Standard Punjabi.

## **Learning to Read**

- Gurmukhi is the official script used in India to write out the Punjabi language. It can also be written out in Devanagari, the script used in Hindi, but this is extremely uncommon and does not have official support.
- Shahmukhi is the script used for writing the Punjabi language in Pakistan.
- Learning Shahmukhi takes longer than learning Gurmukhi. Short vowels are NOT marked in this script.
- Shahmukhi matches the Urdu script almost entirely, though there are some letters which have been used historically and are unique to Shahmukhi. Anyone literate in Urdu would immediately understand these characters, however.

### ***Learn Gurmukhi Online***

<http://www.learnpunjabi.org/intro1.asp>

- Contains an explanation of how Gurmukhi works, along with all the letters. Many tools for practice. This is the best resource for developing a strong knowledge of the script. Not in the form of structured lessons, though.
- Games, quizzes, recordings and more....

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=USqj5jDyQ3Q>

- A video explaining how to eliminate your English accent in Punjabi. Uses Gurmukhi characters to explain Punjabi pronunciation. Useful for getting some deeper insight into the script

<http://www.studyvillage.com/resources/3107-Punjabi-alphabets-writing-worksheets-everyone.aspx>

- Worksheets to practice your written Gurmukhi

### ***Learn Shahmukhi Online***

- There are not any full, detailed tutorials available online. The authors of this document hope to create a useful tutorial in the near future, but for now, one's only option online is to learn to read Urdu. <http://www.ukindia.com/zurdu1.htm> is one starting point.

## **Online Instruction**

<http://lrc.lib.umn.edu/punjabi.htm>

- This was used by the Pakistan Peace Corps Project . It includes text in the form of PDFs and accompanying Audio files

<http://www.learnpunjabi.org/intro1.asp>

- Learning module created by Punjabi University, Patiala
- Extremely useful collection of audio and vocabulary!
- Contains a list of the 500 most common words
- Short stories with included audio
- Tools for learning Gurmukhi

<http://punjabi.aglsoft.com/punjabi/learngrammar/?show=introduction>

- Quick overview of Punjabi grammar. Gives a quick peek into the “guts” of the language. More useful for the linguist than the average student.

# **Study Punjabi Abroad & at Home**

The courses noted below are those through which one can learn the Punjabi language. Information on programs *about* Punjabi literature and other such topics is not included. Please note that some of these programs are facing severe funding cuts. Please check with the departmental websites before making any plans for study.

## *Punjabi University (Patiala)*

<http://www.punjabiuniversity.ac.in/dipl/index.php?en=home>

- Two courses available: Two-month “crash course”, one-year diploma course entitled “Punjabi for Foreigners”
- Two hours of instruction, Monday to Friday, with a Professor in the Department of Linguistics and Punjabi Lexicography
- Number of classmates depends on demand. Crash course much more popular than the diploma as of 2011
- Not recommended for complete beginners. Much more productive experience if you arrive having already completed a beginner’s textbook. There is no set curriculum, so the student is free to control his or her learning experience.
- Location is wonderful, and students can request residence in one of the university student hostels (residences). The campus is, without doubt, the cleanest space in the entire city. It is a central location for Punjabi studies and hosts numerous cultural events. Much more Punjabi in character than Chandigarh!

## *American Institute for Indian Studies (Chandigarh)*

<http://aiislanguagaprograms.org/punjabi.php>

- Courses available for students at a variety of skill levels
- Structured curriculum with full-days from Monday to Friday. Organized field trips.
- Summer and annual programs.
- Only open to students applying through academic institutions. More appropriate for the student with the goal of becoming proficient in Punjabi in a classroom setting as quickly as possible.
- Located in Chandigarh, which is more palatable to the average foreigner who finds India somewhat overwhelming. Not a thoroughly Punjabi city, however; use of both Hindi and English is extremely common.

## *Summer Program in Punjab Studies, through the University of California*

<http://www.global.ucsb.edu/projects/punjab/home.htm>

- Summer program including components on Punjabi language and culture. Students travel around Punjab under the supervision of Gurinder Singh Mann.

## *South Asia Summer Language Institute, University of Wisconsin - Madison*

<http://sasli.wisc.edu/>

- Has offered Punjabi in the past, but not at present. Check in each year.

*Columbia University*

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/sai/index.html>

- Offers courses in Introductory and Intermediate Punjabi, as well as supervised readings, through the South Asia Institute.

*University of Michigan, Ann Arbor*

<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/asian/aboutus/sikhstudies>

- Offers courses in First and Second Year Punjabi through the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures.
- **First-Year Punjabi:** This course offers an introduction to spoken and written Punjabi. Those who have little or no previous knowledge of Punjabi (Gurmukhi) script will learn to read and write at the basic level. During this course students will use the communicative approach to develop the ability to speak, comprehend, read, and write Punjabi.
- **Second-Year Punjabi:** This is a continuing proficiency-based course which refines and expands previously acquired linguistic skills in culturally authentic contexts. In this course, the focus will be on expanding vocabulary, mastering more complex grammatical structures, and acquiring idiomatic expressions. The course is designed for students who have a basic knowledge of spoken and written Punjabi. Readings will include items from a variety of short stories depicting the Punjabi culture, items from Punjabi newspapers, poetry, and plays. The students will be encouraged to communicate in the Punjabi language.

*University of California, Berkeley*

<http://sseas.berkeley.edu/courses>

- Offers courses in Introductory and Intermediate Punjabi through the Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies.
- **Introductory Punjabi:** Gurmukhi script. Survey of grammar. Graded exercises, leading to a mastery of basic language patterns, essential vocabulary, and achievement of basic reading and writing skills.
- **Intermediate Punjabi:** Focus on reading, writing and speaking Punjabi more fluently in formal and informal contexts. Selected readings vary every semester. These form the starting point to stimulate students' own writings which include a long interview with a Punjabi elder from the wider community. These may be recorded in the students' own voices and form a contribution to the ongoing "Punjabi Voices" project. Review of grammar provided as needed in addition to the introduction of more complex grammatical structures. Grading based on performance in class and final presentation, weekly quizzes, two midterms, and a final.

*University of California, Santa Barbara*

<http://www.global.ucsb.edu/punjab/language.html>

- Offers courses in Elementary and Intermediate Punjabi, as well as Punjabi literature, through the Center for Sikh and Punjab Studies. Taught by Gurinder Singh Mann.
- **Elementary Punjabi:** (RS 90A, RS 90B, RS90C). These three quarter based courses (4 credits each) assume no prior knowledge of the language. These are intensive, beginner's courses in the speaking, reading, and writing of Punjabi. The first course (RS 90A) begins with learning Gurmukhi script, and goes on to include lessons in phonology and grammar up to a basic conversational level.
- **Intermediate Punjabi:** (RS90D, RS 90E). These courses incorporate texts such as short stories, poetry, articles, and songs to refine the grammar and nuances of the language. Through these readings, the student's vocabulary grows, as does his or her proficiency in using the dictionary and deciphering difficult or idiomatic grammatical constructions.
- **Twentieth Century Literature:** (RS292) provides an overview of Punjabi literature in the light of the important historical and cultural event of the century. This course includes reading of the poems by Bhai Vir Singh, Dhani Ram

Chatrik, Mohan Singh, Amrita Pritam, Ahmad Rahi, Munir Niazi, Najm Hussain Syed, Shiv Kumar, Ahmad Salim, Surjit Patar, and Amarjit Chandan. As the critical mass of students in advanced Punjabi grows, they will be offered choice of varied readings and authors.

### *University of Pennsylvania*

[http://www.plc.sas.upenn.edu/people/amrit\\_gahunia.html](http://www.plc.sas.upenn.edu/people/amrit_gahunia.html)

- Offers courses in Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced Punjabi through the Penn Language Center.
- **Beginning Punjabi:** This course emphasizes speaking and reading skills in Panjabi. Upon completion of this course students should be able to interact meaningfully and in a socially acceptable manner with the natives in a variety of simple situations involving everyday conversational topics. Further, students should be able to read and understand the main idea and most details of simple connected texts. This course will utilize authentic printed, audio and video materials as input and will provide opportunities to students for natural communication both within and outside the classroom.
- **Intermediate Punjabi:** This course is designed as a continuation of Beginning Panjabi, but also can be taken by anyone who can demonstrate a similar level of proficiency of the language. The course objectives are to expand the mastery of sentence patterns and augment vocabulary and its usage through intensive grammar review and comprehension exercises. A special emphasis will also be placed on greater cultural awareness. Upon completion of this course students should be able to interact socially with added confidence and greater expressiveness. Students should also experience a great improvement in their comprehension of the spoken and written language.
- **Advanced Punjabi:** This course is designed to meet the very specific needs of the students. Advanced Punjabi will focus on readings in modern Punjabi fiction, drama and critical essays. Advanced Punjabi aims at systematically introducing students to the higher level linguistic functions through the use of contemporary texts.

### *University of Washington, Seattle*

[http://depts.washington.edu/asianll/lang\\_degs/prog\\_southasia.html](http://depts.washington.edu/asianll/lang_degs/prog_southasia.html)

- Facilitates training in Punjabi through national programs, but not offered locally.

### *University of Chicago*

- No longer offered?

### *Stanford University*

<http://www.stanford.edu/dept/lc/language/courses/offeringFAQs.html>

- Punjabi has been offered in the past through the university's Language Center, but does not seem to be offered at present. Contact the school for additional details.

### *San Jose State University*

[http://www.sjsu.edu/wll/programs/undergraduate/punjabi/Punjabi\\_Courses/](http://www.sjsu.edu/wll/programs/undergraduate/punjabi/Punjabi_Courses/)

- Offers courses in Elementary and Intermediate Punjabi through the Department of World Languages and Literatures.
- **Elementary Punjabi:** Punjabi 1A and 1B - Beginning level courses aimed at providing an opportunity to learn modern Punjabi language as spoken in present day India and Pakistan in Gurmukhi script. This is a beginning course in the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The basic structure of Punjabi is taught both in Indian and Pakistani contexts of life and culture. At level B, the student is introduced to reading simple texts of Punjabi poetry and prose. Each course is 5 units, 5 hours a week.
- **Intermediate Punjabi:** Punjabi 25A and 25B - Intermediate level courses serve as a continuation of the elementary courses. In 25A, the student is given a broad glimpse into modern Punjabi poetry, prose, drama, short stories, folklore and culture. The purpose is to introduce the student to the linguistic structure and to Punjabi social and cultural patterns, aimed to further develop reading, writing, and oral skills. In Punjabi 25B, the students are introduced to Bani of the Sikh Gurus and Qalam of the Punjabi Sufis, enriching their experience of the great writings of spiritually awakened souls of the

land of Punjab. They are also introduced, at a rudimentary level of the grammatical system, to poetic writings of the Sikh Gurus and Bhaktas included in the Sri Guru Granth Sahib. Each course is 5 units, 5 hours a week.

### *Hofstra University*

[http://www.hofstra.edu/academics/colleges/hclas/cll/cll\\_programs.html](http://www.hofstra.edu/academics/colleges/hclas/cll/cll_programs.html)

- Offers courses in Elementary and Intermediate Punjabi through the Department of Comparative Literature and Languages. Taught by Sandeep Singh.
- Elementary Punjabi 1: This course concerns fundamentals of structure, with oral and written drills.
- Elementary Punjabi 2: This course is a continuation of **PUNJ 1**, with selected readings.
- Intermediate Punjabi 1: Grammar review. Conversational approach. Selected readings.
- Intermediate Punjabi 2: Readings, composition and conversations on Punjabi writers.

### *University of British Columbia*

<http://www.asia.ubc.ca/undergraduate/courses-languages/punjabi.html>

- Offers courses in Introductory, Intermediate, and Advanced Punjabi through the Department of Asian Studies. Faculty include Ann Murphey and Harjot Oberoi.
- Introductory Punjabi: This course is an introduction to modern Punjabi. After providing a thorough familiarity with the Gurmukhi script, all the main grammar points and vocabulary will be introduced in a series of graded lessons and exercises. At the end of the course a student should be able to read and speak basic Punjabi. Course materials will be provided by the instructor. \*\*Students who have successfully completed Grade 12 Punjabi are not eligible for this course.
- Intermediate Punjabi: This course is intended for students with an elementary knowledge of the Punjabi language. The emphasis will be on advanced reading, conversation, composition, and vocabulary development. Readings will include a series of graded lessons, a variety of short stories, poetry, and essays. Prerequisite: PUNJ 102 or equivalent. Course materials will be provided by the instructor. \*\*Students who have successfully completed Grade 12 Punjabi must be interviewed by the instructor to determine eligibility for this course. High School transcripts must be provided.
- Advanced Punjabi: Advanced reading, composition and conversation. Major genres of Punjabi literature. Prerequisite: PUNJ 200 or equivalent. Course materials will be provided by the instructor.

### *University of Alberta*

<http://www.mlcs.ualberta.ca/en/CourseOfferings/Punjabi.aspx>

- Offers courses in Beginners' and Intermediate Punjabi through the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies.
- Beginners' Punjabi I: The aim of the introductory course (part I) is to enable students to develop elementary proficiency in oral expression, listening comprehension, reading, writing, and cultural understanding in Punjabi on topics related to daily activities and personal environment. Emphasis will be placed on the acquisition of oral skills, but attention will also be given to written skills. Students will acquire basic grammatical and lexical knowledge pertaining to the Punjabi world. At the end of the course, they are expected to have developed the ability to communicate in predictable and common situations and achieve a good control of basic grammatical structures and vocabulary.
- Beginner's Punjabi II: In the second part of the introductory course students will expand their grammatical and lexical knowledge pertaining to the Punjabi world. At the end of the course, they are expected to have developed the ability to communicate in predictable and common situations and achieve a good control of the most frequently used grammatical structures and vocabulary.
- Intermediate Punjabi I: Intended to consolidate a basic understanding of Punjabi language and culture through building upon basic language skills acquired in PUNJ 111/112. Prerequisite: PUNJ 112 or consent of Department.
- Intermediate Punjabi II: Continuation of PUNJ 211. Prerequisite: PUNJ 211 or consent of the Department.

### *University of the Fraser Valley*

[http://www.ufv.ca/mola/Programs/Punjabi\\_Program.htm](http://www.ufv.ca/mola/Programs/Punjabi_Program.htm)

- Punjabi program offered through the Modern Languages Institute, as well as Continuing Studies. Introductory and Intermediate classes.
- **Introduction to Punjabi I:** Students who have little or no previous knowledge of Punjabi (Gurmukhi) script will learn to read and write at the basic level. They will use the communicative approach to develop the ability to speak, comprehend, read, and write Punjabi while exploring the Punjabi culture. Note: Any student with Grade 12 Punjabi or equivalent is not permitted to register in this introductory course. This course is not suitable for students with knowledge of spoken Punjabi.
- **Introduction to Punjabi II:** Students will continue to build on basic reading and writing skills learned in PUNJ 101 as well as improve their oral and listening skills while exploring the Punjabi and Indian cultures. Note: Any student with Grade 12 Punjabi or equivalent is not permitted to register in this introductory course without instructor's permission. This course is not suitable for students with fluency in spoken Punjabi.
- **Intermediate Punjabi I:** This course is an introduction to Punjabi (Gurmukhi) script and enhances previous knowledge of modern Punjabi language. It deals with the important grammatical features of Standard Punjabi and its syntax and morphology. The course is restricted to students with familiarity with spoken contemporary Punjabi, but no or little knowledge of reading and writing Gurmukhi Script.
- **Intermediate Punjabi II:** This course is a continuation of PUNJ 210, and provides further study of the Punjabi (Gurmukhi) script and modern Punjabi language. It deals with the important grammatical features of Standard Punjabi and its syntax and morphology. The course is restricted to students with familiarity with spoken contemporary Punjabi, but limited knowledge of reading and writing Gurmukhi Script.

### **Kwantlen Polytechnic University**

[http://www.kwantlen.ca/humanities/modern\\_languages/Punjabi.html](http://www.kwantlen.ca/humanities/modern_languages/Punjabi.html)

- Offers courses in Introductory and Intermediate Punjabi through the Department of Modern Languages at the Surrey campus. Taught by Ranbir Johal.
- **Introductory Punjabi I:** Students who have little or no previous knowledge of Punjabi script will learn to read and write at the basic level. They will use the communicative approach to develop the ability to speak, comprehend, read and write Punjabi while exploring the Punjabi culture. If you do not know how to read/write Punjabi at all, or are familiar with only some of the letters and get confused with them, then you should take this course. We learn all the consonant and vowel sounds and simple vocabulary/grammar, but stop before learning verb tenses. By the end of the term, you will be able to read and write simple passages. For example, you will be able to describe things in simple sentences but not necessarily be able to describe what you are *doing* (since you will not have learned verb tenses): *This is a house. This is a big red house. The chairs are in the house.* (But not be able to write *I am running in the house. I was running. I will be running* etc.) Note: Any student who has recently taken Grade 12 Punjabi (or has Punjabi reading/writing skills that meet the level in this course) is not permitted to register in this introductory course.
- **Introductory Punjabi II:** Students who have a basic knowledge of Punjabi script will learn to further develop their ability to speak, comprehend, read and write Punjabi while exploring the Punjabi culture. NOTE: If you have taken Punjabi 11 and received a B or an A, then you may wish to begin with this course. Take this course if you know how to read/write Punjabi but not extremely well. You should know all the sounds and be able to read before taking this course. This course focuses on verbs and verb tenses – present tense, past tense and future tense. By the end of the term you will be able to write simple compositions using these tenses, i.e. *I run. I was running. I had run. I will run.* Note: Any student with Grade 12 Punjabi is not permitted to register in this introductory course.
- **Intermediate Punjabi I:** Students will use the communicative approach to review and expand their knowledge of basic Punjabi grammar. While further exploring the Punjabi culture, students will continue to develop oral, listening, reading and writing skills at the intermediate level. If you have taken Punjabi 12 or learned Punjabi previously then begin with this course. This course introduces two new tenses, but focuses on building vocabulary and fluency with the use of the verbs and verb tenses learned in Punjabi 1101. By the end of the term you will be able to write longer compositions and read simple stories (i.e. fables).
- **Intermediate Punjabi II:** Students will use the communicative approach to reinforce and expand their linguistic skills at the intermediate level through integrated and interactive practice in reading, writing, listening and speaking. Students will also continue to work on their intercultural learning skills

## **USEFUL WEBSITES**

<http://www.apnaorg.com/>

- Hosts music, scanned literature, academic articles, etc. **The best resource for Punjabi material online.** Holy grail of online Punjabi media.

<http://www.panjabdigilib.org/>

- Incredibly useful database containing scans of numerous manuscripts, newspapers, magazines, books, and photographs.

### **Newspapers and Online Magazines**

<http://punjabitribuneonline.com/>

- Website of the newspaper “Punjabi Tribune/ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਟ੍ਰਿਬਿਊਨ”

<http://www.ajitjalandhar.com/>

- Website of the newspaper “Ajit/ਅਜੀਤ”

<http://www.jagbani.com/>

- Website of the newspaper “Jag Bani / ਜਗ ਬਾਣੀ”

<http://www.suhisaver.org/>

- Hosts articles, essays, poetry and more in both Gurmukhi and Shahmukhi scripts

<http://www.sanjhapunjab.net/>

- Hosts articles, essays, poetry and more in both Gurmukhi and Shahmukhi scripts

<http://www.wichaar.com/>

- Online Pakistani journal. Essays, articles and more
- Main page in Shahmukhi, but smaller English and Gurmukhi sections

### **Blogs**

<http://surjitkaur.blogspot.com/>

- Blog of the famous diaspora poet, Surjit Kaur. Gurmukhi.

<http://www.suhisaver.org/>

- Literary blog containing essays and original pieces. Gurmukhi.

<http://pbipc.blogspot.com/>

- Blog of CP Kamboj of Punjabi University, Patiala. Focused on everything to do with Punjabi and computers.

### **Music**

<http://folkpunjab.com/>

- Folk Punjab: “Folk Punjab is a project to collect folk and sufi music of Punjab. Please note that this is not yet another music website, it's a sincere effort to give our folk music the place it deserves. All the Punjabi songs on this website can be downloaded as mp3 or can be played online. We also try to provide lyrics and translation with the songs. Over the years, Folk Punjab has grown to include other forms of the Punjabi folklore as well. We now have sections on [Punjabi proverbs](#) & [Punjabi riddles](#) as well. Other than that, two research-oriented sections are also maintained: (1) a [bibliography](#) of books about Punjab's culture, language, and literature. (2) an [encyclopedia](#) about all things Punjab.”

<http://www.nannu.info/>

- Nannu is a website/forum in which the users upload music to various filesharing sites

and share those links for download. Loads of links, includes Hindi music as well as Punjabi.

<http://www.fmw11.net/>

- Known mostly for Hindi music downloads, it hosts a very large collection of Punjabi music as well.

<http://songs.pk/>

- Based on personal experience, it's a lesser version of fmw11.net. Still has some rare finds every once in awhile.

### **Forums**

<http://forum.wordreference.com/forumdisplay.php?f=99>

- Language forum for the Indo-Iranian languages. A few regular participants with knowledge of Punjabi.

<http://www.punjabizm.com/communities.php>

- About all things relating to Punjabi and Punjabi culture, or *Panjabiyat*.

<http://punjab2000.proboards.com/index.cgi>

- Forum mostly populated by Bhangra-heads. One of the more knowledgeable forums regarding oldschool Bhangra.

<http://www.punjabiportal.com/forum/>

- Good forum community very much in love with all things Punjabi. Also has a website.

<http://www.unilang.org/viewtopic.php?f=99&t=22623&st=0&sk=t&sd=a>

- The Punjabi thread on the unilang forum. There is at the moment, no subsection for Punjabi, so all discussions related to Punjabi are sent to this particular thread.

<http://www.hamaraforums.com/index.php?>

- Mostly a forum where users discuss and upload old Hindi film songs. However there is a Punjabi Section mostly for old Punjabi Film Songs that contain some real musical gems.

### **Punjabi Bookstores**

<http://www.indiaclub.com/shop/home.asp>

[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

<http://www.sacha-sauda.ca/1.html>

<http://www.printsasiasia.com/>

