

Indic Knowledge Systems

Course Category: Foundation

Schedule of Offering: Semester I

Course Credit Structure: [4]

- **Lecture** : 3 Hours per week
- **Tutorial** : 1 Hour per week
- **Practical** : None

Contact Hours per week: 4 Hours per week

1. Introduction

As human beings march in their journey towards progress, through newer developments, they need to be guided by a core set of ideals and principle of living. In today's context, these paradigms of living are stemming from recent ideas originating from the western world. While we have been making progress there is also a wide-spread understanding that for every new solution and idea that we discover, we introduce more and more challenges and problems arising out of them. This potentially raises the need to look for alternative paradigms for the emerging world order. Indic Knowledge Systems (**IKS**) can potentially offer ideas for developing new paradigms for the world order. A knowledge of IKS is the first step in this process. The Chinmaya University addresses this requirement through a two-part foundational course.

IKS constitute a vast majority of literature spanning across multiple perspectives. This includes ideas on fundamental premises related to one's living as laid out in the Vedas, components of knowledge that help us develop a correct understanding of the Vedic literature, *Purāṇas*, *Darśaṇas*, *Smṛtis*, Upa Vedas and many more. This is typically referred to as *Caturdaśa-vidyāsthānam*. This course outline covers one part of this knowledge tradition and the rest is covered in the second course.

2. Objectives

The course design seeks to address the following issues:

- To introduce to the students about the overall organization of IKS
- To develop an appreciation among the students the role and importance of Veda, Vedāṅgas, Upa Vedas and Purāṇas
- To show case the multi-dimensional nature of IKS and their importance in the contemporary society
- To motivate the students to take up a detailed study of some of these topics and explore their application potential

3. Pre-requisites

There are no pre-requisites for this course as it is introductory in nature. Some rudimentary understanding of Sanskrit and familiarity with Devanagari script will be useful.

4. Readings

There is no text book for this course. However, a set of readings have been identified under each module of the course. Students will be required to access these reading material from the library repository and assemble a set of readings for their personal use.

5. Topic wise Schedule and instructor

Module-1			
Sno.	Date	Topic	Faculty
1.		Introduction to IKS, Organization of IKS	Dr. Vinayak Rajat Bhat
2.		Introduction to Vedas	Prof Gauri Mahulikar
3.		Brief discussion on broad Divisions of the Veda	Prof Gauri Mahulikar
4.		Commentaries on Vedas, a brief introduction	Dr. L Sampath
5.		Tutorial	
6.		Use in ancient times; their relevance in present day	Prof Gauri Mahulikar
7.		Upa Vedas: Introduction, Essential texts & teachers	Vid. Nagendra Pavana
8.		Arthaśāstra: Overview; Arthaśāstra: Issues addressed in Kauṭilya's work; Relevance	Dr. Sushree Sasmita Pati
9.		Concept of Dharma & governance in Arthashastra	Dr. Sushree Sasmita Pati/Shri Nithin Ramakrishnan
10.		Tutorial	
11.		Gandharva Veda: Gleanings from Bharata's Nāṭya śāstra	Vid. Nagendra Pavana
12.		Āyurveda: Science of holistic health;	Dr. Vinayak Rajat Bhat
13.		Various types of plays in Bharata's Nāṭya śāstra, Sangīta śāstra: Overview, Music; Musical Instruments	Vid. Nagendra Pavana
14.		Swastha Vritta & Introduction to Tridośa theory	Dr. Vinayak Rajat Bhat
15.		Tutorial	

16.		Dhanurveda: Gleanings from various texts and lessons for modern times	Vid Nagendra Pavana
17.		Sthapatya Veda	Dr. Vinayak Rajat Bhat
18.		Vastu Shastra	Dr. Vinayak Rajat Bhat

Module-2			
Sno.	Date	Topic	Faculty
19.		Role of the Vedāṅgas in the study of the Veda, components, notion of Vedapuruṣa; Overview of all the six Vedāṅgas: Essential aspects; Seminal works	Vid.Nagendra Pavana
20.		Sikṣa – The Science & its importance	Vid.Nagendra Pavana
21.		Tutorial	
22.		Introduction to Vyākaraṇa; Components of Vyakarana	Dr. Vinayak Rajat Bhat
23.		Nirukta – Its role in studying Vedic literature	Prof. Gauri Mahulikar
24.		Chandas and its relevance; Use of Chandas in the Vedic literature	Dr.Sudarshan Chiplunkar
25.		Tutorial	
26.		Kalpa Sūtras: An overview; Kalpa Sūtras: Applications	Dr. L. Sampath
27.		Jyotiṣa – The Vedic perspective; Importance of Jyotiṣa & its use: Vedic and Contemporary	Dr.Ramakrishna Pejathaya
28.		Tutorial	

Module-3			
Sno.	Date	Topic	Faculty
29.		Purāṇalakṣaṇa: Pañca and Daśa Lakṣaṇas; Classification: Purāṇas- Mahāpurāṇas-Upapurāṇas- Sthalapurāṇas	Dr. Sushree Sasmita Pati
30.		Purāṇas role in development of individuals & society Societal values and principles in Purāṇas (<i>Textual study from Bhagavata Purana</i>)	Dr.Vinayak Rajat Bhat
31.		Itihāsas: Differences between them and Purāṇas, common aspects	Vid Nagendra Pavana
32.		Tutorial	
33.		Narration of Ramāyaṇa and its comparative understanding	Dr. L. Sampath
34.		Narration of Mahābhārata and its comparative understanding	Dr. Sushree Sasmita Pati

35.		The messages received from the Ramāyaṇa (Characters and Stories)	Vid.Nagendra Pavana
36.		The messages received from Mahābhārata (Characters and Stories)	Dr.Ramakrishna Pejathaya
37.		Tutorial	
38.		A brief introduction of Bhagavad Gītā focusing on the spiritual input into life	Dr. Tulasi Kumar Joshi
39.		Relevance of Itihāsa	Dr.Sushree Sasmita/Nithin Ramakrishnan

Module-4			
Sno.	Date	Topic	Faculty
40.		Differentiating Śruti & Smṛti Role of Smṛtis in paving the way for systemizing the life	Dr. Gopala Desikan
41.		Smṛtis as comprehensive law books	Dr. Sushree Sasmita
42.		Kalpasūtras and the 16 Saṃskaras	Dr. Gopala Desikan
43.		Tutorial	
44.		Gleanings from Gautama Dharmasutra, Brihaspati Dharmasutra, Manusmṛti, Yājñavalkyasmṛti	Dr. Sushree Sasmita
45.		Arthasastra: A branch of Dharma Śāstra as the treatise on Indian Polity	Shri.Nithin Ramakrishnan
46.		Tutorial	

Module-5			
Sno.	Date	Topic	Faculty
47.		A broad overview of the darśanas; their founders and important luminaries; differentiation into āstika and nāstika	Shri Venkata Raghavan
48.		The broad overview of Bauddha Carvaka and Jaina Darshanas	Shri Venkata Raghavan
49.		Nyāya-Vaiśeṣika: Gleanings from Tarkasaṅgraha	Dr. Gopala Desikan

50.	Sāṅkhya–Yoga: Gleanings from Sāṅkhya-kārikā,	Dr. Gopala Desikan
51.	Gleanings from Yogasūtra	Dr. Tulasi Kumar Joshi
52.	Tutorial	
53.	Pūrvamīmāṃsā: An overview of the Jaiminisūtras	Dr. Gopala Desikan
54.	Pūrvamīmāṃsā: its contribution in application of hermeneutics.	Dr. Gopala Desikan
55.	Tutorial	
56.	Uttaramīmāṃsā: The Vedāntadarśana through the prasthānatreya	Dr. Tulasi Kumar Joshi
57.	The principal schools of Vedānta: their convergences and divergences	Dr. Tulasi Kumar Joshi
58.	Role of Uttaramīmāṃsā and mīmāṃsākas on shaping the social, philosophical and cultural aspects of India.	Dr. Gopala Desikan
59.	Tutorial	
60.	Concluding thoughts on IKS – II	Prof. Gauri Mahulikar

6. Module-wise topics

Module 1: Śruti (Vedas and Upa Vedas) – The Knowledge Architecture & Relevance – 18 Sessions (10 Session Tutorial – (4) Teacher, (6) Student)

Objectives:

- To introduce the role of Vedas and Upa Vedas as the primary basis for IKS
- To develop a rudimentary understanding of the components of the Vedas, their organization and subject matter discussed in them
- To develop an appreciation of the application domains and potential of Upa Vedas in contemporary settings

Topics:

- What is IKS?
- Organization of IKS – चतुर्दश-विद्यास्थानम्
- The Vedas as the basis of IKS, It's traditional and modern views
- Brief discussion on broad Divisions of the Veda: (Mantra, Brāhmaṇa, Āraṇyaka, Upaniṣad; Śākhās;) Understanding Karmakāṇḍa–Jñānakāṇḍa, their purpose, their relevance in the present day
- Overview of the four Upa Vedas – derived from the four Vedas

- Ayurveda: Science of holistic health, Gleaning from Charaka Samhita and Susruta Samhita
- Dhanurveda: Gleanings from various texts and lessons for modern times - basic information
- Gandharvaveda: Gleanings from Bharata's Nāṭyaśāstra- (Introduce Abhinava Gupta's thoughts on Nṛtya and Sangeeta); Nārādīya śikṣā; Saṅgīta śāstra
- Sthāpatyaaveda: Basic information about Iconography, Temple architecture
- Arthaśāstra: A unique part of Veda (by Vishnu purana), Brief Introduction

Readings:

- **Swami Tejomayananda. (1994).** "The Karma Kāṇḍa", Chapter IV in Hindu Culture: An Introduction, Central Chinmaya Mission Trust, pp 30 – 40.
- **Swami Tejomayananda. (1994).** "The Jñāna Kāṇḍa", Chapter V in Hindu Culture: An Introduction, Central Chinmaya Mission Trust, pp 41 – 51.
- **Swami Harshananda.** "A bird's eye view of vedas". R K Math. Bangalore. <http://rkmathbangalore.org/Books/ABirdsEyeViewOfTheVedas.pdf>. Last accessed on May 10, 2018.
- **Kashyap, R.L. (2003).** "Introduction to Rig Veda" in Secrets of Rig Veda: First 121 Suktas, Sri Aurobindo Kapāli Sāstry Institute of Vedic Culture, pp 1 – 44.
- **Archak, K.B. (2012).** "The Brahmana Literature", Chapter VIII in Essentials of Vedic Literature, Kaveri Books, New Delhi, pp 271 – 301.
- **Archak, K.B. (2012).** "The Āraṇyakas and Upaniṣads", Chapter IX in Essentials of Vedic Literature, Kaveri Books, New Delhi, pp 302 – 329.
- **Shashi Prabha Kumar. (2002).** "Bhumisukta of the Atharvaveda", in Vedic Traditions and Modern Crisis, (Ed.), Pushpendara Kumar, Eastern Book Linkers, Delhi, pp 10 – 22.
- Vasant Lad (1996), "Ayurveda: A Brief Introduction and Guide", (whole article).
- Ramachandrudu P. (2010), "Glimpse into Kautilya's Arthashastra", (pp: 1-37), Sanskrit Academy, Hyderabad.
- "Sthapatya Veda – An introductory note". http://www.worldlibrary.org/articles/stahpatya_veda. Last accessed on Dec. 8, 2016.
- Gaur, N.A. (2009). "**Ideal Village Planning**" Chapter 2 in Sthāpatya Ved-Vāstu Śāstra, New Age Books, pp 26 – 39.
- Amita, S. (1998). "**Design of Settlements in the Vaastu Shastras**", Journal of Cultural Geography, 17 (2), pp 27 – 41.

Module 2: Six Vedāṅgas – 10 Sessions (5 Session tutorial- (2) Teacher, (3) Student)

Objectives:

- To introduce the role of in developing a correct understanding of the Vedic literature
- To provide an overview of the Vedāᅅgas and introduce to the main works pertaining to this literature

Topics:

- The assistive role of the Vedāᅅgas in the study of the Veda
- Overview of all the six Vedāᅅgas: Essential aspects
- Contribution to the world pool of knowledge; the special contribution of the Padaśāstra and Vākyaśāstra to the entire IKS
- Modern discoveries in ancient works pertaining to the Vedāᅅga

Readings:

- **Bhate, S. (2002).** “Pāᅅini’s grammar: An over view”, Chapter 2 in Panini, *Sahitya Academy*, New Delhi, pp 6 - 11.
- **Bhate, S. (2002).** “The form of Pāᅅini’s grammar”, Chapter 3 in Panini, *Sahitya Academy*, New Delhi, pp 12 - 18.
- Sanskrit Prosody, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanskrit_prosody. Last accessed on May 10, 2018.
- **Sarup, L. (2015).** “The Nighaᅅᅇtu and the Nirukta of Śrī Yāskācārya”, *Motilal Banarsidass Publishers*. pp 13 – 14, 49 – 50, and selected portions from 53 – 69.
- **Bhagwat, B. (2009).** “Kalpa-Vedāᅅga: Origin & Development”, *Adarsha Sanskrit Shoda Samsthan, Pune*, Selected portions from the book.
- **Vartak, P.V. (1995).** “Veda and Jyotish”, Part II, Chapter 2, in *Issues in Veda and Astrology*, H Pandya (Ed.), pp 65 – 73.
- **Sundaram, A.V. (1995).** “Astrology: Its usefulness and Limitations in Modern Times”, Part II, Chapter 9, in *Issues in Veda and Astrology*, H Pandya (Ed.), pp 129 – 135.
- **Archak, K.B. (2012).** “The Vedāᅅga Literature”, Chapter VIII in *Essentials of Vedic Literature*, Kaveri Books, New Delhi, pp 330 – 391.

Module 3: Purāᅅas and Itihāsas – 11 Sessions (7 Session tutorial-(2) Teacher, (5) Student)

Objectives:

- To introduce the critical role Purāᅅas as a knowledge system play in development of individuals and the society
- To provide an overview of the Purāᅅas, their constituents, organization and structure
- To briefly introduce to the philosophical thoughts and other perspectives in this literature

Topics:

- Purāṇa-Lakṣana (Pañcalakṣaṇa & Daśalakṣaṇa) and categorisations: Purāṇas-Mahāpurāṇas-Upapurāṇas-Sthalapurāṇas
- Purāṇas as a source of holistic approach: Philosophical, Historical & Geographical
- Understanding Paurāṇic style by textual study of some portions from Bhāgavata etc. and its contemporary application potential
- Introduction of Itihāsa, Explanation on differences between Purāṇa and Itihāsa
- Narration of Ramāyaṇa and the Mahābhārata and its comparative understanding
- The messages received from the Ramāyaṇa and the Mahābhārata (Characters and Stories)
- A brief introduction of Bhagavad Gītā focusing on the spiritual input into life

Readings:

- **Swami Tejomayananda. (1994).** “The Purāṇas”, Chapter XVIII in Hindu Culture: An Introduction, Central Chinmaya Mission Trust, pp 157 – 163.
- **Pusalker, A.D. (1955).** “Introduction” in Studies in Epics and Purāṇas, (Eds.) KM Munshi and N Chandrashekara Aiyer, Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, pp xliii – lxviii.
- An introduction to Purāṇas, Extracted from Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puranas>. Last accessed on January 4, 2018.
- **Swami Ranganathananda, (2010).** “The Central Theme of Śrīmad Bhāgavatam”, Advaita Ashrama, pp 5 – 15, 18 – 22, 25 – 28, 46 – 56.
- **Swami Tejomayananda. (1994).** “Itihāsa and Purāṇas”, Chapter XV in Hindu Culture: An Introduction, Central Chinmaya Mission Trust, pp 130-137.
- **Kantawala, S.G. (1999).** “Purāṇas: Source of Ancient Indian History & Culture”, Chapter 11 in Studies in Purāṇas, Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, pp 58 – 169.
- Selected readings from Bhāgavata Mahāpurāṇa and Agni Purāṇa

Module 4: Smṛtis (Dharma Śāstra)– 7 Sessions (3 Session tutorial-(1) Teacher, (3) Student)

Objectives:

- To introduce the role of Smṛtis as the supplementary literature to Vedas in IKS
- To develop a rudimentary understanding of the contents in some of the Smṛtis and their relevance today

Topics:

- Differentiating Śruti & Smṛti
- Role of Smṛtis in paving the way for systemizing the life
- Smṛtis as comprehensive law books

- Kalpasūtras and the 16 Saṁskaras
- Gleanings from Gautama Dharmasutra, Brihaspati Dharmasutra, Manusmṛti, Yājñavalkyasmṛti
- Arthasastra: A branch of Dharma Śāstra as the treatise on Indian Polity

Readings:

- **Archak, K.B. (2012).** “The Dharmasāstra Literature”, Chapter XI in Essentials of Vedic Literature, Kaveri Books, New Delhi, pp 392 – 412.
- **Swami Harshananda. (2000).** “The Dharmasāstras: A brief study”, Ramakrishna Math, Bangalore, pp 3 – 7, 13 – 27.
- **Bhagwat B. (2009).** “Kalpa Vedāṅga: Origin & Development”, *Adarsha Sanskrit Shodha Samsthan, Pune.* pp 148-161.
- **Pandey R. (2013).** “Hindu Saṁskāras”, Socio-Religious Study of the Hindu Sacraments”, Motilal Banarasidass, pp 1-35.

Module 5: Darśanas – 14 Sessions (8 session tutorial- 3 (Teacher), 5 (Student))

Objectives:

- To introduce the Darśanas and their role in IKS
- To develop an appreciation of the philosophical systems and dimensions these texts present to an individual

Topics:

- A broad overview of the darśanas; their founders and important luminaries; differentiation into āstika and nāstika
- Nyāya-Vaiśeṣika: Gleanings from Tarkasaṅgraha
- Sāṅkhya-Yoga: Gleanings from Sāṅkhya-kārikā, Yogasūtra
- Unique nature of Pūrvamīmāṃsā and Uttaramīmāṃsā in the context of Śruti
- Pūrvamīmāṃsā: An overview of the Jaiminisūtras and its contribution in application of hermeneutics.
- Uttaramīmāṃsā: The Vedāntadarśana through the prasthānatreya
- The principal schools of Vedānta: their convergences and divergences
- Role of Uttaramīmāṃsā and mīmāṃsākas on shaping the social, philosophical and cultural aspects of India.
- Concluding thoughts on IKS – II

Readings:

- **Puligandla, R. (2005).** “Fundamentals of Indian Philosophy”, DK Print World, New Delhi, 119 – 208.
- **Hiriyanna, M. (2005).** “Pūrvamīmāṃsā”, Chapter 12, in Outlines of Indian Philosophy, Motilal Banarsidass, New Delhi, pp 298 – 335.
- **Padurangi K. T. (2013).** Apauruṣeyatva and Svatastva of prāmāṇya, Chapter 7 and “The sentence” Chapter 47, in Critical Essays of Pūrvā Mīmāṃsā,

Vidhyadhisha Post Graduate Sanskrit Research Centre, Bengaluru – 4, pp 44 – 46 and pp 355 – 384.

- **Puligandla, R. (2005).** “Vedanta”, Chapter 9 in “Fundamentals of Indian Philosophy”, DK Print World, New Delhi, pp 209 -211, 216 – 227, 231 – 273.
- **Swami Ranganathananda, (1986).** “The appeal of Vedānta to modern man”, Chapter 2, in Eternal values for a changing society, Volume 1: Philosophy and Spirituality, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bombay, pp 31 – 37.
- Selected portions from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Advaita_Vedanta. Last accessed on May 12. 2017.
- Selected portions from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vishishtadvaita>. Last accessed on May 12. 2017.
- Swami Ranganathananda, (1986). “The Essence of Indian culture”, Chapter 1, in Eternal values for a changing society, Volume 1: Philosophy and Spirituality, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bombay, pp 1 – 30.
- Swami Ranganathananda, (1986). “Vedānta and Science”, Chapter 17, in Eternal values for a changing society, Volume 1: Philosophy and Spirituality, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bombay, pp 307 – 319.

Pedagogy

The teaching methodology will be primarily lecture oriented. In class discussions, talks by experts and student presentations based on some related work will supplement the learning process.

Evaluation Pattern

- Assignment : 30 Marks
 - Presentation : 30Marks
 - End-Term Examination : 40 Marks
- Total : 100 Marks

Sl no	Module Name	Lecture	Tutorial	Total (Hrs)
1	Veda and Upaveda	8	10	18
2	Vedanga	5	5	10
3	Purana and Itihasa	4	7	11
4	Smriti	4	3	7
5	Darshana	6	8	14
		27hrs	33 hrs	60 hrs