**Vedic Literature and Linguistics**

**Programme(s) in which it is offered: B.A. Sanskrit**

| **Course Category**: Core | **Schedule of Offering**: Even |
| --- | --- |
| **Course Credit Structure: 6** | **Course Code: SKT2212** |
| **Total Number of Hours: 90** | **Contact Hours Per Week: 6** |
| **Lecture: 5** | **Tutorial: 1** |
| **Practical:** 0 | **Medium of Instruction:** English |
| **Date of Revision:08.12.2021** | **Skill Focus:** Employability |
| **Short Name of the Course:** VL&L | **Course Stream *(Only for Minor Courses)*:** |
| **Grading Method:** Regular | **Repeatable:** |
| **Course Level:** Beginner |  |

**Course Description**

The aim of this course is to provide the students with a glimpse of Vedic Literature and Linguistics. The course will cover some selected suktas, eternal message and the contemporary relevance of the Vedas and give a brief introduction of many aspects of language and linguistics.

**Course Introduction**

The course will introduce students to technical concepts like svara, chandas, bhasha related to Vedas and explain the evolution of Classical Sanskrit from Vedic Sanskrit and the distinction between the Synchronic and Diachronic Study of languages related to Linguistics.

**Course Objective**

Through this course, the student should:

1. Know about the minute details of Vedic literature, its language and the tradition associated with it.
2. Develop insight about the Vedic devatas like Agni, Indra, Rudra, Marut and Vishnu.
3. Understand the meaning of selected suktas through the commentaries of Sayana, Madhava, Max Muller and Swamy Dayananda Saraswathi.
4. Get in-depth knowledge of Vedas being the foundation of Sastras.
5. Have a general introduction to Linguistics - The study of languages.
6. Understand the scope and function of each branch of linguistics.
7. Get insights into the relationship between languages.

**Course Outcome**

At the end of this course, learners will be able to:

1. describe the selected suktas.
2. analyse any suktas with the help of Sayana’s commentary
3. identify the Vedic metres.
4. identify the components of Linguistics
5. will identify the family of a particular language based on the Genealogical classification.

**PO-CO Mapping**

**PO-CO Mapping Matrix**

| CO/PO Mapping | PO1 | PO2 | PO3 | PO4 | PO5 | PO6 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CO1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| CO2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| CO3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| CO4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| CO5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Prerequisites and other constraints**

This is a core course for BA-Sanskrit students. Students are expected to participate actively in the class and to develop a keen interest in the study of Vedic literature and Linguistics.

**Pedagogy**

The selected hymns will be studied in great detail, with special reference to grammar and prosody, so as to develop linguistic skills in interpreting Vedic Sanskrit. In Linguistics, special emphasis will be given to the classification and membership of languages. The course will be lectured-based, but will also rely on student presentations.

**Evaluation Pattern**

**Evaluation Matrix**

| Continuous Internal  Assessment (CIA) Components | Component Type | Weightage Percentage | Total  Marks | Tentative Dates | Course Outcome Mapping |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Assignment (2x) | 10% | 20 | At the end of the modules 1 and 4 |  |
| Mid Sem | 10% | 50 | (Between 8th-10th week) |  |
| Quizzes (3) | 10% | 30 | At the end of modules 1,2 and 3 |  |
| CIA Marks | 30% | 100 |  |  |
| ESE | | 70% | 100 |  |  |

\* The assignments involved in CIA will be subject to plagiarism checks. A submission with unexplained similarities exceeding 30% for Undergraduate courses, 20% for Postgraduate courses and 10% for PhD courses will be reverted for resubmission. The final submission is subject to score penalization as defined by the course instructor at the start of the course, with clear communication of the same to all the registered candidates.

**Module Sessions**

**Module 1: INTRODUCTION, SVARA & CHANDAS** (25 Sessions)

* General introduction to Vedas – *Samhita, Brahmana, Aranyaka and Upanishad.*
* Commentators of Vedas
* Svaras – Udatta, Anudatta and Svarita
* Anecdote of ‘Indrasatru’
* Vedic chandas
* Pingala’s chandaḥ śāstra – adhyāya 1
* Introduction to Nirukta

**Readings -**

Mac Donnell, A.A., 2015, A Vedic Reader for Students, Motilal Banarasidas, New Delhi.

Gurudatt, 2006, Ved aur Vedic Kal, Sahithya Sadana, New Delhi.

Ramachandra Aiyar, T.K., 2018, A Short History of Sanskrit Literature, R.S, Vadhyar & Sons, Palakkad. (Vedic Section)

**Module 2: STUDY OF SELECTED SUKTAS & ETERNAL TEACHINGS OF VEDAS** (25 sessions)

* Agni Suktam
* Purusha Suktam
* Ushas Suktam
* Eternal message of Vedas
* Contemporary relevance of the Vedas
* Aikamatya Sukta
* Nasadiya sukta

**Readings -**

Teachings of Vedas: An Introduction, Pt. Dharma deva Vidya Martand / Bharat Bhooshan, 2012, Sree Ghudmal Prahalad Kumar Arya Dharmartha Nyas.

Reflections of Vedic wisdom, Ratul Bhujar Barnah / Komal Lochan Athreya / Pranabjyoti Deka, 2018, New Bharatiya Book Corporation.

Tripathi, Radhavallabh, 2001, Vedic Foundations of Indian Sastric Traditions, Pratibha Prakashan, New Delhi.

Siddhalankar, Satyavrat, Vaidika Samskriti ke Mulatattva, Vijay Krishna Lakhanpal, New Delhi.

**Module 3: Introduction to Language and Linguistics.** (20 sessions)

Language – its Nature, Importance, Origin and Development – Definition and nature of language – Utility of language – Theories about the origin of language, Nature of Primitive language - Dialects and cognate languages. Nature and scope of linguistics – Phases of development of linguistics – Branches of linguistics – Diachronic and Synchronic study of languages

**Readings:**

M. Sriman Narayana Murti, An Introduction to Sanskrit Linguistics, D.K. Publications, Delhi.

**Module 4: Methods of classification of languages and Evolution of Classical** (20 sessions)

**Sanskrit and Other Indian Languages**

Language families – Number of languages – Living and dead languages – Concept of the family of languages – Methods of classification of languages. Outlines of the history of Indo-Aryan-Old Indo-Aryan-Evolution of Classical Sanskrit Differences between the Vedic and the Classical Sanskrit – Middle Indo-Aryan – Modern Indo-Aryan – Dravidian languages.

**Readings:**

M. Sriman Narayana Murti, An Introduction to Sanskrit Linguistics, D.K. Publications, Delhi.

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