

Indic Knowledge Systems - II

PG Course (MA Sanskrit)

2018-19

Course Category: Foundation
Offering: Semester 2

Schedule of

Course Credit Structure: [2]

- **Lecture : 2 Hours per week**
- **Tutorial : 0 Hours per week**
- **Practical : None**

Contact Hours per week: 2 Hours per week

Course Coordinators : Dr. K.E. Gopala Desikan & Dr. S. Bhuvaneshwari

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. Therefore, 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.

The topics covered in the two part course outline are broadly referred to as *caturdaśa vidyāsthānam*. This course outline covers one part of this knowledge tradition and the rest is covered in the first course. In this course the topics covered include *Itihāsas*, *Smṛtis*, and *Darśaṇas*. This is the second part of the IKS course.

2. Objectives

The course design seeks to address the following issues:

- To introduce to the students the overall organization of IKS
- To develop an appreciation among the students the role and importance of *Itihāsas*, *Smṛtis*, and *Darśaṇas*.
- 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. However, it is advisable to take this course after going through the IKS - I course in order to derive maximum benefit and completeness in the subject discussed. Further, 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 materials from the library repository and assemble a set of readings for their personal use.

5. Module-wise topics

Module 1: Introduction to IKS II - 2 Sessions

Objectives:

- To set a stage for understanding the architecture of the Ancient Indian Knowledge Systems as represented through *caturdaśa-vidyāsthānam*.
- To develop an overall understanding of their role and relevance to the contemporary society

Topics:

- Smṛtis and Itihāsas as the source of knowledge
- The philosophical systems based on six Darśanas
- Relevance to modern day knowledge systems

Readings:

- **Swami Tejomayananda. (1994).** "Itihāsa and Purāṇas", Chapter XV in Hindu Culture: an Introduction, Central Chinmaya Mission Trust, pp 130-137.
- **Mahadevan TMP, (1974).** Chapter 1 - "Indian Philosophy - What is it" in Invitation to Indian Philosophy, Arnold-Heinimann Publishers Private Limited, Delhi, pp 1-12

Module 2: Dharma Śāstra (Itihāsas) - 12 Sessions

Objectives:

- To introduce the role of Itihāsas as one of the main sources for applied understanding of IKS
- To develop a basic appreciation of the contents in the two Itihāsas, their organization and subject matter discussed in them

Topics:

- Differences between Purāṇa and Itihāsa
- Ramāyaṇa and the Mahābhārata:
 - Narration & Character portrayal
- The eternal and ever-relevant message of the Ramāyaṇa and the Mahābhārata
- Textual study of
 - Selected portions from Ramāyaṇa
 - Bhīṣma's teachings to Yudhiṣṭhira in Śāntiparva
- The philosophical and life-message of the Bhagavad Gītā - A brief introduction

Readings:

- **Radhakrishnan, S. (2008).** "Epic Philosophy", Chapter 8 in Indian Philosophy, Volume 1, Oxford University Press, Second Edition, pp 403 - 411.
- **Swami Harshananda. (2016).** "The Rāmāyaṇa of Vālmīki: An appraisal", Sri Ramakrishna Math, Chennai, pp 1- 9, 22 - 33, 49 - 55, 74 - 86.
- **Swami Tejomayananda. (1994).** "Hindu Culture: an Introduction", Central Chinmaya Mission Trust, pp 138-156.
- **Swami Chinmayananda. (2007).** "The Art of Man-Making", Central Chinmaya Mission Trust, pp 1-25.

Module 3: Dharma Śāstra (Smṛtis) - 7 Sessions

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 realising the right ideals of life
- Smṛtis as comprehensive law books
- Kalpasūtras and the 40 saṃskaras
- Gleanings from Manusmṛti, Yājñavalkyasmṛti and Parāśarasmṛti

Readings:

- **Archak, K.B. (2012).** "The Dharmaśāstra Literature", Chapter XI in Essentials of Vedic Literature, Kaveri Books, New Delhi, pp 392 - 412.
- **Swami Harshananda. (2000).** "The Dharmaśāstras: 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.

6. 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.

7. Evaluation Pattern

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| ● Student submissions (Group Work) | : 20 Marks |
| ● Individual Presentations | : 10 Marks |
| ● Term Paper | : 20 Marks |
| ● End Semester | : 50 Marks |
| Total | : 100 Marks |