

VAC 1: ETHICS AND VALUES IN ANCIENT INDIAN TRADITIONS

Credit distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Ethics and Values in Ancient Indian Traditions	02	1	0	1	Pass in Class 12 th	NIL

Learning Objectives

The Learning Objectives of this course are as follows:

- To understand the rich cultural traditions relating to discourses on life and its purpose, instilling of values relating to ethical and moral propriety.
- To make students more engaged with the past traditions of the country.
- To introduce students to early epics: Puranic, Buddhist and other traditions.

Learning outcomes

The Learning Outcomes of this course are as follows:

- Students will develop an overview of indigenous philosophies.
- Understanding the richness of Indian heritage leading to greater sensitivity.
- Inspiration from history to deal with contemporary issues.
- Appreciate the traditions of diversity, discussions, debates and knowledge transmission.

SYLLABUS OF ETHICS AND VALUES IN ANCIENT INDIAN TRADITIONS

UNIT – I The idea of India and Bharat

(5 Weeks)

- 'Jambudvipa'; 'Aryavrata'; 'Bharat' ; India
- Early discourse on moral order- ṛta in Vedic traditions
- Debates in the Upanishads and the Shramanic traditions

UNIT – II State, Society and Dharma

(5 Weeks)

- Kingship and Society: Dharma, Neeti and Daṇḍa
- Rashtra, Sanskar and making of socio-cultural milieu

UNIT – III The 'Purpose of Life' in Texts

(5 Weeks)

- Right Conduct': Buddhist, Jaina and Shramanic Traditions
- Puruṣārtha Chatushtaya: Dharma, Artha, Kāma and Mokṣa
- Assimilation and Assertion: Ethical issues in Epics and Puranic traditions

Practical component (if any) –

(15 Weeks)

- Discuss in your locality, in 10-15 households with regard to Ethics and Values in Indian traditions:
 - i. Vedic traditions
 - ii. Puruṣārtha Chatushtaya
 - iii. Buddhist, Jaina and Shramanic Traditions
 - iv. Jambudvīpa; Aryavrata; Bharat; India
- Students are required to explore e-resources available with University of Delhi and academic institutions.
- Students are required to watch documentaries and films on the subject-related topics.
- If required, students can share their experiences in the form of a Project Report.
- Students may share their experiences in the form of audio-visual presentations of 15-30 minutes.
- Any other Practical/Practice as decided from time to time

Essential/recommended readings

- Buietenen, J.A.B. Van, The Bhagwadgita in the Mahabharata: Text and Translation, Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1981. Bhagwadgita by Geeta Press Gorakhpur.
- Bhasham, A.L, Wonder that was India: A Survey of the Culture of the Indian Subcontinent Before the Coming of the Muslims. London, Sidgwick and Jackson, 1954
- Dasgupta, S. N. History of Indian Philosophy. Cambridge University Press, 1923, Vol. I-II.
- Hildebrandt, Alf. Rethinking the Mahabharata: A Reader's Guide to the Education of the Dharma King. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2001.
- Kane, P.V. History of Dharmashastra (Ancient and Medieval Religious and Civil Law), vol. II, parts 1-2; vol. III 3rd ed. Pune: Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, [1941, 1946].

- Olivelle, Patric. King, Governance, and Law in Ancient India: Kautilya's Arthashastra, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.
- Sharma, Arvind. 'On Hindu, Hindustan, Hinduism and Hindutva'. Numen, 49(1), 2002, p. 1-36.

Suggested readings

- Olivelle, Patric. (text and trans.) *Manu's Code of Law: A Critical Edition and Translation of the Manava-Dharmashastra*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2006.
- Rocher, Ludo. 'The Concept of Boundaries in Classical India', in Peter Gaefkke and David Utz (eds.), *The Countries of South Asia: Boundries, Extensions, and Interrelations*.
- Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, Department of South Asia Regional Studies (Proceedings of The South Asia Seminar, III, 1982-1983), 1988, p. 3-10
- Sukthankar, V.S., S.K. Belvalkar, and P.L. Vaidya(ed.). *The Mahabharata*. Poona: Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, 1933-66.
- Tripathi, Radhavallabh, ed. *India's Intellectual Traditions: A Revealed Through Sanskrit Sources*. New Delhi: Sahitya Akademi, 2016.

Examination scheme and mode: Subject to directions from the Examination Branch/University of Delhi from time to time