

**IIT Madras Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems**

**COURSE TITLE: INDIAN AESTHETIC THOUGHT**

**Focus Area/Subject Area:** Indian Aesthetics

**Credits:** 10

**Eligibility:** Core course for 1st year M.A students of English Studies

**Details of the Instructor:**

Dr. Jyotirmaya Tripathy, Professor, Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras

**Course Objectives:**

The course introduces the students to the foundations and development of Indian aesthetic theory and explores the relation between art and beauty starting from Bharat's Natyashstra and ending with Sri Aurobindo's Future Poetry and Mysore Hiriyana's "Art Experience". Development of foundational ideas in its historical evolution are explored and engaged with as in practices of imitation, bhava and rasa, dhvani, aucitya, alankara, riti, vakrokti, sahrdaya among others.

**Learning Outcome:**

The students are equipped with classical Indian aesthetic vocabulary to appreciate art experience and locate the same within a broader Indian experience. They will also be able to develop a comparative perspective that will bring the ancient and the contemporary to conversation.

**SYLLABUS**

**Unit 1**

Cultural traditions in Art and classifications

**Unit 2**

Language and meaning of beauty

**Unit 3**

Theory and Meaning of imitation

**Unit 4**

Abhinaya and communication

**Unit 5**

Meanings and types of Bhaavas

**Unit 6**

Rasa theory

**Unit 7**

Dhvani

**Unit 8**

Riti, alankara, vakrokti

**Unit 9**

Aucitya and sadharanikarana

**Unit 10**

Rasika, sahrdaya

**References:****Text Books:**

1. Kane, P.V. History of Sanskrit Poetics. Motilal Banarsidass: New Delhi, 1971.
2. Barlingay, S.S. A Modern Introduction to Indian Aesthetic Theory. DK Printworld: New Delhi, 2016.

**Reference Books:**

1. Bharata Muni. The Natyashastra, Vol. I and Vol. II. Trans. Manmohan Ghosh. Granthalaya: Calcutta, 1967.
2. Coomaraswamy, Ananda K. The Dance of Shiva: Essays on Indian Art and Culture. Dover: New York, 1985.
3. De, S.K. Sanskrit Poetics as a Study of Aesthetic. University of California Press: Berkeley, 1963.
4. Hiriyanna, M. "Art Experience". Indian Philosophy in English: From Renaissance to Independence. Oxford University Press: New York, 2011.
5. Gupta, Bharat. Dramatic Concepts, Greek and Indian: A Study of Poetics and Natyashastra. DK Printworld: New Delhi, 1993.
6. Pollock, Sheldon. A Rasa Reader: Classical Indian Aesthetics. Columbia University Press: Columbia, 2018.
7. Schwartz, Susan L. Rasa: Performing the Divine in India. Motilal Banarsidass: New Delhi, 2008