

Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems, Chanakya University

COURSE TITLE: PHILOSOPHY OF KAUTILYA

Focus Area/Subject Area: Statecraft; Governance; Kautilya

Credits: 3

Eligibility: UG

Details of the Instructor:

Dr. Vinayak Rajat Bhat (Associate Professor, Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems, Chanakya University)

Course Objective:

1. Understand the historical context and philosophical foundations of Chanakya's teachings, including his emphasis on dharma, artha, and kama. Analyze Chanakya's political theories as outlined in the "Arthashastra," exploring their applications in governance, diplomacy, and statecraft.
2. Evaluate the ethical implications of Chanakya's teachings on leadership, power, and morality, and assess their relevance in contemporary society.
3. Develop the analytical skills necessary for effective strategic decision-making in complex and dynamic global contexts, by synthesizing ancient wisdom with modern strategic thought and applying these insights to real-world scenarios: especially in the engineering domain.

Learning Outcome:

1. Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of Chanakya's philosophical principles and their historical significance, enabling them to contextualize his teachings within the broader framework of ancient Indian thought.
2. Students will develop analytical skills to assess the applicability of Chanakya's political theories in modern governance contexts, fostering a nuanced understanding of effective leadership and statecraft. Through critical evaluation of Chanakya's ethical perspectives, students will cultivate a heightened awareness of the ethical dimensions of leadership and power, enhancing their capacity for ethical decision-making in various professional and personal contexts.
3. Engaging in debates and discussions on Chanakya's philosophy will enhance students' critical thinking abilities, enabling them to critically evaluate diverse perspectives and formulate well-reasoned arguments on complex socio-political issues.

SYLLABUS

1. Introduction to Kautilya
2. Introduction to Arthashastra
3. Chanakya: The Teacher, The Philosopher and a Politician
 - a. Saptanga Theory from Kautilya's lens
4. Chanakya: The master of strategies
 - a. Shadgunya Siddhanta: Foreign Policy from Kautilya's lens

References/ Learning Resources:

1. Kautilya, & Kangle, R. P. (1986). The Kauṭīlīya arthaśāstra. Motilal Banarsidass Publ.
2. Kautilya. (2000). The ARTHASHASTRA. Penguin UK.
3. Radhakrishnan Pillai (2016). Katha Chanakya, Jaico Publishing House
4. Kautilya. (2013). King, Governance, and law in ancient India: Kautilya's Arthasastra. Oxford University Press.