

IKS Centre for the Study of Knowledge Transmission in India
Centre for Indic Studies, Indus University, Ahmedabad

COURSE TITLE: INDIAN ETHICS

Focus Area/Subject Area: Ethical and Moral Values in Indian Knowledge Tradition

Total Duration: 2 Hrs/Week

Eligibility: UG/PG

Details of the Instructor:

Dr. Amit Kumar Dubey (Assistant Professor, Centre for Indic Studies, Indus University)

Course Objective:

This course is very important in many senses. One, it will cultivate an idea of Indian Ethics in the students. Second, it will throw some light on that traditional knowledge which is ignored but highly important for Individuals and the State as well. Third, it will aware to the students and others of our holistic approach to Ethics and Value from the Cosmic level to Social and Political policy. There is already a course on Ethics and Value running to the students but that is far beyond from Indian Niti concept. This course will create holistic awareness among the students about Indian Ethics.

Learning Outcome:

Ethics as a discipline deals with concepts such as 'ought' 'right' 'good' 'virtue' and 'duty' and the principles that define them and make them universally applicable through the ages. When it comes to public policy one tends to expound these concepts in the context of welfare, development, and growth. While Western philosophy approaches these concepts from several different theories. In Indian philosophy, the concept of Dharma encompasses all the above and thus allows for Dharma to be non-negotiable while the principles may change from one situation to another. Indian Ethics gives various theories for the moral self-development of the individual.

SYLLABUS

Unit I: Definition and Foundation of Nitishastra

1. Definition of Nitishastra and the difference between Niti and Western morality
2. Dharma and Niti
3. Ethics of Vedas: Ṛta and Ṛṇa, Yajña
4. Ethics of Upanisads: Śreyah, Preyah, Niśreyah
5. Purusartha Chatushtaya: Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha.

Unit II: Individual Ethics: vyaktidharma and Niti

1. Svabhāva, Svadharma, Sthitaprajña
2. Highest Goal; Synthesis of Karma, Jñāna and Bhakti Marga.
3. Niskāma Karma Yoga and Lokasamgraha
4. Law of Karma.

Unit III: Important Thinkers and Their Important Niti for Society

1. Brihaspati
2. Shukra
3. Kautilya
4. Kamandak
5. Bhishma Niti
6. Vidur Niti
7. Yudhisthir Niti
8. Bhrtrihari's Niti
9. Nit-tatva in Manusmriti
10. Panch Tantra and Hitopadesh

Unit IV: Dandaniti- State, Society, and Dharma

1. Rajneeti in Nitishastras
2. Rajneeti and Dharma
3. Rajneeti and Society
4. Qualities and Character of King
5. Danda-Vidhan in different crimes
6. Taxation in Nitishastras.
7. Sam, Dan, danda, Bhed: Four upayas and essential gunas.
8. Secret Police: appointment, Division, and duties.
9. Appointment of Ministers, ambassador, and other royal officials and their work.
10. War-related ethics in Scriptures.

References:

1. Sitaram Jayaram Joshi. 1933. Niti Manjari of Dya Dviveda. Saligram Sharma, Banaras.
2. Khemraj Shrikrishnadas. 1961. Kamndakiyanitisarh. Mumbai
3. Prof. Sriyut Prannath Vidyalankar. 1923. Kautilya Arthshstra, Lahore.
4. Bimal Krishna Matilal (Editor). 1992. Moral Dilemmas in the Mahabharata. Indian Institute of Advance Study, Shimla.
5. R. Samashastrri. 1999. Kautilya's Arthshastra. Parimal Publication Delhi.
6. Ganapati Sastri. 1920. Kamndaka's Nitisar. Trivandrum Sanskrit Series. Kerala.
7. Madhvacharya's. 1900. Parasar Smriti. Trivandrum Sanskrit Series. Kerala.
8. Aiyangar, K.V. Rangaswamy. 1916. Some Aspect of Ancient Indian Polity. Madras.
9. Veda Vyas, Shri. Vidura Niti.2018. Chaukhamba Sanskrit Sirij, Varanasi.
10. Bhartrihari. Nitishatakam. 2021. Chaukhamba Surbharati Prakashan