

Course Description:

The course will go over such types of Indian scriptures as the Vedas and Upanishads, the Bhagavad Gita, the Puranas etc. It will examine the history of their emergence and prevalence, the key themes their composers were interested in, their purpose and relevance today. As narrative texts, they require specific methods of study at which the course will look next. Then, the vision of the divine feminine and masculine characteristic of the Puranas will be explored. The course will showcase the vision of the feminine divine in Devi Mahatmya of the Markandeya Purana. Finally, it will look at the worship of Nature in the Puranas as worship of the feminine principle

Learning Objectives:

The objectives of the course include imparting to the scholar a good understanding of the history of Indian scriptures. The scholar will be gain familiarity with the different types of scriptures on the Indian tapestry. They will be able to name the key themes prevalent in Indian scriptures, speak about the purpose of the same and understand their relevance today.

The course also will introduce the Puranas as a body of Indian scriptures to the scholar. They will understand what distinguishes the Puranas from other Indic scriptures. The will also learn the relevant methods for grappling with the Puranas as narrative texts. Furthermore, the scholar will see how the feminine and masculine divine principles are represented in the Puranas. The scholar will explore the Devi Mahatmya of the Markandeya Purana and gain an understanding of this foundational Shakta text and its key themes as they relate to the course. Finally, a parallel will be drawn between the worship of nature in the Puranas and the worship of the divine feminine for the scholar to understand how the puranas view the relationship between manifest nature and shakti.

Pedagogy for the course:

The course will be taught via text studies and extensive discussions of the same.

Detailed Syllabus:

Unit I:History of Indian Scriptures: earliest dated texts -

Unit II: Types of scriptures:

Unit III: Feminine Divine in the Puranas, Methods for studying Purana

Unit IV:Purpose

Unit V: Nature worship as worship of the feminine in Purana, Devi Mahatmya:

References and Text Books:

- 1) Brockington, J. (1996): The Sacred Thread. Edinburgh University Press.

- 2) Flood, G. (1996): *An Introduction to Hinduism*. Cambridge University Press.
- 3) Klostermaier, K. (1996): *Hinduism: A Short Introduction*. Oneworld Press.
- 4) Knott, K. (2000): *Hinduism: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press.
- 5) Olivelle, P. (1998): *The Upanishads*. Oxford University Press.
- 6) Cowell, E.B. and Gough, A.E. trans (2004) *The Sarva-Darsana-Samgraha of Madhava Acharya*, Sri Satguru Publications
- 7) Hamilton, Sue (2001) *Indian Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press
- 8) Hirianna, M. (1985) *The Essentials of Indian Philosophy*, George Allen & Unwin
- 9) King, Richard (1999) *Indian Philosophy: An Introduction to Hindu and Buddhist Thought*, Edinburgh University Press

Course Outcomes:

CO1: Understand the vireos scriptures of India

CO2: Finding the similarity in Yogic scriptures and Tantric Scriptures.

CO3: Understanding the Tantric scriptures contribution to the Yogic practices.

Evaluation Pattern:

Unit No	Essay writing	Interweave	End semester	Total
1			10	23
2			9	19
3			10	18
4			11	25
5			10	15
Total	25	25	50	100