



GUJARAT TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

Syllabus for M. A. in Hindu Studies, 2nd Semester

Branch: MH

Branch Code: 01

Subject Name: WESTERN METHODS FOR UNDERSTANDING DISCOURSES

Subject Code: 1420102

**With effective
from academic
year 2022-23**

Course Description: Majority of the western theories are based on Hindu Philosophical thought. Many western theories are influenced by Sanskrit linguistics and syntactical context. Saussure, Derrida, Emerson and many others had propounded their theories on the basis of Upanishads and other Sanskrit critical text. This paper provides an opportunity to compare and contrast the western methods and their discourses in the context of Indian knowledge system.

Relation to

Marxism, Structuralism, New Historicism, Ethnic studies and Psycho analysis.

Course Objective: The primary objective of this paper is to understand Traditional Western Restrictions on limits of free inquiry.

This will enhance the understanding of western methods and theories in the context of Indian knowledge system in the areas of critical approaches.

Learning Outcome

On completion of the course students will be able to :

LO 1 –Develop a good understanding of **analytical methods** of West.

LO 2 – Achieve a good understanding of western discourses and develop an ability to make a comparison of western methods in the context of Ancient Hindu discourse.

LO 3 – Acquire knowledge of various interrelated philosophies of the Indian and western knowledge system

Course Content – Core -VI

UNIT-I Western Methods for Understanding Discourses - 1

1. Traditional Western Restrictions on limits of Free Inquiry
2. Traditional Methods (Historical, Biographical, etc.)
3. Formalism and New Criticism: Importance of form and Literariness But Not of Author

UNIT-II Western Methods for Understanding Discourses - 2

1. Marxism and Critical Theory
 - a. Role of Class and Economics As Analytical Devices
 - b. Critical Theory - A Theory with a Purpose: A Review of its History and The Intention of Advance Leftist Thought in Europe
 - c. Gramsci and “Hegemony”
2. Structuralism and Post-Structuralism
 - a. Saussure, Influence of Sanskrit Linguistics and Consequential Differences (Words Have No Inherent Meanings)
 - b. Emphasis on Objectivity, Scientific Approach
3. Post-Structuralism
 - a. Derrida and influence of Upanishadic Relativism
 - b. Deconstruction – Loss of Reference and Endless Deferral of Meaning, Reviewer at Liberty to Craft Meanings

UNIT-III Western Methods for Understanding Discourses -3

1. New Historicism



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- a. The Impossibility of Neutral Inquiry and Need to Make Historical Value Judgments
 - b. No Distinction Between “Great” and “Popular” Literatures: Power Play and Subversion
 - c. Strong Interest in “Non-Normative” Behaviors: Peasant Revolts, Exorcism, Cross-Dressing, i.e. the “Other”.
2. Ethnic Studies, Orientalism, Post-Modernism, Post-Colonial Criticism and Gender Studies
Western Methods for Understanding Discourses - 4

UNIT-IV

1. Psychological Analysis (Jungian, and Freudian)
2. Cartesian Approaches in areas of Cognition and Science
3. Going beyond “Reductionism”: Role of Indian Knowledge System
4. Analysis of a Contemporary Text using Indian Methods (as explained in Methods I and II Courses, and Appropriate Western approaches)

REFERENCE BOOKS:

1. Williams, Patrick and Laura Chrisman, Colonial Discourse and Post-Colonial Theory: A Reader, Columbia Press, NY
2. GP Gooch, History and Historians in the 19th Century, London, 1913,
3. Marc Block, The Historian Craft, NY, 1953
4. Lerner Gerda, The Creation of Patriarchy, Oxford University Press, 1986.
5. Joan Scott, Gender and Politics of History, Oxford University Press, 1989.
6. Rubert Young, White Mythologies, History and the West, Routledge, 1990.
7. Black Jeremy, Studying History, Macmillan, 1997.
8. Clark Kitson, G-Research Methodology and Historical Investigation, Cambridge, University Press, 1972
9. Wang and Iggers, Marxist Historiographies: A Global Perspective, Routledge, London, 2015.
10. Fredric Johnson, Postmodernism, or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism, Duke University Press, NC, USA, 1989.
11. Christopher Butler, Postmodernism: A Very Short Introduction, Oxford University, London, 2008.
12. Edward Said, Orientalism, Vintage, NY, 1979.
13. Edward Said, Culture and Imperialism, Publisher, Chatto & Windus, 1993.
14. Donald D. Parmler, Structuralism and Poststructuralism for Beginners, For Beginners Press, 2007.