



GUJARAT TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

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

Branch: MH

Branch Code: 01

Subject Name: Dharma and Karma Vimarsh

Subject Code: 1420104

With effective
from academic
year 2022-23

Course Description: Indian concepts of Karma and Dharma are affecting the lives of an individual at every stage. Karma is any action. In Hinduism human's pain and suffering depend on the Karmic life in the past and present. Hindu dharma is analogous to a fruit tree, with its roots representing the Vedas and Upanishad, the thick trunk symbolizes the spiritual experiences of sages. Dharma has no synonym in any other languages as it is too broad. This subject will focus upon the basic concepts and the discourses related to them.

Relation to

Nature of Dharma & Karma, Sanskara, Srutis, smritis, Dharma Sashtra, Principles in Vaidic, Jain, Budhdha and shikh tradition.

Course Objective: The primary objective of this paper is to understand Traditional concepts of Dharma and Karma in Hindu philosophy.

This will enhance the understanding of Hindu Darshan and principle of Karma 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 Hindu philosophy

LO 2 – Achieve a good understanding of Hindu Darshan and develop an ability to comprehend the concepts with the help of puranic stories.

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

Course Content – Core -VIII

Unit-I Dharma and Karma Vimarsh-01

1. Dharma – Survey of Definitions (Srutis, Smriti, Kalpa, Dharma-shastras, Across Traditions)
 - a. Relationship with Responsibilities and Swarbhava
 - b. Pravṛti & Nivṛttimulaka Dharma for Abhyudaya and Nishryas (Purushartha)
2. Dharma- As the Organizing Principle at All Levels in Vaidik, Jain, Bauddha, and Sikh Traditions
 - a. Personal (Asramadharm) and freedom to choose in Varnasrama Dharma.
 - b. Society& Community: Achara, Vyavahara, Prayachitta and Related Jurisprudence.
 - c. The responsibilities of the State and the King: Raja-dharma.

Unit-II Dharma and Karma Vimarsh- 02

1. Primacy of Dharma Over Belief and Worship Practices
 - a. Definitions of Who is a True Vaisnava (Vaisnavajanto), a True Shaiva, a True Sikh (Dehu Shiva bar Moheaiso), a True Bauddha (The Eight-Fold Path)
 - b. Evolving Nature of Dharma based on a series of Realizations: Dharma not AFrozen Entity.
2. Explanations of Terms of Dharma, Religion, Pantha, Mazhaba, and Sampradaya

Unit-III Dharma and karma Vimarsh-03

1. Karma: Survey of Definitions
 - a. Karma, Vikarma, and Akarma (Bhagavadgita).
 - b. Six categories: Kamyā, Nitya, Nisiddha, Naimittika, Prayaschitta and Upasana
2. a. Provision of Sakama Karma for an individual.



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b. Niskama karma: Brahma or Sarvam as the real doer
Humility and doing for the sake of responsibility alone

Unit-IV Dharma and Karma Vimarsh-04

1. Choice of intention on Karma, But the Lack of Absolute Control (Adhikara) on its Consequences (Karma-Phala); The Inescapability from fruits of Karma.
2. Karma and Samskara: Story of Raja Bharata who became a Deer from Bhagvata-

Project :(Credit:2) Assignment / Book review

REFERENCE BOOKS:

1. Bhagwandas and Annie Besant, *Sanatana Dharma: An Advance Text Book of Hindu Religion and Ethics*, The Theosophical Publishing House, Madras, 1940.
2. Ashok Vohra, Arvind Sharma, Mrinal Miri *Dharma - The Categorical Imperative*, D.K. Printworld, New delhi, 2005.
3. Acharya Hastimala, Gaj Singh Rathore, Premraj Bujawal, *Jain Dharma kā Maulika Itihāsa, Vols. I & II*, Jaina Itihas Samiti, Lal Bhavan, Jaipur, 4th Ed., 1999.
4. Acharya, Narendradeva, *Bauddha Dharma Darśana*, Bihar Rashtrabhasha Parishad, Patna, 1956.
5. Brajakishore Swain *The Dharmasastra : An Introductory analysis* Akshaya Prakashan, Delhi, 2004.
6. Chousalkar Ashok S., *Social & Political Implications of Concepts of Justice and Dharma*, Mittal Publications, Delhi, 1986.
7. Anantanand Rambachan, *The Hindu vision*, Motilal Banaridaas, Delhi, 1999.
8. Vincent Sekhar, *Dharma in Brahmanic, Buddhist and Jain traditions*, Sri Satguru Publication, Delhi, 2003.
9. Adya Prasad Mishra, *The Development and Place of Bhakti in Sankara Vedanta*, Munshiram Manoharlal, Delhi, 1967.
10. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, *Indian Religious Thought*, Orient Publications, Delhi, 2006.