

## **Title of the Paper: Vedic Tradition**

### **Course Code:**

### **Course Description:**

The Vedic Tradition course provides a comprehensive exploration of the concepts, literature, rituals, and philosophical foundations of the Vedic tradition. This syllabus outlines the course objectives and learning outcomes, focusing on developing knowledge and understanding of Vedic literature, rituals, philosophy, and their cultural and historical context. Students will engage in critical thinking and analysis to interpret and evaluate Vedic texts and ideas from multiple perspectives. The course aims to foster an appreciation for the rich cultural and intellectual heritage of the Vedic tradition and its ongoing influence in various aspects of Indian society.

### **Course Objectives:**

1. To understand the concepts of Saanatana, Hindu, Hindutva, and Hinduism.
2. To gain knowledge of the Vedic literature, including the Rigveda, Yajurveda, Samaveda, and Atharvaveda, and their historical and cultural context.
3. To acquire familiarity with Vedic rituals and practices, such as fire ceremonies and the chanting of mantras, understanding their symbolism, purpose, and philosophical foundations.
4. To explore Hindu philosophy as found in the Vedic tradition, including concepts of the self (Atman), ultimate reality (Brahman), and paths to spiritual liberation (Moksha).
5. To examine ancient India's social and cultural systems as reflected in the Vedic tradition, including the varna system, the role of Brahmins, the importance of rituals, and the concept of dharma.
6. To reflect on the application of Vedic wisdom in modern contexts, considering how Vedic principles and practices can address contemporary challenges and promote personal well-being, as well as foster a harmonious relationship with the natural world.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

**LO1:** Knowledge of Vedic Literature: Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the various texts and scriptures that comprise the Vedic tradition, such as the Rigveda, Yajurveda, Samaveda, Atharvaveda, and the Brahmanas, Aranyakas, and Upanishads associated with them. They will learn about the content, structure, and significance of these texts.

**LO2:** Understanding of Vedic Philosophy: Students will explore the philosophical concepts and ideas presented in the Vedic tradition, including the nature of reality, cosmology, metaphysics, ethics, and the pursuit of knowledge. They will analyze the teachings of prominent Vedic philosophers and their contributions to Indian philosophy.

**LO3:** Familiarity with Vedic Rituals and Practices: Students will gain knowledge of the various rituals, ceremonies, and practices that form an integral part of the Vedic tradition.



They will study the significance and symbolism behind these rituals and their role in promoting spiritual growth and well-being.

**LO4:**Cultural and Historical Context: Students will develop an understanding of the historical and cultural context in which the Vedic tradition emerged and evolved. They will explore the social, political, and religious aspects of ancient Vedic society and its impact on subsequent Indian civilization.

**LO5:**Critical Thinking and Analysis: Through the study of Vedic Traditions, students will enhance their critical thinking and analytical skills. They will learn to evaluate and interpret Vedic texts, rituals, and philosophical ideas from multiple perspectives, fostering a nuanced and well-informed approach to the subject matter.

**LO6:** Appreciation of Vedic Heritage: The course aims to instill an appreciation for the rich cultural and intellectual heritage of the Vedic tradition. Students will develop an understanding of the continuing influence of Vedic thought in various aspects of Indian society, such as language, arts, literature, and spirituality.

## 1. Hindu Dharma

- 1.1 Debates on constructing the category “Hinduism”
- 1.2 Nature of Vedic Dharma and culture
- 1.3 Vedic Literature

## 2. Introduction to Later Vedic Literature

- 2.1 Upanishad
- 2.2 Epic
- 2.3 Purana

## 3. Hindu Society

- 3.1 Varna Ashram Dhrama
- 3.2 Purushartha (Four Goals of Life)
- 3.3 Samskaras (Life Cycle rituals )

## 4. Major Schools of Hindu Thought

- 4.1 Samkhya –Yoga
- 4.2 Nyaya-vaisheshik
- 4.3 Purva Mimnsha – Vedanta

## 5. Contemporary Hindu rituals, Debates and Discourses

- 5.1 Religious Expressions (Symbols, Puja, Vrata ,Tirtha, Icons)
- 5.2 Contemporary Debates ( Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Dayanand Saraswati, Swami Vivekanand , Sri Arbindo and Mahatma Gandhi)
- 5.3 Contemporary Discourses (Spirituality , Ecology , Women Empowerment, Wellness)



### Suggested Readings:

1. Balbir Singh, The Conceptual Framework of Indian Philosophy, The Macmillan Co. of India, New Delhi, 1976.
2. Barth, A., Religions of India, S. Chand & Co., New Delhi, 1969.
3. Bhattacharya, S.H. (ed.), The Cultural Heritage of India, Vols, I & II, The Rama Krishna Mission, Calcutta, 1969.
4. Gupta, S.N. Das, A History of Indian Philosophy, Vol. I, Cambridge University Press, New York, 1969.
5. H. Hiriyanna, Outlines of Indian Philosophy, George Allen & Unwin Ltd., London, 1931.
6. Hume, R.E., The Thirteen Principal Upanishads, Oxford University Press, New York, 1975.
7. Keith, A.B., The Religion and Philosophy of Vedas and Upanishads, Moti Lal Banarsi Dass, New Delhi, 1970.
8. S. Radhakrishnan, Indian Philosophy, Vol. I, George Allen & Unwin, London, 1971
9. The Vedic Age: The History And Culture Of The Indian People (Volume 1), R. C. Majumdar
10. वैदिकवाङ्मयस्येतिहासः HISTORY OF VEDIC LITERATURE, जगदीशचन्द्र मिश्र
11. वैदिक साहित्य एवं संस्कृति, डा० कपिलदेव द्विवेदी
12. वैदिक साहित्य का इतिहास, डा० जयदेव वेदालंकार

