

SYLLABI FOR

Certificate Course in Indian Mystical Thought



**CENTRE FOR COMPARATIVE RELIGIONS AND
CIVILIZATIONS**
School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Central University of Jammu

Certificate Course in Indian Mystical Thought

Course Objectives:

- To acquaint the students with the rich spiritual and religious traditions of India.
- To enable students to be analytical and critical in comprehending and articulating their cultural traditions.

PAPER – 1 – INTRODUCTION TO MYSTICAL THOUGHT

Objective:

- To develop the capacities of the students in the reception of world views and traditions that have come down to us from our ancestors.

Unit I – Definitions, Key Concepts and Approaches

1. Definitions
2. Key Concepts
3. Approaches

Unit II – Mystic Thought across Cultures

1. Judeo-Christian-Islamic
2. Hellenic-Roman
3. Chinese and Far Eastern

Unit III – Overview of Major Responses

1. Philosophical
2. Theological
3. Scientific

Unit IV – Contemporary Debates

1. Mystic Thought and Secularization Debate
2. Unity or Transcendent Unity of Religions?
3. Traditional Religious, Post-Metaphysical and New Age Approaches

Unit V – Major Contributors to Mystic Thought

1. Plotinus
2. Ibn Arabi
3. Meister Eckhart

PAPER – 2 – MYSTICAL THOUGHT IN CLASSICAL AND MEDIEVAL ERA

Objective:

- To develop the capacity for comparative and analytical comprehension of the tradition.

Unit I – Vedic – Upanishadic

1. Selections from Vedas
2. Selections from Upanishads
3. Selections from Ashtwarka Gita

Unit II – Buddhist and Jain

1. Buddhist - Jain dialogue with Vedic Tradition
2. Selections from Nagarjuna's *Madhyamikakarika*
3. Selections from C. R. Jain's *Key to Knowledge*

Unit III – Mystical Interpretations of Epics and Literary Texts

1. Ramayana
2. Mahabharat
3. Abhigyan Shakunthalam of Kalidas

Unit IV – Agamic

1. Selections from Siva Sutra
2. Selections from Tirumantiram
3. Selections from Abhinavagupta's Texts

Unit V – Bhakthi Tradition

1. Alavars
2. Nayanmars
3. Guru Nanak and Baba Farid

PAPER – 3 – MYSTICAL THOUGHT IN MODERN AND POST MODERN ERA

Objectives:

- To make students appreciate contemporary expression/adaptation of classical mystical thought.
- To help students engage with resources treating contemporary crisis in values.

Unit I – Ramakrishna Paramahansa

1. Selections from the Gospel of Ramakrishna
2. Resources for Contemporary Challenges
3. Bondage and Liberation

Unit II – Ramana Maharishi

1. Selections from 'Who am I?'
2. Resources for Contemporary Challenges
3. Critique of the self in Postmodern Thought

Unit III – Sri Aurobindo

1. Selections from Life Divine and Aphorisms
2. Comparison with Heidegger
3. Affirmative Transcendence

Unit IV – Narayanan Guru

1. Selections from Vedanta Sutras
2. Resources for Contemporary Challenges
2. Liberation Theology

Unit V – Sufi Masters in India

1. Selections from Fazl-e-Haq Khairabadi and Inayat Khan
2. Resources for Contemporary Challenges
3. Spirituality vis-a-vis Art and Philosophy in Islamic Tradition

PAPER – 4 – SAGE POETS

Objectives:

- To enable the students to appreciate the aesthetic and linguistic beauty of the texts that have come down to us from the traditions.
- To develop the capacity to articulate their comprehension of the tradition in contemporary idiom.

Unit I – Lal Ded and Nund Rishi

1. Selections from Lal Vak
2. Selection from Slokas of Nund Rishi
3. A Comparative Study

Unit II – Shamas Faquir and Samad Mir

1. Selections from collected works of Shamas Faquir
2. Selections from collected works of Samad Mir
3. A Comparative Study

Unit III – Khawaja Ghulam Farid and Sultan Bhahu

1. Selections from collected works of Khawaja Ghulam Farid
2. Selections from collected works of Sultan Bhahu
3. A Comparative Study

Unit IV – Manikkavasakar and Ramalinga Vallalar

1. Selections from *Tiruvasakam*
2. Selections from *Tiruvartpa*
3. A Comparative Study

Unit V – Amir Khushru and Kabir

1. Selections from Amir Khushru
2. Selections from Kabir
3. A Comparative Study