



Department of Sanskrit
University of Delhi
Under Graduate Course for Sanskrit
B.A. Honours & Programme Under UGCF-22

DSE 2: Indian Culture and Social Issues

Credit distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Pre-requisite of the course	Department Offering the Course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Indian Culture and Social Issues	04	3	1	0	Semester IV	Sanskrit

[A] Course Objectives:

This paper is designed to

- introduce nuances of Indian culture to students
- to show how cultural traditions have evolved.
- To engage them in debates about certain significant socio-cultural issues.
- to understand the status and rights of women in ancient Indian society.
- Creating awareness about the elasticity and adaptability of Hindu code of conduct as its essential quality, with the change and demand of time.
- To inculcate among the students the capability of debating and ways of arousing valid questions within and to the tradition and find out the efficient answer to cope up with the modern problems

[B] Course Learning Outcomes:

The first unit of this section aims at

- evolving the basic understanding of culture and civilization at large dimensions, on the basis of which they will be able to evaluate Indian culture in modern terminologies.
- enabling them to understand evolution of Indian culture through different ages from ancient times to the modern age with the symbiosis of alien elements e.g. Islamic and other foreign traditions.
- highlighting the undercurrent of Sanskrit-led culture in vernacular as well as urban shades of cultural life.
- to perceive India's various cultural identities as enriched by Sanskrit language and literature.
- acquainting with the fundamental principles of indigenous law and statutes from original Sanskrit sources e.g. Mahabharata, Manusmriti, Yajñvalkyā Smṛiti etc.

Detailed Syllabus



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Unit 1- Culture and Civilization

1 Credit

What is culture?
 Culture and Civilization What is 'Indian' culture?
 Culture in a multi-cultural society.

Unit 2: Bharatiya Sabhyata

1 Credit

Vedic Sabhyatā
 Sindhu Sabhyatā
 Sanskrit in Other tradition

Unit 3: Culture as Reflected in Sanskrit Tradition

1 Credit

Pandavani, Versions of the Rāma legend in Sanskrit literature –Bhāsa's
 Pratimānāṭakam, Bhavabhūti's Uttarāmacaritam, Raghuvaṃśam of Kalidasa,
 Somadeva's Kathāsaritsāgara, Rāmāyaṇamañjari of Rājaśekhara.
 Sanskrit themes in traditional dance forms in Kerela - Yakṣagana, Gītagovinda and
 Odissi.

Unit 4: Society in Sanskrit Tradition

1 Credit

Law and change – Dharma as an ever-evolving phenomenon
 (Manusmṛti, Chapter 2, verses 6 and 12 with the commentary of Medhātithi;
 Lingat, Robert: Classical Law of India, Chapter 1, pp 3-7; tradition – pp 9-14; good
 customs – 14-17.
 Mathur, A.D.: Medieval Hindu Law, Chapter I, pp 1-8)
 Traditional varṇa-hierarchy Vajrasūcī by Āśvaghoṣa

Essential Readings

1. प्राचीन भारतीय सामाजिक एवम् आर्थिक समस्याएँ, मध्यप्रदेश हिंदी अकादमी, भोपाल, 1976
2. **Basham, A.L.** *The Wonder That Was India*. Picador India, 2019, Hindi Ed. Shivrul Agarwal and Company, 2020.
3. Bharadwaj, Ramesh: Vajrasūcī of Āśvaghoṣa (Varṇa-Jāti through the Ages), Vidyanidhi,
4. Mathur A.D., Medieval Hindu Law, Oxford University Press, New Delhi 2006, Chapter 1, pp 1-8
5. Sharma Braj Narain, Social Life in Northern India, New Delhi, 1966
6. Pandey Raj Bali: Hindu Sanskara, (English) Delhi, 2nd Revised Edition 1969, Reprinted 1991
7. Prabhu, P.H., Hindu Social Organisation, Popular Prakashan, Mumbai, 1998, pp. 257-283.
8. Lingat, Robert, The Classical law of India, Thomson Press, Delhi, 1973.
9. Proceedings of the Sagar University seminar on 'Islāmīkā Sanskrit paramparākoyogadāna

Recommended Readings



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10. Bhagwadgita
11. उपाध्याय बलदेव, वैदिक साहित्य और संस्कृति, चौखम्बा विद्या भवन, वाराणसी
12. पाण्डेय राजबली, हिंदू संस्कार, चौखम्बा विद्या भवन, वाराणसी
13. ज्ञानी शिवदत्त, भारतीय संस्कृति, राजकमल प्रकाशन, दिल्ली, 2003

Examination scheme and mode: Subject to directions from the Examination Branch/University of Delhi from time to time