

GE 11: Introduction to Jain Philosophy

Credit distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the Course			Eligibility criteria	Prerequisite of the course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Introduction to Jain Philosophy	04	3	1	0	Semester II Passed	Working Knowledge of Sanskrit

Learning Objectives

This course provides an introduction to Jainism, one of the oldest and most influential religious traditions of India. Students will learn about the history, beliefs, practices, and ethical principles of Jainism. The course will also explore Jain contributions to Indian culture, philosophy, and literature. By the end of the course, students will have a basic understanding of Jainism and its significance in Indian society and beyond.

Learning outcomes

- To familiarize students with the history and basic principles of Jainism
- To explore the role of Jainism in Indian society and culture
- To examine the ethical principles and practices of Jainism
- To introduce students to Jain literature and philosophy
- To encourage critical thinking and reflection on Jainism and its relevance to contemporary issues.

Detailed Syllabus

Unit I

Introduction to Jainism

12 hrs

- Historical background of Jainism
- Basic concepts of Jainism: karma, dharma, ahimsa,
- Introduction to Jain scriptures: Agamas and commentaries
- Major Texts and Philosophers of Jain Philosophy

Unit II

Jain Philosophy

12 hrs

- Jaina Ontology- Dravya, Guna, Paryaya, Concept of seven Dravyas, Astikaaya and Anastikaay
- Jain philosophy: the three principles (Anekantavada, Syadvada, and Nayavada)
- Contributions of Jainism to Indian philosophy
- Jain beliefs about the nature of the soul and the universe

Unit III
Jain Ethics

12 hrs

Jain practices: meditation, fasting, rituals, etc.
Principle of ahimsa (non-violence) and its implications
Jain ethics and environment

Unit IV
Jainism and Contemporary Society

09 hrs

Role of Jainism in Indian society and culture
Jainism in the modern world

Essential/recommended readings

1. Bhartiya, Mahesh - Bhāratīya Darśana Kī Pramukha Samasyāḥ, Ghaziabad, 1999.
2. Bhartiya, Mahesh - Causation in Indian Philosophy, Ghaziabad, 1975.
3. Chatterjee, S. C. & D. M. Datta - Introduction to Indian Philosophy, Calcutta University, Calcutta, 1968 (Hindi Translation also).
4. Hiriyanna, M. - Outline of Indian Philosophy, London, 1956 (also Hindi Translation).
5. O’Flaherty, Wendy Doniger – Karma and Rebirth in Classical Indian Tradition, MLBD, Delhi, 1983.
6. Pandey, Ram Chandra - Panorama of Indian Philosophy (also Hindi version), M.L.B.D., Delhi, 1966.
7. Radhakrishnan, S. - Indian Philosophy, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 1990.
8. Raja, Kuhnian - Some Fundamental Problems in Indian Philosophy, MLBD, Delhi, 1974.
9. Rishi, Uma Shankar (Ed.), Sarva-Darshana_Samgraha, Chowkhamba Vidyabhawan, Varanasi, 1984.
10. Shastri, Kuppuswami, A Primer of Indian Logic, 1951 (only introduction).

Additional Resources:

1. Jainism: An Introduction by Jeffery D. Long
2. The Jain Path: Ancient Wisdom for the West by Aidan Rankin

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