

GE 13: Introduction to Smṛti Literature

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 Smṛti Literature	04	3	1	0	Semester II Passed	Working Knowledge of Sanskrit

Learning Objectives

The aim of this course is to make the students acquainted with salient ancient Indian social features and aspects propounded in various Smṛti texts. Smṛti literature is a corpus of ancient Indian society. One can find the root of Indian social, and administrative issues and ancient Indian jurisprudence in Smṛti literature. This course provides an opportunity to study and understand ancient Indian Institutions through the original text of Smṛtis.

Learning outcomes

After the completion of this course, students will be able to connect the theoretical model propounded by the Smṛti texts in the forms of the Varnaashram system, Education, marriage, and the Rights of women. The learners will be able to see Dharma as a dynamic institution. This will free them from the traces of fundamentalism and they should become more open-minded and liberal. Learning and developing a critical approach to the institution of caste and women's issues will make the participants sensitive to discriminating practices. Students will be able to understand the importance of Smṛti literature and they will become unbiased towards the myths regarding various Smṛtis.

Detailed Syllabus

Unit I 09 hrs

Smṛti Literature

Brief Introduction of Smṛti

Concept of Smṛti

Relation between Smṛti and Dharmashastra.

Some Prominent Smṛti and Author- Manu, Yajnyvalkya, Shukracharya, Somdeva, Medhatithi, Vigyaneshwara

Unit II**12 hrs****Social Institutions**

Dharma: Meaning of Dharma, sources of dharma (Manu.2.1, 6, 10, 12) Yaj. 1.7 Ten fold of Dharma & its versions Manu. 6.91-94

Varna and Ashram System: An organized society, Concept, Composition, purpose and Relevance of Varnashram (Manu. 1.87, 10.4, 1.88, 1.89, 9.326, 1.90, 1.91, Manu.10.65, 9.335, 4.245, 2.103,2.168)

Ashram System: Bringing balance in human life

Ashram dharma (Mitakshra Teeka on Yaj. 1.1), Different Ashramas depicted in Smṛti-Literature. Marriage (Manu. 3.4), Panch-Mahayagya 3.69-76, 82, Importance of Grihastha ashram 3.77-81, 6.82-90, Social Responsibility of Grihastha.

Unit: III**12 hrs****Social Institutions**

Education: Attaining knowledge: Beginning of education; Manu 2, Yaj. 1.10-115, Gurukul; Manu chap 2 and 3 Yaj 1.10-115, rules regarding dressing, eating, rising up, sleeping, behaving etc.

Marriage: Marriage as a social institution for the regulation of the relation between man & woman; forms of marriage; manu 3.27-37, Yaj. 1.58, a woman has right to select a suitable husband for herself; manu 9.90-91, Yaj. 1.89 Qualifications of bride and bridegroom; manu 3.2-11 Yaj- 1.35, 52-55 Narada 12.8-11, Dissolution of marriage; Manu 9.72-74 Yaj. 1.76 Narada 12.16-19

Unit IV**12 hrs****Women and society**

Respect of Women: Manu 3.55-58, 62, 9.26, Yaj- 1.82, Women Safety Manu 9.3, 9.5-7, Yaj. 1.76, 85, Women are not responsible for wicket progeny Manu 9.9, 33, 36, 40, No selling of girl child Manu 3.51, 53, 54, 9.8, 100, Yaj. 1.64

Property rights of women: Right of ownership of property; Manu 9.192-195, 9.217 Yaj. 1.76 Narada 4.14, Protection of her property; Manu 8.28-29, 8.350, Right of Inheritance; Manu 9.118, 130, 131 Narada 4.13 Yaj. 2.115 Never take property of a woman: Manu. 3.52, 9.200, Things can't be counted under women's property Manu. 9.92, 199

Women's Empowerment; Manu 9.11, Right of Education; Manu 5.150, Right of testimony; Manu 8.68, Narada 4.155, Responsibility of Women: Yaj. 1.83, 87

References:**Compulsory Readings:**

1. नारदस्मृति: लेखक- ब्रजकिशोर स्वार्द्ध चौखम्बा संस्कृत संस्थान वाराणसी वि- सं- 2065
2. मनुस्मृति: श्री कुल्लुकभट्ट टीका सहित व्याख्याकार हरगोविन्दशास्त्री चौखम्बा संस्कृत संस्थान

वाराणसी 1992

3. याजवल्क्यस्मृतिः उमेशचन्द्रपाण्डेय
4. स्मृतिचन्द्रिका श्रीयाजिकदेवणभट्टप्रणीत नागप्रकाशन 1988
5. काणे पी-वी- धर्मशास्त्र का इतिहास (हिन्दी अनुवादक-अर्जुन चौबे) हिन्दी समिति प्रभाग लखनऊ

Additional Resources:

1. काणे पी-वी- धर्मशास्त्र का इतिहास (हिन्दी अनुवादक-अर्जुन चौबे) हिन्दी समिति प्रभाग लखनऊ
2. जोशी- लक्ष्मण शास्त्री धर्मकोष प्रजनपथशाला मण्डल बई सतरा वि- सं 1994
3. ठाकुर- लक्ष्मीदत्त प्रमुख स्मृतियों का अध्ययन प्रथम संस्करण 1965 हिन्दी समिति सूचना विभाग लखनऊ
4. स्मृतिसंदर्भ, संशोधित संस्करण 1988 प्रकाशन नाग प्रकाशन
5. भारतीय संस्कृति, डॉ. किरण टण्डन, ईस्टर्न बुक लिंक्स
6. भारतीय संस्कृति, डॉ. प्रीति प्रभा गोयल, राजस्थानी ग्रंथागार जोधपुर

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