

GE-18: Basics of Hindu Studies

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		
Hindu Studies	04	3	1	0	Twelfth Passed	Working Knowledge of Sanskrit

Learning Objectives

Hindu Studies is an interdisciplinary course that explores the rich traditions, beliefs, practices, and philosophies of Hinduism. This course provides a comprehensive understanding of Hinduism, one of the world's oldest and complex religions. Students will delve into the historical, cultural, philosophical, and social aspects of Hinduism, examining its scriptures, rituals, deities, festivals, and ethical teachings. Through a combination of lectures, readings, discussions, and experiential learning, students will gain a deep appreciation for the diverse facets of Hinduism and its relevance in the modern world.

Learning outcomes

After completion of this course, students will be able to

- Develop a comprehensive understanding of the origins, historical development, and diversity within Hinduism.
- Examine the major philosophical schools and concepts within Hinduism, such as Vedanta, Yoga, and Bhakti.
- Explore the scriptures, including the Vedas, Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita, and Puranas, and their significance in Hinduism.
- Investigate the practices, rituals, and symbolism associated with Hindu worship and daily life.
- Analyze the social, cultural, and ethical dimensions of Hinduism and their impact on individuals and communities.
- Foster critical thinking, research skills, and the ability to engage in respectful dialogue about Hinduism.

Detailed Syllabus

Unit: I	10Hrs.
Introduction to Hinduism	
Introduction to key terms and concepts in Hinduism	
Historical background and cultural context of Hinduism	
Sacred Scriptures of Hinduism	
Vedas and their significance in Hinduism	
Introduction to the Upanishads and their philosophical teachings,	
Examination of the Bhagavad Gita and its role in Hindu thought.	
Unit: II	10Hrs.
Hindu Philosophical Systems	
Overview of the major philosophical schools in Hinduism	
Analysis of key concepts, including Atman, Brahman, Karma and Moksha	
Hindu Deities and Mythology	
Exploration of the major deities in Hinduism, including Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva, Devi, and their manifestations	
Unit: III	15Hrs.
Hindu Rituals and Worship	
Study of Hindu rituals and their role in religious and social life	
Examination of major Hindu festivals and their significance	
Exploration of sacred spaces, temples, and pilgrimage in Hinduism	
Ethics and Morality in Hinduism	
Analysis of Hindu ethical principles- dharma and karma	
Discussion on the concept of moral responsibility and the pursuit of righteousness in Hinduism.	
Unit: IV	10Hrs.
Contemporary Issues and Hinduism	
Exploration of the challenges and adaptations of Hinduism in the modern world	
Analysis of Hindu nationalism, secularism, and religious pluralism	
Reflection on the relevance of Hindu teachings and practices in addressing global challenges	
Essential/recommended readings	
1. The Hindus: An Alternative History" by Wendy Doniger	
2. Hinduism: A Very Short Introduction" by Kim Knott	
3. Introduction to Hinduism" by Gavin D. Flood	
4. The Bhagavad Gita" translated by Eknath Easwaran	
5. The Upanishads" translated by Swami Prabhavananda and Frederick Manchester	
6. Indian Philosophy: An Introduction to Hindu and Buddhist Thought" by Richard King	
7. The Cambridge Companion to Hinduism edited by Gavin D. Flood	
8. Hinduism: A Sourcebook edited by Wendy Doniger	
9. The Hindu World: An Encyclopedic Survey of Hinduism edited by Sushil Mittal and Gene Thursby	
10. Hinduism: Beliefs and Practices by Jeanine Miller	

Reference readings

1. The Rig Veda.
2. The Upanishads
3. The Bhagavad Gita
4. Hinduism: A Very Short Introduction by Kim Knott
5. The Hindus: An Alternative History by Wendy Doniger
6. Indian Philosophy: An Introduction to Hindu and Buddhist Thought" by Richard King
7. The Concept of the Goddess" by David Kinsley
8. The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Hinduism" edited by James G. Lochtefeld
9. A Sourcebook in Indian Philosophy" edited by Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and Charles A. Moore
10. Hindu Gods and Goddesses" by Swami Harshananda

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