
Political Science : Ideas in Indian Political Thought

Course Objective

This paper is designed for students who are from other disciplines and wish to have a basic understanding of the various themes that has shaped Indian society and politics. It revolves around key concepts based on original texts which would help the students to critically engage with the ideas.

Course Learning outcomes

- Students will be able to answer about the nature and form of statecraft that existed in Ancient India.
- They will be able to explain how the texts in ancient India interpreted Dharma and Danda
- Students will be able to answer what were sources and mechanisms to practice Nyaya in ancient India.
- They will be able to make distinction between Rashtra and Rajya.
- They will be able to explain the meaning and foundations of Varna and how are they different from caste.

Unit 1: Dharma and Danda: Kautilya

Unit 2: Gender: Tarabai Shinde

Unit 3: Culture and Nationalism: Vivekananda

Unit 4: Swaraj: Gandhi

Unit 5: Nyaya: Ambedkar

Unit 6: Hindutva: Savarkar

Unit 7: Integral Humanism: Deen Dayal Upadhyaya

Unit wise reading list

1. Dharma and Danda: Kautilya

Mehta, V.R. (1992) 'The Pragmatic Vision: Kautilya and His Successor', in Foundations of Indian Political Thought, Delhi: Manohar, pp. 88- 109.

Sharma, R S (2005), Aspects of Political Ideas and Institutions in Ancient India, Motilal Banarsidass, New Delhi pp 143-164