



Indraprastha College for Women University of Delhi

Work Plan for ODD SEMESTER – 2026

Course Name:	B. A. (H/P)
Paper Title:	Ethics and Values in Ancient Indian Traditions
Unique Paper Code:	6967000007
Semester:	III
Faculty:	Mr. Surjeet Singh
Year:	2nd Year

Work Plan			
Unit No.	Learning Objective	Lecture No.	Topics to be Covered
1	To introduce the civilisational idea of India and Bharat, and to trace early conceptions of moral order in the Vedic, Upanishadic and Shramanic traditions.	1-5	The idea of India and Bharat: Jambudvipa, Aryavrata, Bharat, India; early discourse on moral order — rta in the Vedic traditions; debates in the Upanishads and the Shramanic traditions.
2	To examine the relation between kingship, society and dharma, and the place of neeti and danda in the making of the socio-cultural order.	6-10	State, society and dharma: kingship and society — dharma, neeti and danda; rashtra, sanskar and the making of the socio-cultural milieu.
3	To study competing accounts of the purpose of life across the Buddhist, Jaina, Shramanic, epic and Puranic traditions.	11-15	The purpose of life in texts: right conduct in the Buddhist, Jaina and Shramanic traditions; purusartha chatusthaya — dharma, artha, kama and moksha; assimilation and assertion — ethical issues in the epics and Puranic traditions.

Unit	Contents/Syllabus
I	The Idea of India and Bharat: Jambudvipa, Aryavrata, Bharat, India; Early Discourse on Moral Order — Rta in Vedic Traditions; Debates in the Upanishads and the Shramanic Traditions

II	State, Society and Dharma: Kingship and Society — Dharma, Neeti and Danda; Rashtra, Sanskar and the Making of the Socio-Cultural Milieu
III	The ‘Purpose of Life’ in Texts: Right Conduct — Buddhist, Jaina and Shramanic Traditions; Purusartha Chatusthaya — Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksa; Assimilation and Assertion — Ethical Issues in Epics and Puranic Traditions
S. No.	Name of Authors/Books/Publishers
1.	Basham, A. L. The Wonder That Was India: A Survey of the Culture of the Indian Subcontinent Before the Coming of the Muslims. London: Sidgwick and Jackson, 1954. Sharma, Arvind. “On Hindu, Hindustan, Hinduism and Hindutva.” Numen 49, no. 1 (2002): 1–36.
2.	Olivelle, Patrick. King, Governance, and Law in Ancient India: Kautilya’s Arthashastra. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013. Kane, P. V. History of Dharmashastra, vol. II, parts 1–2 and vol. III, 3rd ed. Pune: Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, 1941, 1946.
3.	Dasgupta, S. N. A History of Indian Philosophy, vols. I–II. Cambridge University Press, 1923. van Buitenen, J. A. B. The Bhagavadgita in the Mahabharata: Text and Translation. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1981. Hiltebeitel, Alf. Rethinking the Mahabharata: A Reader’s Guide to the Education of the Dharma King. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2001.

Paper Components			
Credits	Lecture (L)	Tutorial (T)	Practical (P)
2	1	0	1
Assessment Scheme			
S.No.	Component	Marking Scheme	Total Marks
1	Internal Assessment	10	10
	• Assignment	4	

	- Class Test - Attendance	4	
		2	
2.	Continuous Assessment (Tutorial)		NA
	Activity 1		
	Activity 2		
	Attendance		
3.	Practical	40	40
	Continuous Assessment	20	
	End Term Written/Practical Exam	20	
	Viva		
4.	End Semester Examination		30