



**Add on Certificate Course**

Course Code	UM03IKBSW01	Title of the Course	<b>Dharmashastra (Aacharasamhita)</b>
Total Credits of the Course	2	Total Hours per week	2

Course Objectives:	<p>The course will enable the learners to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To analyse the etymology and meaning of the word "Dharma" and its significance in various cultures and religions.</li><li>• To explore the characteristics of Dharma and how it manifests in different contexts.</li><li>• To examine the explanations of the concept of Dharma by renowned scholars and thinkers throughout history.</li><li>• To recognize the importance of Dharma in shaping human life, ethics, and societal values.</li><li>• To identify the different forms of Dharma present in contemporary society and specifically in the context of Kaliyug (the current age according to Hindu cosmology).</li><li>• To appreciate the significance of Acharndharma (ethical conduct and righteous behavior) in upholding Dharma.</li><li>• To analyze examples of various characteristics of Dharma in the lives of notable scholars, philosophers, and religious figures.</li><li>• To introduce and gain an overview of the major Dharmashastras (ancient Indian texts that discuss laws, duties, and ethical principles).</li><li>• To foster critical thinking and open discussion regarding the interpretation and application of Dharma in modern times.</li><li>• To develop a deeper understanding of the cultural, ethical, and spiritual dimensions of Dharma and its relevance in contemporary society.</li></ul>
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<b>Course Content</b>		
Unit	Description	Weightage* (%)
1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Etymology and meaning of the word Dharma.</li><li>2. Characteristics of word Dharma.</li><li>3. Explanation of the word Dharma by great scholars.</li><li>4. The importance of Dharma in human life.</li></ol>	50%



**SARDAR PATEL UNIVERSITY**  
Vallabh Vidyanagar, Gujarat  
(Reaccredited with 'A' Grade by NAAC (CGPA 3.11))  
Syllabus with effect from the Academic Year 2024-2025

2	1. Forms of Dharma at present and kaliyug. 2. Importance of Aacharndharma. 3. Examples of various characteristics of Dharma in the life of scholars. 4. Introduction to the major Dharmashastras.	50%
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Teaching- Learning Methodology	Lecture-cum-discussion, Group Discussion, Presentations, Seminars, tutorials, Research Exercises
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Evaluation Pattern		
Sr. No.	Details of the Evaluation	Weightage
1.	Internal Written / Practical Examination Internal Continuous Assessment in the form of Practical, Vivavoce, Quizzes, Seminars, Assignments, Attendance	30%
2.	University Examination	70%

Course Outcomes: Having completed this course, the learner will be able to	
1.	Identify the historical and cultural context of the word "Dharma" and explain its etymology and core meaning.
2.	Analyze the characteristics of Dharma and its manifestations in various aspects of human life, including personal ethics, social responsibilities, and spiritual practices.
3.	Evaluate the explanations of Dharma provided by eminent scholars and thinkers, and critically examine different perspectives on its interpretation and application.
4.	Recognize the importance of Dharma in guiding ethical decision-making, promoting harmony in relationships and communities, and fostering a just and compassionate society.
5.	Apply the concepts of Dharma to contemporary issues and challenges, demonstrating an understanding of the different forms of Dharma in present times, the significance of Aacharndharma, and the influence of Dharma in the lives of scholars and individuals who exemplify its principles.



Suggested References:

"Dharma: Its Early History in Law, Religion, and Narrative" by Alf Hiltebeitel  
"Dharma: The Hindu, Jain, Buddhist and Sikh Traditions of India" by Veena R. Howard.  
"The Concept of Dharma in Valmiki Ramayana" by Dr. Nityanand Mishra  
"Dharma in Hinduism: A Historical and Philosophical Perspective" by Arvind Sharma  
"Dharma and Ecology of Hindu Communities: Sustenance and Sustainability" edited by Pankaj Jain  
"Understanding Dharma: The Four Authentic Sources" by Pradip Gangopadhyay

Online Resources :

Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Religion: "Dharma" -  
<https://oxfordre.com/religion/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199340378.001.0001/acrefore-9780199340378-e-63>  
Hinduism Today: "The Four Dharmas of the Kali Yuga" -  
<https://www.hinduismtoday.com/modules/smartsection/item.php?itemid=5594>