

Exploring Arth, Rajneeti, and Darshan in Indian Knowledge Traditions

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Course Overview: This certificate course delves into the multifaceted contributions of ancient Indian economic thought, political philosophy, and statecraft. To understand the philosophical foundations of Arth (meaning and economy), Rajneeti (ethical governance), and Darshan (philosophy and vision) through the Indian Knowledge System, development, and governance using the Economy of Philosophy framework, this course will help in thinking and analyzing the reinterpretation of Economy, Rajneeti, and social terms. Through an interdisciplinary approach, the course explores Arthashastra and its relevance to contemporary economic and political contexts. This is also a method for thinking outside the box in society, considering time and situation.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction to Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS)

- What is Knowledge and knowledge traditions
- Vedas, Upanishads, Smritis, Shastras as sources of knowledge
- Indian Knowledge System vs Western Knowledge System
- Four Purusharthas and their relevance to life and society

Week 2: Concept of 'Arth' in Indian Tradition

- Etymology of Arth
- Arth as material, moral, and metaphysical value
- Arth and Dharma relationship
- Critique of Western economic materialism from an Indian lens

Week 3 & 4: Introduction to Economy of Philosophy (Arthmay Darshan)

- What is Economy of Philosophy?
- Redefining Arth beyond money: Meaning, Value, and Wealth
- Need for an alternative to materialist economics (Greed vs Need)
- Indian Knowledge Systems as the foundation for holistic economy

Week 5 & 6: Darshan, Rajneeti and the Foundations of Knowledge in Bharat

- What is Darshan? (Darshan as vision and Anubhuti)
- Six schools of Indian Philosophy.
- Epistemology and value systems in Bharatiya thought.
- Interconnectedness of Self, Society, and Cosmos
- Meaning of Rajneeti as righteous statecraft
- Ideal leadership (Rajarshi model)

Week 7 & 8: Arthashastra of Kautilya: Beyond Power and Wealth

- Kautilya's concept of Artha and Niti
- Saptanga Theory of State
- Integration of Rajneeti with Dharma and Economics
- Governance as a philosophical responsibility

Week 9: Quiz and Assignment

Week 10: Vedic Roots of Economic Thought

- Agriculture, Cow Protections and sustainability
- Community, nature, and cosmic economy
- Rethinking resource management and sustainability

Week 11: Relational Wealth: Parivar, Samaj, and Rashtra

- Family and community as wealth creators
- Trust, Seva, and cultural capital
- Role of Kula, Jati, Varna in economic cooperation
- Wealth of relationships (Sambandh Sampatti)

Week 12: Case Studies and Comparative Models

- Kautilyan model vs Western capitalist/socialist models
- Gandhian economy, Integral Humanism (Deendayal Ji)
- Panchayati Raj and self-governance as dharmic systems

Week 13: Final Self-Assessment

Assessment Methods:

- Quiz
- Self-Assessment Test

Learning Outcomes:

1. Understand the Indian concept of Arth as ethical, relational, and spiritual wealth—not just material.
2. Analyze governance (Rajneeti) through the lens of Dharma and Indian Knowledge Systems.

3. Explore how Indian philosophical traditions (Darshan) shape economy, society, and public policy.
4. Apply the Economy of Philosophy framework to redefine development, wealth, and sustainability.

References:

- Arthashastra – Kautilya (translated by R. Shamasastri or L.N. Rangarajan)
- Manusmriti (Selected Chapters)
- Bhagavad Gita – Chapter 2, 3, 4, 18
- Indian Knowledge System, Dr Kapil Kapoor
- Integral Humanism – Deendayal Upadhyaya

Academic Conduct: The Institute of Advanced Sciences (INADS) rules and regulations described in the Academic Conduct Code will be strictly enforced. Students are advised to review the institute's academic code of conduct, including the definitions of academic misconduct as well as the protocol for handling violations. Academic dishonesty or cheating of any type will not be tolerated. Any student participating in **any form** of dishonesty will receive a zero for the exam in question. If a person is caught a second time, a semester grade of "F" will be given for the course. Every instance of academic dishonesty is reported to the Academic Standards Committee, which may impose further penalties. This applies to all forms of academic engagement in the class. While the sharing of data and discussion of data and its interpretation is encouraged, **all** written material, including graphs, tables, and reports, must be from your hand and represent your independent work.

Students are encouraged; otherwise, classroom instructors should be addressed as "Professor" – it's a title they have earned. Students should arrive at class on time and prepared to contribute. Always exercise academic honesty. Conversations not relevant to the class, as well as the passing of notes, are disrespectful and disruptive to both the professor and classmates. Food and drinks should be left outside the classroom. At all times, students should ensure that they are respectful of their classmates and the professor.

Members of the Faculty are encouraged to hold themselves to the following behaviors: Plan to be on time and prepared for class. Keep consistent office hours or establish additional hours when they need to be altered and be sure to make these additional hours known. Return papers and exams expediently; it's the easiest way for a student to assess his or her strengths and weaknesses and adjust study habits accordingly. Faculty should model the behaviors students are held to regarding classroom respect, including eating, cellphone use, and irrelevant conversation. Respect the fact that students have varied learning styles and appreciate varied approaches to the teaching/learning process. Attempt to keep to the syllabus so students who have planned ahead will have used their time wisely. Be mindful that personal biases do not affect interactions with students.

Phone Policy: Cell phones should be turned off, silenced, or on vibrate mode when in the classroom. If you are on call for work or have a personal emergency that requires you to have your cell phone on, please lower the volume on your device and sit near an exit.

How to Succeed in Class: To succeed, it is important to study consistently and effectively. Here are some suggestions for effective studying.

- ▶ Before class, ***read the suggested chapter*** and lecture notes. Focus on general concepts rather than getting lost in the details. This “priming” exercise will make the lecture easier to follow.
- ▶ ***Attend class*** faithfully. As soon as possible after the lecture, go over your notes and fill in parts that you do not fully understand using material from the textbook that applies to the topic covered in the lecture. If you did not understand something, also review the lecture video and study the Clicker questions that are designed to help you learn important concepts.
- ▶ ***Writing is important to learning.*** Highlighting sentences with a marker pen is not an effective way to transfer knowledge to the brain. Rather, putting concepts into your own words and writing them down results in your assimilating the concepts and recognizing relationships among concepts.
- ▶ Making ***flash cards*** is one version of using writing to learn concepts and recognize relationships. Picking out the most important concepts and putting them in your own words and writing them down is a powerful learning tool. Try pulling random cards from the stack and ask yourself, “How do these ideas relate to each other?”
- ▶ ***Study groups*** are recommended. Although certain concepts in biochemistry can be memorized, the majority must be learned, and discussing biochemistry with others is a good way to learn. Join a discussion group.
- ▶ ***Complete the problem sets*** provided in the course packet. Research has shown that working through problems is one of the best ways to prepare for a multiple-choice exam.
- ▶ Taking ***accurate and complete notes*** and asking questions are part of the learning process. If you do not understand a topic that was presented in class, ***ask questions***.

***All students at INADS World Campus (IWC) are expected to live up to the highest standards of academic honesty.**