

Niti, Nyaya, and Neeti: Indian Foundations of Justice and policy

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Office Hours: As per availability

Course Objective: The *Certificate course in Niti, Nyaya, and Neeti* is an interdisciplinary Course exploring the philosophical, ethical, and policy-based dimensions of justice in the Indian intellectual tradition. Drawing from classical Indian philosophy, political thought, dharmashastra, Arthashastra, Nyaya philosophy, and modern constitutional frameworks, this Course equips learners with a deep conceptual and practical understanding of Indian foundations of governance, ethics, and jurisprudence.

This fully online Course, offered through the **INADS World Campus (IWC)**, combines rigorous coursework, guided research, and applied policy analysis. It is designed for those seeking to bridge traditional Indian knowledge systems with contemporary public policy and justice frameworks.

Course Outcome:

- Develop a nuanced understanding of *Niti* (ethical principles), *Nyaya* (justice theory), and *Neeti* (practical policy application).
- Examine classical texts (e.g., Kautilya's *Arthashastra*, Manusmriti, Nyaya Sutras) in the context of modern governance.
- Understand the historical and philosophical underpinnings of Indian justice traditions.
- Integrate Indian jurisprudence with comparative political theory and modern policy discourse.
- Cultivate culturally rooted, ethically sound approaches to governance and justice.

Course Duration and Structure: This course is planned for 14 weeks, i.e., approx. 3.5 months. This will consist of online classes meeting 3 hours per week.

14 weeks = 42 hours for a course

(Starting* from September 1st, 2025 to December 3rd, 2025)

[* Approx. from 1st week of Sep. till 1st week of Dec.]

1 week = 3 lectures per week* (Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday)

[* Days may vary if there is some special occasion or urgency]

1 lecture = 1 hour = 60 mins (10 AM to 11 AM Indian Standard Time)



60 mins = 40 mins lecture + 10 mins discussion + 10 mins for quiz or queries

Prerequisite: Graduation in any area of knowledge but either of the subjects - Sanskrit / Vedic Texts / Philosophy / Psychology will be a preferred base to understand the course.

Fee-Structure: 100 \$ for Foreign Nationals and Rs. 7000/- for Indian National.

Medium of Instructions: If the class-strength is of Foreign Nationals, then the course will be taught in English only but if the class-strength is of Indian Nationals then the course will be taught in 50% Hindi and 50% English.

Recommended Reference Textbooks:

- Kautilya. *Arthashastra* (Penguin Classics ed.)
- Amartya Sen. *The Idea of Justice*
- B.K. Matilal. *The Word and the World: India's Contribution to the Study of Language*
- Radhakrishnan, S. *Indian Philosophy*
- B.R. Ambedkar. *Writings and Speeches* (Vol. 1)
- *Bhagavad Gita* (with commentary by Swami Ranganathananda)
- Manusmriti (translated by Patrick Olivelle)

Course Policies:

- 1) Promptness and attentiveness are mandatory.
- 2) Laptops/Tablets are welcome; cellphones off (or put on vibrate mode).
- 3) Attend all class meetings – If unavoidably absent, inform class instructor and follow his/her guidance to fulfil the documentation for missed class.
- 4) All missed classes must be made up. Obtain the study material /Power-Point presentation of the week from the student dashboard of the course. Write a one-page summary of the content of the class and highlight the key points or ideas. Submit this to your instructor (Email to: bhawnajnu64@gmail.com).
- 5) Also, kindly complete all assignments and quizzes within the specified time-limit. In case time-extension is needed, please contact your instructor (allowed only in exceptional circumstances).

Exams: There will be two exams, including finals. All exams start at their designated time.

Exam-I Mid-course exam (Duration-1 hour)

Final End of the course (Duration-2 hours)

Quizzes: There will be a time schedule for the quiz in every lecture. Students need to submit their quiz within the allotted time. This course will include 10 quizzes, out of which only the top 7 quizzes will be considered for final grading.

Homework: Homework assignments will be provided online through the student's portal.

Presentation: Each student needs to select their topic after consultation with their instructor. Students need to present their topic in front of the instructor and other students.



Grading Policy: Course grade will be assigned based on the cumulative score of homework, quizzes, exams and final.

Weekly Assignments & Reflections	25%
Midterm Essay (2,000 words)	15%
Research Project (5,000 words)	25%
Internship & Fieldwork Report	20%
Final Presentation & Oral Exam	15%

Final grading will be as follows (**tentative**):

A+ = > 95%, A = 91 - 95%, B+ = 86 - 90%, B = 81 - 85%, B- = 76 -80%, C+ = 71-75%, C = 66 -70%, C- = 60-65%, D < 60% and Fail < 50%.

Course Detail: Certificate Course in Niti, Nyaya, and Neeti: Indian Foundations of Justice and Policy

Lectures	Weeks
Introduction to Indian Foundations of Justice	Week 1
Defining <i>Niti</i> , <i>Nyaya</i> , <i>Neeti</i> ; Overview of classical Indian political thought	
Niti: Moral and Ethical Foundations	Week 2
Ethics in Vedic literature; Dharma as moral law; Purusharthas	
Nyaya: Theories of Justice	Week 3
Nyaya philosophy; logical reasoning in governance; distributive justice	
Neeti: Statecraft and Policy in Indian Thought	Week 4
<i>Arthashastra</i> ; governance models; ethics vs. expediency	
Dharma and Justice	Week 5
Dharma as the basis of law; relationship with rights and duties	
Comparative Justice Traditions	Week 6
Constitutional Morality and Modern Governance	Week 7
Ethics in Political Leadership	Week 8
Justice in Policy-Making	Week 9
Conflict Resolution and Nyaya	Week 10
Ethics in Law and Administration	Week 11
Case Studies in Indian Justice	Week 12
Integrating Tradition with Modern Policy	Week 13



Research Project & Internship Presentation	Week 14
Final exam	

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 program 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 engagements in the class. While the sharing and discussion of data and its interpretation is encouraged, **all** written material, including graphs, tables, and reports, must be from your own hand and represent your own independent work.

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

Members of the Faculty are encouraged to hold themselves for 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 weakness and adjust study habits accordingly. Faculty should check the behaviors of the students regarding classroom respect including eating, cellphone use, and irrelevant conversation. Respect the fact that students have varied learning styles and appreciate varied approaches of teaching/learning processes. 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.

Cell phones: Cell phones should be turned off, silenced, or put 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 this 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 lectures easier to follow.
- ▶ ***Attend class faithfully.*** As soon as possible after a 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 do 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 the Institute are expected to live up to the highest standards of academic honesty.

