

PONDICHERRY UNIVERSITY

Value Added Course in common to all UG programmes (Arts, Science and Commerce)



NEP SYLLABI

UNDERSTANDING INDIA

AFFILIATED COLLEGES

FROM THE ACADEMIC YEAR (2023-24 onwards)

Pondicherry University
NEP- Understanding India

Course Overview:

The course aims at enabling the students to acquire and demonstrate the knowledge and understanding of contemporary India with its historical perspective, the basic framework of the goals and policies of national development, and the constitutional obligations with special emphasis on constitutional values and fundamental rights and duties. The course would also focus on developing an understanding among students of Indian society, Indian knowledge systems and cultural heritage.

Course Objective and Outcome:

The course aims at making the students understand India from global, national and local perspectives. A student would be able to understand India in geographical, historical, social, cultural and political settings. At the end of the semester, the students will be able to appreciate the multicultural and multifaceted nature of India.

Unit I: Geography of India

- India on the map of the world and its neighbouring countries
- Geographical diversities

Unit II History of India

- India's Freedom Struggle
- An introduction to Indian knowledge systems

Unit III: Communicating Culture

- Oral narratives: Myths, tales and folklore
- Introduction to the Tribal Cultures of India

Unit IV: Indian Social Structure

- Continuity and change of the Indian Social Structure: Caste, Community, Class and Gender

Unit V: Understanding Indian Polity

- The evolution of State in India: Nature and origin
- Interpreting India: Traditional, Modern and Contemporary
- Constitution as a living document

Reading List

Unit I: Geography of India

- Ramesh Dutta Dikshit, *Political Geography: Politics of Place and Spatiality of Politics*, Macmillan Education, 2020.
- Deshpande C. D., 1992: *India: A Regional Interpretation*, ICSSR, New Delhi.
- Johnson, B. L. C., ed. 2001. *Geographical Dictionary of India*. Vision Books, New Delhi.
- Mandal R. B. (ed.), 1990: *Patterns of Regional Geography – An International Perspective*. Vol. 3 – Indian Perspective.
- Tirtha, Ranjit 2002: *Geography of India*, Rawat Publs., Jaipur & New Delhi.
- Pathak, C. R. 2003: *Spatial Structure and Processes of Development in India*. Regional Science Assoc., Kolkata.
- Tiwari, R.C. (2007) *Geography of India*. Prayag Pustak Bhawan, Allahabad 12. Sharma, T.C. (2013) *Economic Geography of India*. Rawat Publication, Jaipur

Unit II: History of India

- <https://iksindia.org>
- Bose D. M., S. N. Sen and B. V. Subbarayappa ed. (1971) *A Concise History of Science in India*, Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi.
- Chandra, Bipan, Amales Tripathi & Barun De (1972), *Freedom Struggle*, National Book Trust, New Delhi.
- Husain, S. Abid. (2003). *The National Culture of India*, National Book Trust, New Delhi.
- Kapoor, Kapil and Avadesh Kumar Singh ed. (2005), *Indian Knowledge Systems*, 2 Volumes, DK Printworld, New Delhi.
- Mohanta, Basant Kumar and Vipin Kumar Singh ed. (2012), *Traditional Knowledge System and Technology in India*, Pratibha Prakashan
- *History of Technology in India*, 3 Volumes (1997-2012), Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi.
- *The Cultural Heritage of India Series*, 8 Volumes (2002), Ramakrishna Mission Institute, Calcutta.

Unit III: Communicating Culture: Tellings, Representations, and Leisure

- Kanak Mital, “A Santhal Myth, Five Elements” & M.D. Subash Chandran, “Peasant Perception of Bhutas, Uttara Kannada” in *Prakrti, The Integral Vision*, Vol. 1 (Primal Elements – The Oral Tradition, edited by Baidyanath Saraswati), pp. 119-125; 151-166.

- A. K. Ramanujan, “‘A Flowering Tree’: A Woman’s Tale”, *Oral Tradition*, 12/1 (1997): 226-243.
- Stuart H. Blackburn, “The Folk Hero and Class Interests in Tamil Heroic Ballads”, *Asian Folklore Studies*, Vol. 37, No. 1 (1978), pp. 131-149.
- Beatrix Hauser, “From Oral Tradition to ‘Folk Art’: Reevaluating Bengali Scroll Paintings”, in *Asian Folklore Studies*, Vol. 61, No. 1 (2002), pp. 105-122.
- Komal Kothari, “Myths, Tales and Folklore: Exploring the Substratum of Cinema” pdf.

Unit IV: Indian Social Structure

- Singh, Y. (1968). *Caste and Class : Some Aspects of Continuity and Change*. *Sociological Bulletin*, 17(2), 165–186. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0038022919680205>
- Singh, Y. (1986). *Modernization of Indian Tradition: A Systemic Study of Social Change*. India: Rawat Publications.
- Gupta, D. (2000). *Interrogating caste: understanding hierarchy and difference in Indian society*. India: Penguin Books.
- Rege, S. (1996). *Caste and Gender: The Violence Against Women in India*. Italy: European University Institute.
- Xaxa, V. (2008). *State, Society, and Tribes: Issues in Post-colonial India*. India: Dorling Kindersley (India), licencees of Pearson Education in South Asia.
- Uberoi, P. (1994). *Family, Kinship and Marriage in India*. India: Oxford University Press.
- Robinson, R. (2004). *Sociology of Religion in India*. India: SAGE Publications.
- Srinivas, M. N. (2000). *Caste: Its 20Th Century Avatar*. India: Penguin Books Limited.
- Jamil, G. (2021). *Women in Social Change*. SAGE Publishing India.
- Bhasin, K. (2000). *Understanding Gender*.

Unit V: Understanding Indian Polity

- Madhav Khosla. *The Indian Constitution*. New Delhi, Oxford University Press, 2012.
- Ramachandra Guha. *Makers of Modern India*. Cambridge, Mass., The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2013.
- Thapar, Romila. *Indian Cultures as Heritage: Contemporary Pasts*. London, Seagull Books, 2021.
- Venkataraghavan Subha Srinivasan. *The Origin Story of India’s States*. Penguin Random House India Private Limited, 25 Oct. 2021.
- J Sai Deepak. *India That Is Bharat : Coloniality, Civilisation, Constitution*. New Delhi, Bloomsbury, 2021.