

Title of the Paper: Agamic Tradition

Course Code:

Course Description:

The Agamic Tradition course explores the rich heritage and practices of Agamic traditions, focusing on Shaiva, Vaishnava, and Shakta traditions. This syllabus provides an overview of the course objectives, learning outcomes, and topics covered, emphasizing the historical, philosophical, ritualistic, and devotional aspects of these traditions. Students will gain an understanding of the sacred texts, rituals, philosophical dimensions, and the social and cultural contexts of Agamic traditions.

Course Objectives:

1. To understand the foundational concepts of Agamic Tradition.
2. To examine the historical and cultural context of Agamic Tradition
3. To study textual sources of Agamic Tradition.
4. To explore ritual practices and worship of Agamic Tradition.
5. To analyze philosophical dimensions of Shaiva and Vaishnava Tradition.
6. To evaluate Various Types of Tantra Practices and tantric way of Realization.

Learning Outcomes:

LO1: Understanding Sacred Texts: Studying Agamic traditions involves gaining a deep understanding of the sacred texts themselves, such as the Vedas, Upanishads, Puranas, and specific Agamas. Learning outcomes may include comprehension of the texts' historical context, their narrative structure, symbolism, philosophical teachings, and their role in shaping religious practices.

LO2: Ritual Knowledge: Agamic traditions are known for their rich and elaborate rituals. Studying these traditions involves acquiring knowledge about the rituals, their significance, the underlying symbolism, and the correct procedures for their performance. Learning outcomes may include an understanding of the purpose of rituals, their various components, and their role in spiritual and religious transformation.

LO3: Philosophy and Theology: Agamic traditions encompass a wide range of philosophical and theological perspectives. Learning outcomes may include an understanding of key philosophical concepts such as dharma (ethical duty), karma (action and its consequences), moksha (liberation), and the nature of the divine.

LO4: Devotional Practices: Bhakti (devotion) plays a significant role in Agamic traditions. Learning outcomes may include an understanding of the various forms of devotion, such as rituals, chanting, prayers, and meditation, and their significance in cultivating a personal



relationship with the divine. Exploring the lives and teachings of prominent saints and mystics within Agamic traditions can provide insights into the devotional path.

LO5: Art, Architecture, and Symbolism: Agamic traditions have greatly influenced the fields of art and architecture in South Asia. Studying these traditions involves an appreciation of the symbolic and aesthetic aspects of temples, sculptures, paintings, and other art forms. Learning outcomes may include an understanding of the symbolism behind the architectural elements, iconography, sacred diagrams (yantras), and the use of colors and patterns to represent divine concepts.

LO6: Social and Cultural Context: Agamic traditions are embedded in social and cultural contexts. Learning outcomes may include an understanding of the historical development of these traditions, their relationship with society, and their impact on art, music, dance, literature, and other cultural expressions. Exploring the intersection of Agamic traditions with topics such as gender, caste, and social reform movements can provide insights into their dynamic nature.

1. History of Agamic Traditions

- 1.1 History of Shaiva Tradition
- 1.2 History of Vaishnava Tradition
- 1.3 History of Shakta Tradition

2. Agamic Literature

- 2.1 Shaiva Literature
- 2.2 Vishnava Literature
- 2.3 Shakta Literature

3. Schools of Shaiva Tradition

- 3.1 Pashupata , Kapalika, Kalamukha
- 3.2 Shaiva Siddhant, Vira Shaiva, Kashmir Shaivism
- 3.3 Siddha and Natha Tradition

4. Schools of Vaishnava Tradition

- 4.1 Ramanujacharya and Madhvacharya
- 4.2 Vallabhacharya and Nibarkacharya
- 4.3 Ramanand and Chaitnya Mahprabhu

5. Philosophy of Tantra

- 5.1 Evolution of Tantras
- 5.2 Three Currents of Tantric Traditions
- 5.3 Tantra as a Way of Realization



Suggested Readings:

1. Agama Encyclopedia: History, Literature, and Philosophy of Agamic Traditions, Dr. S. Sambandan, Motilal Banarsidass Publishers.
2. Agama Pramanya: A Textbook on Agamic Tradition by Dr. T. Ganesan, 2005, Publisher: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers
3. Agama Darpana: An Introduction to Agamic Literature by Dr. N.R. Bhatt, 1999, Publisher: Sri Satguru Publications
4. Shaiva Agama Literature: A Critical Study by Dr. S.N. Kandaswamy, 2008, Publisher: Chaukhambha Publications
5. Vaishnava Agamas: A Study by Dr. S.S. Raghavachar, 1999, Publisher: Sri Satguru Publications.
6. Shakta Agamas: A Comprehensive Study by Dr. G. Manickam, 2004, Publisher: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers.
7. Shaiva Siddhanta: History, Philosophy, and Practice by Dr. T.N. Ganapathy, 2000, Publisher: Ananthacharya Indological Research Institute.
8. Introduction to Kashmir Shaivism: The Secret Supreme by Swami Lakshmanjoo, 1985, Publisher: Universal Shaiva Fellowship
9. The Path of Practice: A Woman's Book of Ayurvedic Healing by Maya Tiwari (focuses on Siddha tradition), 1995, Publisher: Ballantine Books.
10. Sri Vaishnava Sampradaya: An Introduction by Dr. S.M. Srinivasa Chari, 1997, Publisher: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers.
11. The Philosophy of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu: A Study by Dr. S.K. De, 2012, Publisher: South Asia Books.
12. Agehananda Bharati. The Tantric Tradition. Delhi: S. Weiser, 1975. English.
13. Pandit Mukunda Rama Shastri (Tr). The Para-Trimshika. Delhi, 1991. English.
14. T. Ganapati Sastri (Ed). Tantra Samuccaya. Delhi: J R Gharpure, 1990. English.

The image shows five handwritten signatures in blue ink. From left to right: the first signature is 'Ashwini', the second is a stylized 'N', the third is 'Anand Gupta', the fourth is 'Ajay Kumar Singh', and the fifth is 'S Singh'.