Centre for Hindu Studies
Doon University, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Program: Ph.D. in Hindu Studies

Pre Ph.D. Course work Syllabus
(With effect from Academic Year 2027-28)

Course Components
Pre Ph.D. Course work Syllabus
Duration of Ph.D. in Hindu Studies (Hons.) : (05 years)

S.No.	Semester	Course Title	Course Code	Credit
01	First	Research Methodology	PHS – 101	04
02	First	Primary Sources in Hindu Studies : Issues and Interpretations	PHS – 102	04
				08 Credits
S.No.	**Semester**	**Course Title**		**Credit**
01	Second	Indian Art and Bhartiya Architecture	PHS – 103	04
02	Second	Publication and Research Ethics	PHS – 104	02
03	Second	Manuscript Studies: Traditions, Preservation and Critical Editing	PHS – 105	02
				08 Credits
Total Credits for Ph.D. Course Work (Semester 1 and Semester II)				**16 Credits**

Semester – I

Course Title:
Research Methodology

Course Code: PHS – 101	Course Credits: 04	Marks: 100

Course Outcomes (COs)

CO1: Knowledge and Understanding of Research Methodology: Demonstrate advanced knowledge of research philosophies, approaches, methods and techniques relevant to Hindu Studies and interdisciplinary research.

CO2: Critical and Analytical Thinking: Critically examine primary and secondary sources, philosophical arguments, historical evidence, textual interpretations and diverse perspectives within Hindu Studies.

CO3: Research Design and Execution: Formulate research problems, develop research questions and hypotheses where appropriate, review existing literature, and design and execute systematic, rigorous and independent research.

CO4: Application of Research Methods: Apply appropriate qualitative, quantitative, historical, comparative, textual, philological and field-based methods according to the nature and objectives of the research problem.

Unit-wise Syllabus

Unit I: Foundations of Research Methodology

1. Meaning, nature, types, and objectives of research.
2. Formulation of research problems, objectives, hypotheses, and research design.
3. Review of literature and identification of research gaps.
4. Indian epistemology: Pramāṇa, Pratyakṣa, Anumāna, and Śabda.

Unit II: Textual and Philosophical Research

1. Primary and secondary sources in Hindu Studies.
2. Research methods for Vedas, Upaniṣads, Bhagavad Gītā, Purāṇas, and philosophical texts.
3. Textual criticism, manuscript studies and hermeneutics.
4. Philosophical analysis and comparative study of Indian philosophical traditions.

Unit III: Historical and Cultural Research Methods

1. Historical and historiographical methods.
2. Archaeological, epigraphic, and archival sources.

3. Fieldwork, interviews, ethnography and case studies.
4. Research on Hindu rituals, temples, pilgrimage and living traditions.
5. Interdisciplinary and digital research methods.

Unit IV: Research Proposal and Academic Writing

1. Preparation of research proposals and doctoral synopses.
2. Structure and writing of a Ph.D. dissertation.
3. Academic writing, citation, referencing, and bibliography.
4. Research paper preparation, publication, and seminar presentation.

References

1) Kothari, C. R. (2004). Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques. New Age International Publishers, New Delhi.
2) Kumar, Ranjit (2019). Research Methodology: A Step-by-Step Guide for Beginners. SAGE Publications, New Delhi.
3) Ahuja, Ram (2001). Research Methods. Rawat Publications, Jaipur.
4) Krishnaswami, O. R., & Ranganatham, M. (2016). Methodology of Research in Social Sciences. Himalaya Publishing House, Mumbai.
5) Bose, Pradip Kumar (1995). Research Methodology. Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi.
6) Radhakrishnan, S. (1923). Indian Philosophy (Vols. I–II). George Allen & Unwin.Katre, S. M. (1954). Introduction to Indian Textual Criticism. Deccan College, Pune.
7) Velankar, H. D. (1943). An Outline of Sanskrit Philology. University of Bombay.
8) Gonda, Jan (1975). Vedic Literature. Otto Harrassowitz.
9) Winternitz, M. (1981). A History of Indian Literature. Motilal Banarsidass, Delhi.
10) Dasgupta, S. N. (1922–1955). A History of Indian Philosophy (Vols. I–V). Cambridge University Press.
11) Sharma, Chandradhar (1960). A Critical Survey of Indian Philosophy. Motilal Banarsidass, Delhi.
12) Hiriyanna, M. (1932). Outlines of Indian Philosophy. George Allen & Unwin.
13) Chatterjee, S. C., & Datta, D. M. (1939). An Introduction to Indian Philosophy. University of Calcutta.
14) Pandey, G. C. (1984). Studies in the Origins of Buddhism. Motilal Banarsidass, Delhi.

Semester – I

Course Title:
Primary Sources in Hindu Studies : Issues and Interpretations

Course Code: PHS – 102	Course Credits: 04	Marks: 100

Course Outcomes (COs)

CO1: Identify and classify major primary sources used in Hindu Studies.

CO2: Analyse selected passages from important Hindu texts in their historical and intellectual contexts.

CO3: Compare traditional commentarial interpretations with modern academic interpretations.

CO4: Evaluate the strengths and limitations of textual, archaeological, epigraphic, and ethnographic evidence.

Unit-wise Syllabus

Unit I: Vedic Literature and the Upanishads

1. The Vedas: Rigveda, Samaveda, Yajurveda, and Atharvaveda.
2. The Brahmanas, Aranyakas, and Upanishads.
3. Selected hymns of the Rigveda, including the Purusha Sukta and Nasadiya Sukta.
4. Upanishadic concepts of Atman, Brahman, knowledge, and liberation.
5. Vedic ritual, sacrifice, cosmology and philosophical thought.
6. Shruti as a source of religious authority and philosophical knowledge.

Unit II: Epics and Puranic Literature

1. The Ramayana and Mahabharata: major narratives, themes, and cultural significance.
2. The Bhagavad Gita: dharma, karma, bhakti, jnana, and moksha.
3. The Puranas: mythology, cosmology, genealogies, pilgrimage, and sacred geography.
4. Interpretations of Rama, Sita, Draupadi, Krishna, and other epic figures.
5. Sectarian traditions and the religious significance of epic and Puranic narratives.
6. Regional adaptations and interpretations of epic and Puranic literature.
7. Historicity, narrative traditions, and cultural memory.

Unit III: Dharmashastra and Social Traditions

1. Dharmasutras and Dharmashastras: ethics, law, social organisation, and ritual obligations.
2. Selected passages from the Manusmriti and other normative texts.
3. Dharma as duty, ethical responsibility, and social obligation.

4. Caste, gender, kinship, kingship, and social organisation in normative literature.
5. The relationship between normative prescriptions and social practices.
6. Traditional interpretations and contemporary debates concerning Dharmashastra.
7. The significance of Dharmashastra in understanding Hindu social and cultural traditions.

Unit IV: Classical Philosophy, Devotional, and Vernacular Traditions

1. The six classical philosophical systems: Nyaya, Vaisheshika, Samkhya, Yoga, Mimamsa, and Vedanta.
2. Major philosophical texts, including the Yoga Sutras and Brahma Sutras.
3. Vedantic interpretations of Shankara, Ramanuja, and Madhva.
4. Philosophical debates on knowledge, reality, self, and liberation.
5. Bhakti traditions and vernacular religious literature.
6. Devotional compositions of the Alvars, Nayanars, Kabir, Mirabai, and Tulsidas.
7. Temple traditions, pilgrimage narratives, ritual manuals, inscriptions, and iconography.
8. Oral traditions, regional religious practices, and the relationship between textual authority and lived religion.

Primary sources and classical commentaries

1. Acharya Sayan , Rigvedadi Bhashya-Bhumika.
2. Dayanand Swami, Rigvedadi Bhashya-Bhumika.
3. Ashvghosh, Vajrasuchi
4. Shankar Acharya, Bhashya, The Bhagavadgita.
5. Radhakrishnan, S., trans. The Principal Upanishads. George Allen & Unwin, 1953.
6. Radhakrishnan, S., trans. The Bhagavadgita. George Allen & Unwin, 1948.
7. Shastri, J. L., ed. The Śiva Purāṇa. Motilal Banarsidass.
8. Sharma, B. N. K., trans. The Brahmasūtras and Their Principal Commentaries, where available in relevant editions.
9. Olivelle, Patrick, trans. The Early Upanishads: Annotated Text and Translation. Oxford University Press, 1998.
10. Doniger, Wendy, trans. The Rig Veda. Penguin Classics, 1981.
11. Goldman, Robert P., et al., trans. The Rāmāyaṇa of Vālmīki. Princeton University Press, multi-volume edition.

Indian scholars: Vedic studies and Hindu textual traditions

1. R. N. Dandekar - Vedic Mythological Tracts and studies on Vedic religion and mythology.
2. S. Radhakrishnan - Indian Philosophy, Volumes I and II; The Principal Upanishads.
3. B. K. Ghosh - Research and translations relating to Vedic literature and Indian intellectual traditions.
4. K. C. Pandey - Abhinavagupta: An Historical and Philosophical Study.

5. S. K. Belvalkar and R. D. Ranade - History of Indian Philosophy and studies of the Upanishadic tradition.
6. Surendranath Dasgupta - A History of Indian Philosophy, five volumes.
7. P. V. Kane - History of Dharmashastra, five volumes.
8. Patrick Olivelle - The Early Upanishads and Manu's Code of Law, particularly useful for textual history, translation, and the study of normative traditions. Olivelle is a scholar of Indian intellectual traditions working in an international academic setting.

International scholarship for comparative interpretation

1. Gavin Flood - An Introduction to Hinduism. Cambridge University Press, 1996.
2. Wilhelm Halbfass - India and Europe: An Essay in Understanding. State University of New York Press, 1988.
3. Wendy Doniger - The Hindus: An Alternative History. Penguin Press, 2009.
4. Julius Lipner - Hindus: Their Religious Beliefs and Practices. Routledge, 2010.
5. Brian K. Smith - Reflections on Resemblance, Ritual, and Religion. Oxford University Press, 1989.

Semester – II

Course Title:
Indian Art and Bhartiya Architecture

Course Code: PHS – 103	Course Credits: 04	Marks: 100

Course Outcomes (COs)

CO1: Explain the philosophical, religious, aesthetic, and cultural foundations of Indian art and Bhartiya architecture.

CO2: Analyse classical Sanskrit texts, including Mānasāra, Mayamatam, and Samarāṅgaṇasūtradhāra, with reference to traditional architectural principles.

CO3: Identify and critically examine major Indian architectural styles, temple traditions, sculptural forms, and iconographic representations.

CO4: Evaluate the historical development, regional diversity, and cultural significance of Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain architecture.

CO5: Apply textual, historical, archaeological, and interdisciplinary research methods to investigate Indian art, architecture, and heritage conservation at the doctoral level.

Unit-wise Syllabus

Unit I: Foundations of Indian Art and Architectural Thought

1. Concept, nature, scope, and significance of Indian art and Bhartiya architecture.
2. Philosophical and cosmological foundations of Indian artistic traditions.
3. Relationship between Dharma, sacred space, ritual, symbolism and architectural design.
4. Indian aesthetic theory: Rasa, Bhava, Rūpa, and the principles of artistic expression.

Unit II: Classical Texts and Principles of Bhartiya Vastu and Architecture

1. Meaning, scope, and fundamental principles of Vāstuśāstra and Śilpaśāstra.
2. Architectural concepts: Vāstupuruṣamaṇḍala, orientation, measurement, proportion, site selection, and spatial planning.
3. The relationship between architectural design, geometry, cosmology, and ritual.
4. Study of major architectural and technical texts:
    a) Mānasāra
    b) Mayamatam
    c) Samarāṅgaṇasūtradhāra
    d) Aparājitapṛcchā
    e) Viśvakarmā Vāstuśāstra
5. Principles of temple planning: Garbhagṛha, Antarala, Mandapa, Shikhara, Vimana etc.

Unit III: Indian Temple Architecture, Sculpture, and Iconography

1. Major temple architectural traditions:
    a. Nāgara Style: North Indian temple architecture.
    b. Drāviḍa Style: South Indian temple architecture.
    c. Vesara Style: Deccan architectural traditions and the debate surrounding the term.
2. Temple sculpture, iconography, and the representation of Hindu deities.
3. Study of Buddhist and Jain architectural traditions, including Stūpas, Caityagṛhas, Vihāras, rock-cut caves, and Jain temples.
4. Architectural contributions of major dynasties: Maurya, Śuṅga, Kuṣāṇa, Gupta, Pallava, Cālukya, Rāṣṭrakūṭa, Cōḷa, Chandela, and Vijayanagara.

Unit IV: Regional Architecture, Heritage, and Research Perspectives

1. Regional architectural traditions of the Indian subcontinent and their historical contexts.
2. Himalayan and Uttarakhand temple architecture: stone construction, wooden traditions, local materials, and environmental adaptation.
3. Sacred geography, pilgrimage networks, temple landscapes, and the cultural significance of architectural sites.
4. Comparative study of Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain architectural forms.
5. Indian architecture in relation to ecology, sustainability, traditional building knowledge, and local craftsmanship.
6. Conservation, restoration, adaptive reuse, and the protection of tangible and intangible heritage.

सन्दर्भग्रन्थ (References)

1. भोज. समराङ्गणसूत्रधार. गायकवाड़्स ओरिएण्टल सीरीज़, बड़ौदा।
2. Achatya, P. K. (1934). Architecture of Manasara. Oxford University Press.
3. Dagens, B. (Trans.). (1985). Mayamata: An Indian treatise on housing architecture and iconography. Sitaram Bhartia Institute of Scientific Research.
4. भुवनदेव. अपराजितपृच्छा. गायकवाड़्स ओरिएण्टल सीरीज़, बड़ौदा।
5. वेदव्यास. विष्णुधर्मोत्तर पुराण. वेंकटेश्वर प्रेस, बम्बई।
6. वराहमिहिर. बृहत्संहिता. चौखम्बा संस्कृत सीरीज़, वाराणसी।
7. Brown, Percy. Indian Architecture (Buddhist and Hindu Periods). D. B. Taraporevala Sons.
8. Kramrisch, Stella. The Hindu Temple. 2 Vols. University of Calcutta, 1946.
9. Michell, George. The Hindu Temple: An Introduction to Its Meaning and Forms. University of Chicago Press, 1977.
10. Hardy, Adam. Indian Temple Architecture: Form and Transformation. Abhinav Publications, 1995.

11. Deva, Krishna. Temples of North India. National Book Trust, India.
12. Huntington, Susan L. The Art of Ancient India: Buddhist, Hindu, Jain. Weatherhill, 1985.
13. Meister, Michael W., and M. A. Dhaky, eds. Encyclopaedia of Indian Temple Architecture. American Institute of Indian Studies.

Semester – II

Course Title:
Publication and Research Ethics

Course Code: PHS – 104	Course Credits: 02	Marks: 100

Course Outcomes (COs)

CO1: Explain the fundamental principles, core values, and significance of research ethics and integrity in academic research.
CO2: Identify and critically evaluate research misconduct, including fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, and other unethical research practices.
CO3: Apply ethical principles to authorship, collaborative research, conflict of interest, data management, and responsible scholarly communication.
CO4: Analyze publication ethics, including duplicate publications, salami slicing, citation manipulation, retraction procedures, and the ethical use of open-access journals.
CO5: Apply relevant ethical guidelines, including COPE guidelines and UGC regulations, and use plagiarism detection tools, copyright provisions, and Creative Commons licences for responsible academic publishing.

Unit-wise Syllabus

Unit – I Research Ethics and Integrity

1. Meaning of Research Ethics
2. Importance of Ethical Conduct in Research
3. Core values: Honesty, Objectivity, Integrity, Accountability
4. Ethical dilemmas in Research
5. Research Misconduct:
    - Fabrication
    - Falsification
    - Plagiarism

Unit – II Publication Ethics

1. Definition and Importance of Publication Ethics
2. Authorship Ethics
    - Criteria for Authorship
    - Author Responsibilities
    - Ethical Issues in Authorship
    - Conflicts of Interest
3. Redundant Publications- duplicate and overlapping publications, salamislicing
    - Data manipulation

    - Citation manipulation
4. Ethical Guidelines
    - COPE Guidelines
    - UGC Plagiarism Regulations
5. Consequences of Unethical Practices
6. Retraction of papers
7. Ethical Use of Open Access Journals
8. Tools for Ethical Publishing:
    - Plagiarism Detection Software like Turnitin, Urkund, Drillbit, and other Open Software Tools
    - Copyright, Creative Commons Licenses

Semester – II

Course Title:
Manuscript Studies: Traditions, Preservation and Critical Editing

Course Code: PHS – 105	Course Credits: 02	Marks 100

Course Outcomes (COs)

CO1: Understand the Indian manuscript tradition, its historical development, nature, and significance in Hindu Studies.

CO2: Identify different manuscript scripts, writing materials, structural features, and methods of manuscript classification and cataloguing.

CO3: Apply fundamental methods of manuscript reading, transcription, textual criticism, and critical editing.

CO4: Utilize manuscripts as primary sources for research in Hindu Studies through textual analysis, preservation, and scholarly documentation.

Unit-wise Syllabus

Unit - I

Introduction to Manuscript Studies

1. Meaning, definition and nature of manuscripts; manuscript studies as an academic discipline.
2. Manuscripts and printed texts: similarities, differences and research significance.
3. Historical development of manuscript traditions in India and their role in preserving Hindu knowledge systems.
4. Major categories of manuscripts: Vedic, philosophical, literary, religious, historical, scientific and technical texts.
5. Manuscript repositories, libraries, traditional knowledge Centre and institutional collections.

Unit - II

Manuscript Materials, Scripts and Cataloguing

1. Writing materials: palm leaf, birch bark (Bhojapatra), paper and other traditional materials.
2. Introduction to major Indian scripts, including Brahmi, Sharda, Devanagari, Grantha and regional scripts.
3. Principles of manuscript conservation, preventive preservation, handling and storage.
4. Digitization, digital repositories, manuscript imaging and basic digital documentation.
5. Manuscript description, metadata, cataloguing, accession registers and preparation of a preliminary manuscript record.

सन्दर्भग्रन्थ (References)

हिन्दी एवं संस्कृत ग्रन्थ

1. ओझा, गौरीशंकर हीराचन्द। प्राचीन भारतीय लिपिमाला। नई दिल्ली: मुंशीराम मनोहरलाल, 1993।
2. तिक्कू, श्रीनाथ। शारदा लिपि दीपिका। नई दिल्ली, 1983।
3. भट्ट, ल. न. भारतीय ग्रन्थसम्पादनशास्त्रप्रवेशिनी। तिरुपति: राष्ट्रीय संस्कृत विद्यापीठम्, 2002।
4. मूले, गुणाकर। भारतीय लिपियों की कहानी। नई दिल्ली: राजकमल प्रकाशन, 2004।
5. राही, ईश्वरचन्द्र। लेखनकला। खण्ड 2. लखनऊ, 1983।
6. शर्मा, रामगोपाल। पाण्डुलिपि सम्पादन कला। दिल्ली: प्रभात प्रकाशन, 1979।
7. सत्येन्द्र। पाण्डुलिपि विज्ञान। जयपुर: राजस्थान हिन्दी ग्रन्थ अकादमी, 1989।
8. सरकार, दिनेशचन्द्र। भारतीय पुरालिपिविद्या। दिल्ली, 1996।
9. मिश्र, अभिराज राजेन्द्र। शोधप्रविधि एवं पाण्डुलिपिविज्ञान। इलाहाबाद: अक्षयवट प्रकाशन।
10. शास्त्री, नृसिंहदेव। वृत्तरत्नाकरः। नई दिल्ली: मेहरचन्द लछमनदास, 1993।

English References

1. Basu, Ratna, et al. Aspects of Manuscriptology. Kolkata: The Asiatic Society, 2005.
2. Bharathi, H. L. N. An Introduction to Indian Textual Criticism and Modern Book Publishing. Mysore: Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), 1988.
3. Murthy, Shivganesha R. S. Introduction to Manuscriptology. New Delhi: Sharada Publishing House, 1996.
4. Rao, M. N. The Book Publishing Manual. New Delhi: Allied Publishers, 1974.
5. Thaker, P. Jayant. Manuscriptology and Text Criticism. Baroda: Oriental Institute, 2002.