

**18AVP201/Amrita Values Programme I/**

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**18AVP211**

**Amrita Values Programme II**

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Amrita University's Amrita Values Programme (AVP) is a new initiative to give exposure to students about richness and beauty of Indian way of life. India is a country where history, culture, art, aesthetics, cuisine and nature exhibit more diversity than nearly anywhere else in the world.

Amrita Values Programmes emphasize on making students familiar with the rich tapestry of Indian life, culture, arts, science and heritage which has historically drawn people from all over the world.

Students shall have to register for any two of the following courses, one each in the third and the fourth semesters, which may be offered by the respective school during the concerned semester.

***Courses offered under the framework of Amrita Values Programmes I and II***

**Message from Amma's Life for the Modern World**

Amma's messages can be put to action in our life through pragmatism and attuning of our thought process in a positive and creative manner. Every single word Amma speaks and the guidance received in on matters which we consider as trivial are rich in content and touches the very inner being of our personality. Life gets enriched by Amma's guidance and She teaches us the art of exemplary life skills where we become witness to all the happenings around us still keeping the balance of the mind.

**Lessons from the Ramayana**

Introduction to Ramayana, the first Epic in the world – Influence of Ramayana on Indian values and culture – Storyline of Ramayana – Study of leading characters in Ramayana – Influence of Ramayana outside India – Relevance of Ramayana for modern times.

**Lessons from the Mahabharata**

Introduction to Mahabharata, the largest Epic in the world – Influence of Mahabharata on Indian values and culture – Storyline of Mahabharata – Study of leading characters in Mahabharata – Kurukshetra War and its significance - Relevance of Mahabharata for modern times.

**Lessons from the Upanishads**

Introduction to the Upanishads: Sruti versus Smrti - Overview of the four Vedas and the ten Principal Upanishads - The central problems of the Upanishads – The Upanishads and Indian Culture – Relevance of Upanishads for modern times – A few Upanishad Personalities: Nachiketas, SatyakamaJabala, Aruni, Shvetaketu.

**Message of the Bhagavad Gita**

Introduction to Bhagavad Gita – Brief storyline of Mahabharata - Context of Kurukshetra War – The anguish of Arjuna – Counsel by Sri. Krishna – Key teachings of the Bhagavad Gita – Karma Yoga, Jnana Yoga and Bhakti Yoga - Theory of Karma and Reincarnation – Concept of Dharma – Concept of Avatar - Relevance of Mahabharata for modern times.

**Life and Message of Swami Vivekananda**

Brief Sketch of Swami Vivekananda's Life – Meeting with Guru – Disciplining of Narendra - Travel across India - Inspiring Life incidents – Address at the Parliament of Religions – Travel in United States and Europe – Return and reception India – Message from Swamiji's life.

### **Life and Teachings of Spiritual Masters India**

Sri Rama, Sri Krishna, Sri Buddha, Adi Shankaracharya, Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Swami Vivekananda, Sri Ramana Maharshi, Mata Amritanandamayi Devi.

### **Insights into Indian Arts and Literature**

The aim of this course is to present the rich literature and culture of Ancient India and help students appreciate their deep influence on Indian Life - Vedic culture, primary source of Indian Culture – Brief introduction and appreciation of a few of the art forms of India - Arts, Music, Dance, Theatre.

### **Yoga and Meditation**

The objective of the course is to provide practical training in YOGA ASANAS with a sound theoretical base and theory classes on selected verses of Patanjali's Yoga Sutra and Ashtanga Yoga. The coverage also includes the effect of yoga on integrated personality development.

### **Kerala Mural Art and Painting**

Mural painting is an offshoot of the devotional tradition of Kerala. A mural is any piece of artwork painted or applied directly on a wall, ceiling or other large permanent surface. In the contemporary scenario Mural painting is not restricted to the permanent structures and are being done even on canvas. Kerala mural paintings are the frescos depicting mythology and legends, which are drawn on the walls of temples and churches in South India, principally in Kerala. Ancient temples, churches and places in Kerala, South India, display an abounding tradition of mural paintings mostly dating back between the 9th to 12th centuries when this form of art enjoyed Royal patronage. Learning Mural painting through the theory and practice workshop is the objective of this course.

### **Course on Organic Farming and Sustainability**

Organic farming is emerging as an important segment of human sustainability and healthy life. Haritamritam' is an attempt to empower the youth with basic skills in tradition of organic farming and to revive the culture of growing vegetables that one consumes, without using chemicals and pesticides. Growth of Agriculture through such positive initiatives will go a long way in nation development. In Amma's words "it is a big step in restoring the lost harmony of nature".

### **Benefits of Indian Medicinal Systems**

Indian medicinal systems are one of the most ancient in the world. Even today society continues to derive enormous benefits from the wealth of knowledge in Ayurveda of which is recognised as a viable and sustainable medicinal tradition. This course will expose students to the fundamental principles and philosophy of Ayurveda and other Indian medicinal traditions.

### **Traditional Fine Arts of India**

India is home to one of the most diverse Art forms world over. The underlying philosophy of Indian life is 'Unity in Diversity' and it has led to the most diverse expressions of culture in India. Most art forms of India are an expression of devotion by the devotee towards the Lord and its influence in Indian life is very pervasive. This course will introduce students to the deeper philosophical basis of Indian Art forms and attempt to provide a practical demonstration of the continuing relevance of the Art.

### **Science of Worship in India**

Indian mode of worship is unique among the world civilisations. Nowhere in the world has the philosophical idea of reverence and worshipfulness for everything in this universe found universal acceptance as it in India. Indian religious life even today is a practical demonstration of the potential for realisation of this profound truth. To see the all-pervading consciousness in everything, including animate and inanimate, and constituting society to realise this truth can be

seen as the epitome of civilizational excellence. This course will discuss the principles and rationale behind different modes of worship prevalent in India.

### **Temple Mural Arts in Kerala**

The traditional percussion ensembles in the Temples of Kerala have enthralled millions over the years. The splendor of our temples makes art enthusiast spellbound, warmth and grandeur of color combination sumptuousness of the outline, crowding of space by divine or heroic figures often with in vigorous movement are the characteristics of murals.

The mural painting specially area visual counterpart of myth, legend, gods, dirties, and demons of the theatrical world, Identical myths are popular the birth of Rama, the story of Bhīma and Hanuman, Shiva, as Kirata, and the Jealousy of Uma and ganga the mural painting in Kerala appear to be closely related to, and influenced by this theatrical activity the art historians on temple planes, wood carving and painting the architectural plane of the Kerala temples are built largely on the pan-Indians almost universal model of the Vasthupurusha.

### **Organic Farming in Practice**

Organic agriculture is the application of a set of cultural, biological, and mechanical practices that support the cycling of farm resources, promote ecological balance, and conserve biodiversity. These include maintaining and enhancing soil and water quality; conserving wetlands, woodlands, and wildlife; and avoiding use of synthetic fertilizers, sewage sludge, irradiation, and genetic engineering. This factsheet provides an overview of some common farming practices that ensure organic integrity and operation sustainability.

### **Ayurveda for Lifestyle Modification:**

Ayurveda aims to integrate and balance the body, mind, and spirit which will ultimately leads to human happiness and health. Ayurveda offers methods for finding out early stages of diseases that are still undetectable by modern medical investigation. Ayurveda understands that health is a reflection of when a person is living in harmony with nature and disease arises when a person is out of harmony with the cycles of nature. All things in the universe (both living and nonliving) are joined together in Ayurveda. This leaflet endow with some practical knowledge to rediscover our pre- industrial herbal heritage.

### **Life Style and Therapy using Yoga**

Yoga therapy is the adaptation of yogic principles, methods, and techniques to specific human ailments. In its ideal application, Yoga therapy is preventive in nature, as is Yoga itself, but it is also restorative in many instances, palliative in others, and curative in many others. The therapeutic effect comes to force when we practice daily and the body starts removing toxins and the rest is done by nature.

### **Insights into Indian Classical Music**

The course introduces the students into the various terminologies used in Indian musicology and their explanations, like Nadam, Sruti, Svaram – svara nomenclature, Stayi, Graha, Nyasa, Amsa, Thala,- Saptatalas and their angas, Shadangas, Vadi, Samavadi, Anuvadi. The course takes the students through Carnatic as well as Hindustani classical styles.

### **Insights into Traditional Indian Painting**

The course introduces traditional Indian paintings in the light of ancient Indian wisdom in the fields of aesthetics, the Shadanga (Sixs limbs of Indian paintings) and the contextual stories from ancient texts from where the paintings originated. The course introduces the painting styles such as Madhubani, Kerala Mural, Pahari, Cheriya, Rajput, Tanjore etc.

## **Insights into Indian Classical Dance**

The course takes the students through the ancient Indian text on aesthetics the Natyasastra and its commentary the AbhinavaBharati. The course introduces various styles of Indian classical dance such as Bharatanatyan, Mohiniyatton, Kuchipudi, Odissy, Katak etc. The course takes the students through both contextual theory as well as practice time.

## **Indian Martial Arts and Self Defense**

The course introduces the students to the ancient Indian system of self-defense and the combat through various martial art forms and focuses more on traditional Kerala's traditional KalariPayattu. The course introduces the various exercise technique to make the body supple and flexible before going into the steps and techniques of the martial art. The advanced level of this course introduces the technique of weaponry.

## **Social Awareness Campaign**

The course introduces the students into the concept of public social awareness and how to transmit the messages of social awareness through various media, both traditional and modern. The course goes through the theoretical aspects of campaign planning and execution.

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## **18CUL101 CULTURAL EDUCATION I 2 0 0 2**

### **Unit 1**

Introduction to Indian Culture - Introduction to Amma's life and Teachings - Symbols of Indian Culture.

### **Unit 2**

Science and Technology in Ancient India - Education in Ancient India - Goals of Life – Purusharthas - Introduction to Vedanta and Bhagavad Gita.

### **Unit 3**

Introduction to Yoga - Nature and Indian Culture - Values from Indian History - Life and work of Great Seers of India.

### **TEXTBOOKS:**

1. *The Glory of India (in-house publication)*
2. *The Mother of Sweet Bliss, (Amma's Life & Teachings)*

## **18CUL111 CULTURAL EDUCATION II 2 0 0 2**

### **Unit 1**

1. Relevance of Sri Rama and Sri Krishna in this Scientific Age
2. Lessons from the Epics of India
3. Ramayana & Mahabharata

### **Unit 2**

4. Who is a Wise Man?
5. A Ruler's Dharma
6. The Story of King Shibi

### **Unit 3**

7. Introduction to the Bhagavad Gita
8. Bhagavad Gita – Action without Desire

### **Unit 4**

9. Role and Position of Women in India
10. The Awakening of Universal Motherhood

### **Unit 5**

11. Patanjali's Astanga - Yoga System for Personality Refinement
12. Examples of Heroism and Patriotism in Modern India

### **TEXTBOOKS:**

- Common Resource Material II (in-house publication)*  
*Sanatana Dharma - The Eternal Truth (A compilation of Amma's teachings on Indian Culture)*

## **18ENV300 ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY 3 0 0 3**

### **Unit 1**

State of Environment and Unsustainability, Need for Sustainable Development, Traditional conservation systems in India, People in Environment, Need for an attitudinal change and ethics, Need for Environmental Education, Overview of International Treaties and Conventions, Overview of Legal and Regulatory Frameworks.

Environment: Abiotic and biotic factors, Segments of the Environment, Biogeochemical Cycles, Ecosystems (associations, community adaptations, ecological succession, Food webs, Food chain, ecological pyramids), Types of Ecosystems – Terrestrial ecosystems, Ecosystem Services, Economic value of ecosystem services, Threats to ecosystems and conservation strategies.

Biodiversity: Species, Genetic & Ecosystem Diversity, Origin of life and significance of biodiversity, Value of Biodiversity, Biodiversity at Global, National and Local Levels, India as a Mega-Diversity Nation (Hotspots) & Protected Area Network, Community Biodiversity Registers. Threats to Biodiversity, Red Data book, Rare, Endangered and Endemic Species of India. Conservation of Biodiversity. People's action. Impacts, causes, effects, control measures, international, legal and regulatory frameworks of: Climate Change, Ozone depletion, Air pollution, Water pollution, Noise pollution, Soil/ land degradation/ pollution

### **Unit 2**

Linear vs. cyclical resource management systems, need for systems thinking and design of cyclical systems, circular economy, industrial ecology, green technology. Specifically apply these concepts to: Water Resources, Energy Resources, Food Resources, Land & Forests, Waste management.

Discuss the interrelation of environmental issues with social issues such as: Population, Illiteracy, Poverty, Gender equality, Class discrimination, Social impacts of development on the poor and tribal communities, Conservation movements: people's movements and activism, Indigenous knowledge systems and traditions of conservation.

### **Unit 3**

Common goods and public goods, natural capital/ tragedy of commons, Cost benefit analysis of development projects, Environment Impact Assessment (EIA), Environment Management Plan (EMP), Green business, Eco-labeling, Problems and solutions with case studies.

Global and national state of housing and shelter, Urbanization, Effects of unplanned development case studies, Impacts of the building and road construction industry on the environment, Eco-homes/ Green buildings, Sustainable communities, Sustainable Cities.

Ethical issues related to resource consumption, Intergenerational ethics, Need for investigation and resolution of the root cause of unsustainability, Traditional value systems of India, Significance of holistic value-based education for true sustainability.

### **TEXTBOOKS/ REFERENCES:**

1. R. Rajagopalan, *Environmental Studies: From Crisis to Cure*. Oxford University Press, 2011, 358 pages. ISBN: 9780198072089.
2. Daniel D. Chiras, *Environmental Science*. Jones & Bartlett Publishers, 01-Feb-2012, 669

pages. ISBN: 9781449645311.

3. Andy Jones, Michel Pimbert and Janice Jiggins, 2011. *Virtuous Circles: Values, Systems, Sustainability*. IIED and IUCN CEESP, London. URL:<http://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/G03177.pdf>

4. Annenberg Learner, *The Habitable Planet*, Annenberg Foundation 2015. URL: <http://www.learner.org/courses/envsci/unit/pdfs/textbook.pdf>.