

EN860 A Comparative Study of Valmiki Ramayana and Adhyatma Ramayana 4-0-0 4

Course Objectives:

The Indian religion and its corresponding literature are made luxuriously rich with its two great epics like Mahabharatha and Ramayana without which India and the Indian culture would be incomplete. But over time, these epics, especially Ramayana has found expressions in many different interpretations in many different Indian languages giving birth to several forms of Ramayana. The original grand epic Ramayana by Valmiki became the base for many versions of later Ramayanas. In spite of the theme of these varieties of Ramayana being the same, each one has its own unique flavour different from the primeval poem. This course aims to...

- ❖ *Introduce the students to two of the Ramayanas: the original Valmiki Ramayana and the spiritual version of Ramayana, Adhyatma Ramayana.*
- ❖ *Discover the various story elements such as character, setting, plot, dialogue etc. in the epic-story of Valmiki Ramayana and Adhyatma Ramayana.*
- ❖ *Discover the similarities between these story elements of Valmiki Ramayana and Adhyatma Ramayana.*
- ❖ *Discover the differences between these story elements of Valmiki Ramayana and Adhyatma Ramayana.*
- ❖ *Synthesize the differences between Valmiki Ramayana and Adhyatma Ramayana into one unified whole.*

Course Outcomes:

The students are able to...

- ❖ *CO1: Acquaint themselves to two of the Ramayanas: the original Valmiki Ramayana and the spiritual version of Ramayana, Adhyatma Ramayana.*
- ❖ *CO2: Acquire knowledge of the various story elements such as character, setting, plot, dialogue etc. in the epic-story of Valmiki Ramayana and Adhyatma Ramayana.*
- ❖ *CO3: Gain deeper insight into the similarities between these story elements of Valmiki Ramayana and Adhyatma Ramayana.*
- ❖ *CO4: Gain deeper insight into the differences between these story elements of Valmiki Ramayana and Adhyatma Ramayana.*
- ❖ *CO5: Synthesize the differences between Valmiki Ramayana and Adhyatma Ramayana to gain a new, fresh perspective of the two, very different Ramayanas as one unified whole.*

Activities/content with direct bearing on employability/ entrepreneurship/skill development (based on NAAC Criteria):

Through compare and contrast study, students develop higher order thinking like analytical ability. The student's memory is strengthened by focusing the thinking ability on analysing pairs of ideas. The student improves comprehension by highlighting important details, making abstract ideas more concrete, and reducing the confusion between related concepts. This comparative study strengthens their writing skills by providing a simple structure which in turn helps them to organize information and develop their ideas with greater clarity and precision.

Using compare and contrast method, develops in students habits of mind that have direct impact on their increased chances of future success in securing employment. These habits include, thinking flexibly, metacognition where one thinks about thinking, striving for accuracy, applying past knowledge to new situations, and thinking and communicating with clarity and precision. Thus a comparative study course equips them with a good skill set which can direct them to jobs like Assistant Professor, Content strategist and even a translator of works.

Year of Introduction: 2021

Syllabus:

Module 1: Valmiki Ramayana

- ❖ Character
- ❖ Setting
- ❖ Plot
- ❖ Conflict
- ❖ Resolution
- ❖ Theme
- ❖ Point of view
- ❖ Style
- ❖ Tone
- ❖ Dialogue

Module 2: Adhyatma Ramayana

- ❖ Character
- ❖ Setting
- ❖ Plot
- ❖ Conflict
- ❖ Resolution
- ❖ Theme
- ❖ Point of view
- ❖ Style
- ❖ Tone
- ❖ Dialogue

Module 3: Comparative Study: Valmiki Ramayana and Adhyatma Ramayana

- ❖ Similarities
- ❖ Differences

Module 4: One Unified whole: Valmiki Ramayana and Adhyatma Ramayana

- ❖ Synthesis

CORE TEXTS:

1. Subramaniam, Kamala. *Ramayana*. 8th ed., Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mumbai, 2003.
2. Tapasyananda, swami, translator. *Adhyatma Ramayana: The Spiritual Version of the Rama Saga*. 9th Print, Sri Ramakrishna Math, Mylapore, Madras, September 2018.

REFERENCES:

1. Chhawchharia, Ajai Kumar Sri, compiler and translator. *Adhyatma Ramayana of Maharsi Vedavyasa*. Reprint Ed., Vol I, Chaukhamba Surbharati Prakashan, Varanasi, 2020.
2. Chhawchharia, Ajai Kumar Sri, Compiler and Translator. *Adhyatma Ramayana of Maharsi Vedavyasa*. Reprint Ed., Vol II, Chaukhamba Surbharati Prakashan, Varanasi, 2020.
3. Growse, F. S., translator. *The Ramayana of Tulsidas*. 6th ed., Ram Narain Lal, Allahabad, 1914.