

Course Objectives:

*Vedanta is generally identified with the system of Advaita associated with Sri Sankaracharya. This is an incomplete notion. There are lives and doctrines of other Acharyas of Vedanta that are equal in status. These personages are Sri Ramanuja, Sri Nimbarka, Sri Vallabha, Sri Madhva and Sri Caitanya. Their philosophy forms the **Bhakti Schools of Vedanta**. Here, in this course we take up two main Bhakti Schools of Vedanta: Sri Ramanujacharya's Visishtadvaita Vedanta and Sri Madhvacharya's Dvaita Vedanta and find its echoes in Adhyatma Ramayana based on Narada bhakti aphorisms. This course aims to...*

1. *Introduce the students to the spiritual version of Ramayana – Adhyatma Ramayana.*
2. *Familiarize the students with the different ideas and concepts in the Narada Bhakti Sutras*
3. *Introduce the students to the two main Bhakti Philosophies of India: Visishtadvaita and Dvaita Vedanta.*
4. *Familiarize the students with the different ideas and concepts in both the Bhakti Philosophies.*
5. *Familiarize the students with the life – background of the two philosophers.*
6. *Gain deeper insight into the influence and impact of these two philosophies.*
7. *Discover Bhakti elements in Adhyatma Ramayana based on these two Bhakti schools of Vedanta and Bhakti aphorisms.*

Course Outcomes:

- ❖ CO1: Acquaint themselves to the main Bhakti Concepts of the classic bhakti Aphorisms.
- ❖ CO2: Acquaint themselves to the two main Bhakti Philosophies of India: Visishtadvaita and Dvaita Vedanta.
- ❖ CO3: Acquire knowledge of the fundamental ideas and concepts of these two Bhakti Philosophies.
- ❖ CO4: Gain deeper insight into the philosophies with the knowledge of the philosopher's life-context and its influence on the philosophical thought system.
- ❖ CO5: Recognize the influence and impact of these two philosophies on other schools of thought and the common masses.
- ❖ CO6: Acquaint themselves to the spiritual version of Ramayana; *The Adhyatma Ramayana*.
- ❖ CO7: Critically analyse Adhyatma Ramayana based on the bhakti aphorisms and these two Bhakti philosophies.

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

Students *develop analytical ability* through a *detailed critical analysis* of one of the great epics, Ramayana done from bhakti or devotional perspective. Thus an in-depth study of the bhakti ideas and concepts as delineated in the Bhakti aphorisms and philosophies also leads to the *growth of devotion through its practical application in their personal life*. Epics like Ramayana, the treasure chest of *immortal virtues* will *equip them with a good Indian Spiritual Culture* which opens up for them scope in jobs like **Assistant Professor in Spiritual Studies, Spiritual Content Strategist and even a translator of spiritual works/literature.**

Year of Introduction: 2022

Syllabus:

Unit 1: Adhyatma Ramayana

- Discovery of Bhakti Characters
- Discovery of Bhakti Episodes

Unit 2: Narada Bhakti Sutras

- The Bhakti Concepts based on Love Aphorisms

Unit 3: Bhakti Schools of Vedanta

- Life of Ramanujacharya
- Philosophy of Visishtadvaita Vedanta
- Life of Madhvacharya
- Philosophy of Dvaita Vedanta

Unit 4: Bhakti in Adhyatma Ramayana

- Bhakti reflections in Adhyatma Ramayana based on bhakti aphorisms and philosophies

CORE TEXTS:

1. Tapasyananda, swami, translator. *Adhyatma Ramayana: The Spiritual Version of the Rama Saga*. 9th Print, Sri Ramakrishna Math, Mylapore, Madras, September 2018.
2. Chhawchharia, Ajai Kumar Sri, compiler and translator. *Adhyatma Ramayana of Maharsi Vedavyasa*. Reprint Ed., Vol I, Chaukhamba Surbharati Prakashan, Varanasi, 2020.
3. Chhawchharia, Ajai Kumar Sri, Compiler and Translator. *Adhyatma Ramayana of Maharsi Vedavyasa*. Reprint Ed., Vol II, Chaukhamba Surbharati Prakashan, Varanasi, 2020.
4. Bhuteshananda, swami. *The Narada Bhakti Sutras*. Advaita Ashram, Kolkata, 2020.
5. Tapasyananda, swami. *Bhakti Schools of Vedanta: Lives and Philosophies of Ramanuja, Nimbarka, Madhva, Vallabha and Caitanya*. Second Ed. First Print, Sri Ramakrishna Math, Mylapore, Chennai. December 2019.

REFERENCES:

1. Tyagisananda, Swami. *Narada Bhakti Sutras*. Fifteenth Print. Sri Ramakrishna Math, Mylapore, Chennai, February 2016.
2. Sharma, B.N.K., Dr. *Philosophy of Madhvacharya*. Rev. Ed. Motilal Banarasidass, Delhi, 1986.
3. Srinivasachari. P.N. *The Philosophy of Visishtadvaita*. The Adyar Library and Research Centre, 2010.

Evaluation Scheme:

Internal

Seminar I – 25 marks

Seminar II – 25 marks

External

Project – 50 marks
