

**Gujarat University**

**Semester – 4**

**Value Added Course**

**Course Name: Great Epics of India : Ramayana and Mahabharata**

**Course Code : VAC-GEI-247**

**Credit: 2**

**Unit 1: Great Epics of India: Authors, Texts, Chronology and Geography**

- a. Valmiki's Ramayana: Chronology of Writings including Vernacular Traditions and Abroad and Genealogies
- b. Valmiki's Ramayana: Historical Geography in India and Abroad and their Provenance
- c. Vyasa's Mahabharata: Chronology of Writings including Vernacular Traditions and Genealogies
- d. Vyasa's Mahabharata: Historical Geography and their Provenance

**Great Epics of India: War and Peace**

- a. Ramayana: Conflicts and War, Causes and Consequences
- b. Lessons from Ramayana: Contemporary Approaches to Conflict Resolutions and Prevention of War
- c. Mahabharata: Conflicts and War, Causes and Consequences and Gitapodesh
- d. Lessons from Mahabharata: Contemporary Approaches to Conflict Resolutions and Prevention of War

**Unit 2: Great Epics of India: Character Analyses**

- a. Main Characters of Ramayana and Analysis of their Characters
- b. Minor Characters of Ramayana and Analysis of their Characters
- c. Main Characters of Mahabharata and Analysis of their Characters
- d. Minor Characters of Mahabharata and Analysis of their Characters

**Great Epics of India: Statecraft, Society, Religion and Economy**

- a. Nature of State in Ramayana and the Concept of Ramarajya
- b. Religion, Society and Economy in Ramayana
- c. Nature of State in Mahabharata and the Concept Dharma
- d. Religion, Society and Economy in Mahabharata

**Recommended Readings:**

1. (original Valmiki Ramayana and Vyas' Mahabharata; Ramayana and Mahabharata in regional languages)
2. Indian Literary Criticism: Theory and Interpretation. G.N. Devy. Orient Blackswan: New Delhi, 2020.
3. Reconceptualizing India Studies. S.N. Balagangadhara. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2012.
4. Legends in the Mahabharata. S.A. Dange. Motilal Banarasidas: New Delhi, 1969.
5. A Socio-cultural Study of the Valmiki Ramayana. Ramashraya Sharma. Motilal Banarasidas, 1971.
6. India in the Ramayana Age. S.N. Vyas. Atma Ram and Sons: New Delhi, 1967.
7. Women's Lives: Women's Rituals in the Hindu Tradition. Ed. Tracy Pintchman. Oxford University Press: London, 2007.
8. Philology and Criticism: A Guide to Mahabharata Textual Criticism. Vishwa Adluri & Joydeep Bagchee. Anthem Press: London, 2018.
9. In the Footsteps of Rama: Travels with the Ramayana. Pande and Kulkarni. HarperCollins, 2021.
10. The History and Culture of the Indian People (Vols. 1, 2, 3). R.C. Majumdar. Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, 2015.
11. Re-figuring the Ramayana as Theology. Ajay K. Rao. Routledge, 2014.
12. Mahabharata Now: Narration, Aesthetics and Ethics. Chakrabarti & Bandopadhyay. Routledge, 2014.
13. Three Essays on the Mahabharata. Sibaji Bandopadhyay. Orient Blackswan, 2015.
14. Ethics in the Mahabharata. Sitanshu Chakravarti. Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers, 2006.
15. Geography of the Mahabharata. Bhagwan Singh Suryavanshi. Ramanand Vidya Bhawan, 1986.
16. Religion, Narrative and Public Imagination in South Asia: Past and Place in Sanskrit Mahabharata. James Hegarty. Routledge, 2012.
17. Destiny and Human Initiative in the Mahabharata. Julian F. Woods. State University of New York Press, 2001.
18. When the Goddess was a Woman: Mahabharata Ethnographies. Vishwa Adluri & Joydeep Bagchi. Brill, 2011.
19. Maryada: Searching for Dharma in the Ramayana. Arshia Sattar. HarperCollins, 2020.