

## Course syllabus

Department of Civil Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Madras

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### GN5010 – Indian Aesthetics in Design

**Credit Distribution:** C: 9 L: 3 T: 0 P: 0 E: 0 O: 6 TH: 0

**Course Type:** Theory

**Description:** To develop an understanding of the key aspects of the Indian view on Beauty, Art and Aesthetics. 2. To appreciate how the contributions made by ancient Indians in the different fields of creative arts found their common basis and purpose in the deeper vision of Indian culture. 3. To examine the import of Indian view of art and aesthetics on overall development of artist and connoisseur.

**Course Content:** 1. Idea of India and Indian-ness: Multiple perspectives of the Idea of India; singular entity or multiple ideas; spirit of India; significance today 2. Indian Views on Beauty, Harmony and Art: Oneness of beauty and delight; art as a medium to express the eternal delight through form; harmony; experiences of the creator and connoisseur. 3. Early Origins of Indian Art and Aesthetics: philosophy of Indian art in early civilisational period; Indian architecture, painting, and sculpture as an expression of Indian philosophy, Yoga, culture. 4. Rasa and Bhava 1: Introduction to Indian theories on aesthetics; Rasa theory in Bharata Muni Natyashastra; eight rasas and associated bhava; ninth rasa (shanta-rasa); work of Kashmiri aesthetician Andandavardhana 5. Rasa and Bhava 2: Deeper insight; sense over powering suggestion; rasavandana of Ananda Coomaraswamy 6. Essentials of Indian Art: Unique and essential aspects of Indian art; contrast with western art 7. Indian Architecture: Significance of unity in multiplicity in ancient Indian architecture; majesty and inner significance of Indian temple architecture; new cultural influences; masterpieces of Indo-Islamic architecture 8. Indian Sculpture and Painting: Key ancient Indian treatises on painting and sculpture; key motives of Indian painting; contrasts with ancient Greek sculptural art; influence of Persian art forms; colonial era impact 9. Nature, the Source of Inspiration: Beauty as a joyous offering of Nature; source of delight and harmony 10. Many Uses of Art: Purposes of art: a) Aesthetic, b) Educative, and c) Spiritual; threefold aesthetic value of art 11. Arts Education in Ancient and Present-day India: Historical perspective; designing arts education programme 12. Indian Aesthetics and Popular Cultural Forms of Today: popular films and music; modern painting, sculpture and architecture; Indian folk arts and crafts.

#### Text Books:

- A compilation of selected readings from various sources; Audio-Visual material on various topics covered in the course.

#### Reference Books:

- Sri Aurobindo (1997), The Renaissance in India and Other Essays on Indian Culture, Sri Aurobindo Ashram Trust, Pondicherry.
- Sri Aurobindo(2003), Early Cultural Writings, Sri Aurobindo Ashram Trust, Pondicherry.
- Sri Aurobindo (2004), Letters on Poetry and Art, Sri Aurobindo Ashram Trust, Pondicherry.
- Sri Aurobindo (1997), The Future Poetry, Sri Aurobindo Ashram Trust, Pondicherry.

- The Collected Works of The Mother, Sri Aurobindo Ashram Trust, Pondicherry, 1978-2002 (Selections from her writings and talks on Beauty, Art and Aesthetics).
- Collected Works of Nolini Kanta Gupta (8 volumes), Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Pondicherry.
- Ananda K. Coomara swamy (original 1924), The Dance of Siva: Essays on Indian Art and Culture; (Dover Publications, 2011).
- Hazrat Inayat Khan, Vol. 10: Art: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow, The Sufi Message, Motilal Banarsidass Publishers (2003).
- V. Raghavan (1940) The Number of Rasas, The Adyar Library.
- P.K. Acharya (1998) Manasara Series on Architecture and Vaastu (7 Vols.), Low-Priced Publication, Delhi.
- S. Kramisch (1987), The Art of India through the Ages, Motilal Banarsidass.
- S. Kramrisc (2013) Indian Sculpture, Motilal Banarsidass, Second Reprint edition.
- E.B. Havell (1912) The Ideals of Indian Art, New York.
- J. Ferguson (1910) History of Indian and Eastern Architecture, London.

**Prerequisite:** Nil