

**ANS 372 Arts and Dances of South India**

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 Meeting hours and place: 3.3.-5.00 GAR 0.132  
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**Course Description**

Art is spiritual in its outlook, idealistic in expression and sublime in interpretation. It is not matter of enjoyment, not something to amuse one-self with. It has a deeper basis and a more exalted aim. It was considered to be vital for human progress as knowledge. In one sense, art turned inward is divinity and divinity turned outward is art in Indian cultural contexts. All art treasures are preserved and practiced from time to time in all cultures. India, a land of cultures for several millenniums keeps its identity through these arts which is base of intellectual history even today.

In ancient India, various art forms like paintings, architecture and sculpture evolved. The history of art in ancient India begins with prehistoric rock paintings. An advanced town planning is seen in North West Indus regions with highly developed architecture. Another remarkable example of sculpture from Harappa civilization comes in the form of the dancing girl from Mohenjo-Daro. The use of symbolic forms in India is as old as the Harappa seals. The fire altars of the Vedic period, with their astronomical significance also play an important role in the evolution of the later temples. It was followed by a period in the history of Indian art that is important for rock-cut caves and temple architecture.

Alongside the art forms like architecture, paintings and sculpture, there have been evolving, changing, transforming, folk and tribal art traditions in India. These art forms are expression of people belonging to different cultural and social groups of India. It is the expression of people whose life is tuned to the rhythms of nature. In Indian art tradition, gods and legends are transformed into contemporary forms and familiar images. It is an art where life and creativity are inseparable.

Therefore, this class will explore and extensively discuss different art forms, both fine arts and performing arts and the social relevance. Theories and practice will also form part of the course. As India is big for this study as region, North East, North, and South regions and the dances of these regions and their developments and types (folk theater to modern) will be discussed using print and visual materials. Court-theater-temple transformation of the art of dances and arts associated with this art and their underlying philosophies will be also discussed.

**Grading:**

Quiz (Q-1: 20+Q-2: 20) .....	40%
Attendance and class participation .....	20%
Project/Paper(s) and presentation on assigned topic(s).....	20%
Critical writing (topic) .....	10%
Topic wise analysis/Articles or Essays of analysis and criticism or argument, and presentation/ Reviews of books, selected articles on the themes, lectures as assigned) Videos related to the topics, Critical write-up]	
Video writes-up on contents .....	10%

**Selected Readings:**

1. Performing pasts: reinventing the arts in modern South India , 2008, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2008 **edited by Indira Viswanathan**
2. Acts of authority and acts of resistance: theater and politics in colonial and postcolonial India / Nandi Bhatia, Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2004
3. History of Art Development in India and Southeastern Asia, Chang Renxia, 2006-5 ISBN 7-5336-4540-5
4. The art of India, Hermann Goetz, Crown Publishers, India

5. Beyond performing art and culture: politico-social aspects / V.P. Dhananjayan, 2007 B.R. Rhythms, 2007. Anthology of articles chiefly on Indian classical dance, Dance -- Social aspects -- India, Dance -- Political aspects -- India

6. Sacred landscapes in Asia: shared traditions, multiple histories, 2007

New Delhi: Manohar Publishers & Distributors: Distributed in South Asia by Foundation Books, 2007.

7. Indian Art: forms, concerns and development in historical perspective

New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers: Project of History of Indian Science, Philosophy, and Culture, 2000.

8. Indian theatre, tradition, continuity, and change / Nemichandra Jain, New Delhi: Vikas Pub. House, c1992

9. Course-pack