

# Exploring Human Values: Visions of Happiness and Perfect Society - Web course

## COURSE OUTLINE

The purpose of this course is to explore human values. In this course students will be exposed to dilemmas of transcendence and social transformation. The course is interdisciplinary and draws material from psychology, sociology, economic thoughts and political ideas.

At the end, students will be able to develop a practical philosophy of social transformation, which aims at creating a just order in which all are happy.

If continuous happiness is the human aspiration then there should also be a human programme to fulfill basic human aspirations. To implement this programme in practice we need harmony in the self, harmony with the body, harmony in family, harmony in society, harmony in nature, and harmony in existence.

Students will be expected to explore vision for holistic technology, production systems and management models. The course also aims to question assumed dichotomies of the Oriental and the Occidental, traditional and modern, and personal and social, and develop a universal approach to value education based on natural acceptance of all, mutual fulfillment and co-existence.

## COURSE DETAIL

Module	Title	Issues	No. of Lectures
1	The problem	Twin goals: happiness and just order; role of value education	2
2	Paradoxes of happiness	Concepts of good life – quality of life and subjective well-being; happiness, life satisfaction, and positive affect; studying quality of life through surveys; and findings of quality of life surveys.	2



NP-TEL

# NPTEL

<http://nptel.iitm.ac.in>

## Humanities and Social Sciences

### Pre-requisites:

- None

### Hyperlinks:

- <http://www.dharmaraincentre.org/2007/08/02/>
- [http://www.india-seminar.com/2008/586/586\\_hilal\\_ahmed.htm](http://www.india-seminar.com/2008/586/586_hilal_ahmed.htm)
- <http://www.scribd.com/doc/16634512/Buddha-and-His-Dhamma-by-B-R-Ambedkar-Full>

### Coordinators:

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3	The problem of social transformation	Moral and institutional approaches; and the inherent conflict between the two	2
4	Conceptualizing the relationship between man and society	Man and society; theories of man and society such as methodological individualism, structuralism, Giddens's theory of structuration, and structural symbolic interactionism	2
5	Religious and spiritual approaches to human happiness	Vedic, Jain and Buddhist philosophies; Christianity; Islam; and Sikhism	5
6	Economic and utilitarian theories	Utilitarianism; utility and economic theory; capitalism: claims of capitalism; internal contradictions; socialism and communism; disorganized capitalism; risk	5
7	Political approaches	Marxist and neo-Marxist thoughts; critical theory; democracy in public and private spheres; manifestos of leading political parties	4
8	An argument for modernization and development	Nehruvian model of industrial socialism; inclusive growth	2
9	Postmodernization and emancipation	Modernization and post modernization;	3

		emancipation; emancipatory practices; dilemmas and paradoxes	
10	Possibilities of transformation	Hope and hopelessness; transforming society; professional ethics	3
11	Indian social thoughts	Attempts to combine spiritual, economic and political theories of values: Rammohan Roy, Aurobindo Ghosh, Rabindranath Tagore, M. K. Gandhi, B. R., Ambedkar, Ananda Coomarswamy.	5
12	Human values and humanism: dilemmas and directions	Jeevan Vidya; human values, "I" and "Body" need for harmony in the self; harmony with the body; harmony in family, society, nature and existence; evaluation of Jeevan Vidya.	4
13	Conclusion	Summary and conclusion of the course	1
<b>Total number of lectures:</b>			<b>40</b>

#### References:

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