
OFFICE OF DOCTORAL STUDIES

O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY SONIPAT

PROGRAMME : OPEN/Ph.D.

SEMESTER : FALL/SPRING

NO. OF CREDITS : 1.5

SUBJECT : Bhagavad Gita for Leadership, Ethics, and Decision-Making

LOCATION : HYBRID

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

INSTRUCTOR : Dr. AAINA DUTTA

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OFFICE HOURS : PRIOR APPOINTMENT

Course description:

This course explores the Bhagavad Gita's wisdom through the lens of research methodologies, corporate leadership, behavioral sciences, and ethical decision-making. Students will analyze its philosophical foundations and apply its principles to modern management, innovation, sustainability, and work-life balance.

Learning outcome:

- Understand **core philosophical and ethical** principles of the Bhagavad Gita.
- Apply Gita-based **decision-making models** to business, leadership, and research ethics.
- Integrate **mindfulness, resilience, and self-regulation** in corporate and academic settings.
- Explore Gita's impact on **sustainability, innovation, and stakeholder management**.
- Compare **Western and Eastern leadership models**, highlighting the Gita's relevance in contemporary scenarios.

General competence

- Students should be able to analyze key concepts such as Dharma (duty), Karma (action), Bhakti (devotion), and Jnana (wisdom) and apply them to corporate leadership, governance, and ethical dilemmas.

- Students should be able to apply the Gita's teachings to enhance mental resilience, mindfulness, and work-life balance in high-pressure environments.
- Students should be able to evaluate ethical decision-making frameworks in business, policy, and research, using the Gita's wisdom to navigate moral conflicts.

Evaluation and Grading:

Description	Weightage	Schedule
Formative Assessment	50%	Detailed Below
Summative Assessment	50%	Course Calendar

Formative Assessment will consist of Individual/ Group Assignment with 50% weightage.

Summative Assignment will be done through evaluation of case studies which carries 50% weightage.

Passing Criteria and Attendance Criteria:

As per JGU Guidelines for the given courses.

Detailed Session Plan:

Module 1: Foundations of the Bhagavad Gita (Weeks 1-2)

- Historical context and philosophical essence of the Gita
- Core themes: **Dharma (duty), Karma (action), Bhakti (devotion), and Jnana (wisdom)**
- Comparison with Western leadership and ethical theories (Stoicism, Kantian ethics)

Module 2: Leadership, Decision-Making & Ethical Dilemmas (Weeks 3-4)

- Krishna's guidance to Arjuna: **Handling dilemmas and moral conflicts**

- Applications in **corporate governance, strategic management, and HR leadership**
- Case studies: Ethical dilemmas faced by business leaders & solutions inspired by Gita

Module 3: Bhagavad Gita & Research Methodologies (Weeks 5-6)

- Research ethics and intellectual humility (**Nishkama Karma** – Work without Attachment)
- Overcoming **confirmation bias and cognitive dissonance** in academic research
- Application of **Gita's wisdom in interdisciplinary problem-solving**

Module 4: Mindfulness, Mental Resilience & Work-Life Balance (Weeks 7-8)

- Psychological benefits of **Karma Yoga and Sattvic mindset** in high-stress environments
- Neuroscience of **detachment and productivity**
- Meditation, focus, and resilience for **corporate executives and researchers**

Module 5: Innovation, Sustainability & Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) (Weeks 9-10)

- Gita's influence on **sustainable leadership & corporate ethics**
- Principles of **Sattva, Rajas, and Tamas** applied to organizational change
- CSR strategies inspired by **Dharma and stakeholder responsibility**

Module 6: Bhagavad Gita & Future of Leadership in AI and Tech (Weeks 11-12)

- Ethical AI, automation, and Gita's role in **human-AI collaboration**
- Gita's guidance on **digital transformation, crisis management, and adaptability**
- Final project presentations: Applying Gita's principles to **real-world corporate & research challenges**

Course Resources:

- **Primary Text:** Bhagavad Gita (Various translations & interpretations)
- **Reference Books:**
 - *The Bhagavad Gita for Business and Leadership* – Radhakrishnan Pillai
 - *The Leadership Sutra: An Indian Approach to Power* – Devdutt Pattanaik
 - *Ethical Leadership and Decision Making in Business* – Fraedrich & Ferrell