



KAUTILYA SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

GITAM (Deemed to be University)
Rudraram, Patancheru Mandal
Hyderabad, Telangana 502329

Course Code: PPOL6851	Course Title: Relevance of Kautilya's Arthashastra in Contemporary Statecraft	
Trimester: 1	Course Type: Skill Shop	Credits: 1
Home Program(s): MPP	Batch/Academic Year: 2024-26	
Course Lead: Dr Kajari Kamal	Assigned T/RA:	

Course Description

Kautilya's Arthashastra is an ancient Indian classic on political theory and statecraft. A study of the text reveals the relevance of its basic tenets beyond its historical context, in part, due to its grounding in unchanging human nature and laws that still govern relations between nations. Importantly, it is a strategic-cultural resource that exercises an important influence on contemporary Indian strategic thought and practice.

The fundamental principles of this foundational text on Political Science and International Relations are of immense relevance to contemporary understanding of concepts like internal security, grand strategy, foreign policy, public administration, political economy, intelligence culture and leadership. Kautilya's template of comprehensive statecraft, strongly moored in India's ancient strategic and philosophical tradition, renders it innate to India's international conduct.

The course seeks to introduce the elements of statecraft in Kautilya's Arthashastra and highlight their contemporary relevance by discussing some of the core concepts in both the domestic and interstate realms of statecraft.

Learning Objectives

- 1) Familiarization with the text and context of Kautilya's Arthashastra
- 2) Comprehending the core precepts of the treatise in both domestic and interstate realm
- 3) Understanding the concept of strategic culture and its importance in understanding interstate conduct through the prism of Kautilya's Arthashastra
- 4) Application of Kautilyan principles in a real geopolitical scenario.

Course Outcomes

- 1) Students will be exposed to an Indic understanding of statecraft.
- 2) Appreciating the convergences and divergences with a 'Western' conception of 'power' and 'order' will provide the students an alternative framework for analysis.
- 3) The students will be equipped to understand the nuances of policy making in the contemporary world.

Course Schedule

Unit I	Session: 1	Introduction to Kautilya's Statecraft and comparison with 'Western' conception of 'power' and 'order'
Unit II	Session: 2	Concept Cluster I – Aanvikshiki, Matsya-Nyaya, Rajadharmā, Saptanga
Unit III	Session: 3	Concept Cluster II – Rajamandala, Sadgunyas, Upayas, Yogakshema
Unit IV	Session: 4	Treaty making and alliance building in the Arthashastra
Unit V	Session: 5	Internal security and intelligence
Unit VI	Session: 6	Kautilya's Arthashastra and India's strategic culture
Unit VII	Sessions: 7&8	Simulation Exercise– Kautilyan Scenario/ Online Interview with former NSA, Shivshankar Menon (for a practitioner's perspective)