

Māyāpur Online Education

An initiative of ISKCON Māyāpur

BASIC BHAGAVAD-GĪTĀ STUDY

PROSPECTUS

Māyāpur Online Education

Māyāpur Online Education is an initiative of ISKCON Māyāpur to produce certified online courses on *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and *Caitanya-caritāmṛta* and other major writings of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda and his predecessor ācāryas. Certificates will be offered for each book separately by the heads of the Educational Division of ISKCON Māyāpur. Courses on Sanskrit will also be offered. As of December 2010, the following courses are offered: *Basic Bhagavad-gītā Study*, *Basic First Canto Study*, *Essence of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*, *Overview of Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* and *Gītā Sanskrit*.

Basic Bhagavad-gītā Study

Basic Bhagavad-gītā Study, an online course, is designed to help the students study Śrīla Prabhupāda's presentation of the Bhagavad-gītā in depth. Students of this online course should expect a challenging, disciplined and intensive course of study. Students can join in this course at any time of the year.

Course format

The course is conducted in English. Teacher-student interactions constitute the core of this course. For the purpose of this online course, the text of *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is* is divided into 116 lessons, each lesson containing two pages of text in PDF. The lesson is hyperlinked to a 5 minute audio summary of that lesson. These form the study content for the course. An [extension website](#) for Mayapur Online Education courses has been created where questions posed by students are presented along with answers lesson by lesson.

Tests

Assessments are accomplished through tests at the end of each chapter, at the end of each module (six chapters of the Bhagavad-gītā) and at the end of *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*.

Each chapter test will appear in inline text (through e-mail) containing four passages from that chapter which the student will be required to explain in his own words and in not less than fifty words. The student's answers will then be scrutinized and the student will be cross-examined thrice on the basis of his answers. Division tests will be similar to chapter tests, the only differences being that the passages will be chosen from the entire division and that the student will be cross-examined four times on the basis of his answers. The final test will contain four passages chosen from the entire study, and the student will be cross-examined five times on the basis of his answers.¹

Speed of study

The student receives all lessons within a chapter together at the same time. He goes through all those lessons, listens to their respective audios, checks the extension site, and corresponds with the teacher when he has any questions and until his questions are dealt with. Then there is a chapter test followed by cross-examinations. After the test, the teacher sends the student the lessons for the next chapter. The course should be finished within one year from the date of registration.

Certification

Satisfactory performance in the course will result in the student receiving a certificate of successful completion issued by the Educational Divisional Heads of ISKCON Māyāpur.

Enrollment

Anyone who is interested in taking up this course should write to moe.inquiry@gmail.com. They will be sent an application form. Candidates can see [here](#) how to submit the course fee. The fee for this course is Rs 2,500 within India, and USD 125 outside India. This is regardless of the nationality of the students. *Please note that registration is*

¹ For those who desire to complete the chapter tests quickly, the cross-examination can be conducted via real time text chat.

open throughout the year and students can start the course at any time of the year.

Course code

The course code for *Basic Bhagavad-gītā Study* is BBG. This code should be quoted in all correspondence.

Study materials and accessories

Students should have access to the Internet. They should be able to read PDF files. It is best if they should have an e-mail client such as Gmail that supports display of Unicode characters, so that they can copy and paste from the PDF file into the e-mail text if needed. Students should be able to listen to an MP3 audio file embedded in a website (streaming).

Teacher

Vidvān Gaurāṅga dāsa: After reading the majority of Śrīla Prabhupāda's writings and associating with his followers in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India, Vidvān Gaurāṅga dāsa became convinced in 1987 that Śrīla Prabhupāda authentically and powerfully represents the factual message of the Vedic śāstras. In 1989, he joined ISKCON as a temple resident and within a year, moved to Śrī Māyāpur where he received spiritual initiation from HH Jayapatākā Swāmī Mahārāja and began his formal studies in Sanskrit, Bengali and the writings of the predecessor ācāryas. From 1999, he taught the Bhagavad-gītā thrice at the Māyāpur Institute for Higher Education and Training. In 2005, with the approval and encouragement of his spiritual master, he joined HG Gopiparāṇadhana Prabhu's Śrīmad-Bhāgavata Vidyāpīṭham to coordinate and teach Bhagavad-gītā and Sanskrit at the Bhāgavata-praveśa study program in Māyāpur. He teaches at *Māyāpur Online Education* and serves ISKCON Śrī Māyāpur in other ways.

Contact

For further information or for an application form, please write to moe.inquiry@gmail.com quoting the course code in the subject line.