



Sri Aurobindo
The Ideal of Human Unity

An Exploration of Sri Aurobindo's 'The Ideal of Human Unity'

Facilitator: Devdip Ganguli

Course starts on 14th June, 2021

Duration: 24 weeks x 2 modules = 48
weeks

Mode: Online; Code: IHU

Course Brief: 'The Ideal of Human Unity' is one of Sri Aurobindo's major works presenting his social and political thought. In it Sri Aurobindo discusses the inevitability of the unification of the human race as a result of imperative evolutionary forces. He describes the principles which may be followed in the process of this unification, stresses on the need of individual and group freedom within such a unity, and argues that only a unity founded on a deeper spiritual principle can ensure that world union supports diversity and is conducive to the spiritual evolution of the race.

The book reviews the growth of past social and political aggregates – ancient India, Greece, Rome – and also looks at contemporary political experiments in Russia, Japan, China, the United States of America, and European countries. The process of modern nation building is studied in some detail, as also recent attempts to formalize world union such as The League of Nations and the United Nations. The dangers of mistaking uniformity for unity is a central theme in this book, and the author leads us to understand why a spiritual principle of inner oneness can alone be a healthy basis for world unity.

No prior familiarity with Sri Aurobindo's writings or with general social and political philosophy is required. However, students can expect to do a fair amount of reading to refresh their knowledge of history and basic political science.



DEVDIP GANGULI grew up at the Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education at Pondicherry (India), also known as the 'Ashram School'. After completing his studies in 2004, he joined Sri Aurobindo Ashram. He has been teaching courses on Indian culture and on the social and political thought of Sri Aurobindo to undergraduate students for the last 17 years. He also assists the trustees of Sri Aurobindo Ashram in their administrative responsibilities.



Course Structure: The Course is divided into 2 Modules of 24 weeks each.

Module 1 (24 weeks, 15 credits)

1. The Turn towards Unity: Its Necessity and Dangers
2. The Imperfection of Past Aggregates
3. The Group and the Individual
4. The Inadequacy of the State Idea
5. Nation and Empire: Real and Political Unities
6. Ancient and Modern Methods of Empire
7. The Creation of the Heterogeneous Nation
8. The Problem of a Federated Heterogeneous Empire
9. The Possibility of a World-Empire
10. The United States of Europe
11. The Small Free Unit and the Larger Concentrated Unity
12. The Ancient Cycle of Prenational Empire-Building — The Modern Cycle of Nation-Building
13. The Formation of the Nation-Unit — The Three Stages
14. The Possibility of a First Step towards International Unity — Its Enormous Difficulties
15. Some Lines of Fulfilment
16. The Problem of Uniformity and Liberty

Module 2 (24 weeks, 15 credits)

1. Nature's Law in Our Progress — Unity in Diversity, Law and Liberty
2. The Ideal Solution — A Free Grouping of Mankind
3. The Drive towards Centralisation and Uniformity — Administration and Control of Foreign Affairs
4. The Drive towards Economic Centralisation
5. The Drive towards Legislative and Social Centralisation and Uniformity
6. World-Union or World-State
7. Forms of Government
8. The Need of Military Unification



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9. War and the Need of Economic Unity
 10. The Need of Administrative Unity
 11. The Peril of the World-State
 12. Diversity in Oneness
 13. The Idea of a League of Nations
 14. The Principle of Free Confederation
 15. The Conditions of a Free World-Union
 16. Internationalism
 17. Internationalism and Human Unity
 18. The Religion of Humanity
 19. Summary and Conclusion
 20. A Postscript Chapter

Course Format:

- 1 weekly online class (60-75 minutes) during which selections from the book will be explored and discussed together. At times the class may also be pre-recorded in case the course facilitator is unable to take a live class. These classes (live or pre-recorded) will remain accessible online.
- Reading assignments will be given frequently.
- 1 optional written assignment will be given at the end of each module which will be perused by the course facilitator and returned with observations and comments.

Duration & Time investment:

- 1 online class per week (live or pre-recorded). Each online class to last 60-75 minutes.
- Self-study, on average 2-3 hours per week.
- 24 classes per module.
- Gap of 2-3 weeks between modules.
- Full duration (for those signing up for both modules): One year.

Pre-requisites: The course will be conducted in English. The classes will be held/uploaded online, hence, internet access and skills required.

Certification: A Certificate of Participation (from The Gnostic Centre) can be granted upon completion, upon request.

Course Fee: Can be paid for the full course in one go or for each Module separately, before the start of that particular Module.



PER MODULE (If paid per Module)	Within India (INR)	Outside India (US \$)
Application Fee (one-time)	500	8
Enrolment Fee (one-time)	2,500	40
Tuition Fee *	8,475	136
Course Administration Fee #	8,475	136
TOTAL MODULE FEE	19,950	320

FULL COURSE (If paid at one)	Within India (INR)	Outside India (US \$)
Application Fee (one-time)	500	8
Enrolment Fee (one-time)	2,500	40
Tuition Fee *	16,950	271
Course Administration Fee #	16,950	271
TOTAL COURSE FEE	36,900	590

* Tuition Fee includes Online Facilitation, Assignments (feedback and/or evaluation), Facilitator-Student interaction via phone and/or e-mails.

Course Admin Fee includes e-learning platform subscription, Technical and Administrative consultation and support, Records of Student progress and performance, Hosting of weekly online class.

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