

## About Dr. Nathan Katz



Dr. Nathan Katz, FIU professor who specializes in the religions of India, was named the first Bhagwan Mahavir professor of Jain Studies. Dr. Katz's years of religious study has shown him Jainism's profound impact. He believes Jainism is a very small religion numerically but has had vast influence in the world.

## About Samanis



Samani Charitra Pragya and Unnata Pragya pioneered Jain Studies at FIU and have been teaching since 2006. Currently, Samani Chaitanya Pragya and Unnata Pragya are teaching and leading activities on meditation, non-violence and vegetarianism at FIU. Samanis are practicing Jain nuns with in-depth knowledge and vast experience in Jain studies.

## Jain Education and Research Foundation

Jain Education and Research Foundation was established to foster the core principles of Jainism like Nonviolence (ahimsa), Multiplicity of views (anekantvad) and Limited possession and consumption (aparigraha) at the academic level within the United States of America. Under the spiritual guidance of Late Acharya Mahapragya, with blessings from Acharya Mahashraman and through the efforts of Samani Charitra Prajna (Vice Chancellor, Jain Vishva Bharati University) and Dr. Dipak Jain (renowned educationist and management expert, ex-Dean, Kellogg School of Business, Northwestern University) the foundation established a historic milestone when it endowed a perpetual professorship in Jain Studies at FIU in 2010. This was the first ever endowed professorship on Jain studies anywhere outside of India. The efforts of JERF have received acclaim all around including special blessings from HH Dalai Lama. This is unique, first ever initiative in western world by the Jain community and will hopefully pave the way for many more to come in near future.



**discover. learn. share.**

JAIN EDUCATION AND RESEARCH  
FOUNDATION

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## Florida International University

Florida International University (FIU) is South Florida's first public, four-year research university. With more than 40,000 students, 1000+ full time faculty members & more than 135000 alumni, FIU is recognized as one of the 25 largest universities in the country based on enrollment. FIU offers more than 200 bachelor, master, & doctoral degree programs in its colleges & schools. It has developed Medical school & FIU's Law school is accredited. The university has achieved several notable milestones, including the establishment of Bhagawan Mahavir Professorship of Jain Studies in the Department of Religious Studies.





# BHAGAWAN MAHAVIR PROFESSORSHIP OF JAIN STUDIES

Jain Education & Research Foundation established a \$1 million endowment at Florida International University for the Bhagawan Mahavir Professorship of Jain Studies, the first professorship of its kind in the western world. The endowment is part of a larger initiative by the Jain community to establish an academic education center for Jain studies. The proposed Bhagawan Mahavir Interdisciplinary Center for Religious Pluralism would offer Jainism courses, provide research opportunities and collaborate with universities worldwide.

## Curriculum

*Jainism related courses offered at FIU*

### REL 3020: Meditation and Spiritual Development

Explores the ancient tradition of Jainism with comparative meditation, its history & practice.

### REL 3024: Religion, Life and Vegetarianism

Explores the concepts of food, family and vegetarian habits in relation to eastern religions.

### REL 3310: Introduction to Asian religions

Analyzes the basic concepts of Jainism in context of other Asian Religions.

### REL 3330: Religions of India

Explores the core religions born in India--the spiritual heritage which India cherishes.

### REL 4311: Religious Classics of Asia

### REL 6935: Seminar on Sacred Texts

Courses give an exposure to the core Classics of the religion. Students read the original sacred texts (like Acharang...) to learn the philosophy, understand the culture, and revere the richness.

## ANNUAL LECTURE SERIES

FIU's Religious Studies department and Jain community invites orators, academicians and nonviolence activists under its Annual Nonviolence lecture series to awaken consciousness of people.

- Live & Let Live: Lectures by Saurabh Dalal, Carol Baskin, Steven Heine, Samani Charitra Pragy.
- Nonviolence in Business: Dr. Dipak Jain; former Dean of Kellogg school of Management.



## STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The student exchange program allows an FIU student to visit Jain Vishwa Bharati University in Ladnun, Rajasthan for three weeks for studies and vice versa. The Jain Fellowship covers airfare + \$500 tuition fee. In a short period of three weeks, students receive 3 credits, while exploring Jainism, Non-violence and Meditation. The JVBU also offers an opportunity to visit local sites & villages.



## PREKSHA MEDITATION CLUB

The Preksha Meditation Club at FIU organizes programs exploring nonviolence, healthy eating and living. Preksha meditation sessions are held every Monday & Tuesday in FIU campus and are geared towards developing healthy mind & healthy soul.

