**The Four Social Classes** (*Caturvarṇa*)

**Brahmin**  
The priests and teachers. They are responsible for the preservation of knowledge and culture, the satisfaction of the gods through sacrificial ritual, and the safeguarding of justice and morality.

**Kshatriya**  
The warrior caste, consisting of the protectors and administrators of society who provide security and enforcement of the various rules for society.

**Vaishya**  
The traders and producers of society—artisans, farmers, merchants.

**Shudra**  
The workers and servants.

**The Four Ends of Man** (*Caturpuṣṭārtha*)

**Dharma**  
The concern with righteousness, virtue, duty.

**Artha**  
The concern with material gain.

**Kama**  
The concern with love or pleasure.

**Moksha**  
The overall goal of life—liberation, enlightenment.

**The Four Stages of Life** (*Caturāśrama*)

**Brahmacarya**  
The student stage.

**Grihastha**  
The householder stage.

**Vanaprastha**  
The stage of retirement from family life and the social world.

**Samnyasa**  
The stage of renunciation in which one focuses upon liberation (*Mokṣa*).