

**DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY & COMPARATIVE RELIGION
VISVA-BHARATI
SANTINIKETAN**

SYLLABUS FOR B.A. (HONS.) PROGRAMME / CURRICULUM IN PHILOSOPHY (2017)

SCHEME FOR CHOICE BASED CREDIT SYSTEM

Each course has 50 marks including internal assessment of 10 marks. Credit: As stipulated by the University Administration.

| Semester | Core Course (14) Each Course involves 6 Credits | Ability / Skill Enhancement Course (4) Each Course involves 2 Credits | Discipline Specific Elective DSE (4) Each Course involves 6 Credits | Generic Elective GE (4) Each Course involves 6 Credits |
|----------|--|---|---|--|
| SEM-I | C-01: OUTLINES OF INDIAN PHILOSOPHY (Part-I) | Compulsory Course | | GE-01: NATURE OF PHILOSOPHICAL THINKING |
| | C-02: HISTORY OF WESTERN PHILOSOPHY (Part-I) | | | |
| SEM-II | C-03: OUTLINES OF INDIAN PHILOSOPHY (Part-II) | Compulsory Course | | GE-02: EXISTENTIALISM |
| | C-04: HISTORY OF WESTERN PHILOSOPHY (Part-II) | | | |
| SEM-III | C-05: WESTERN LOGIC [PART – I] | SEC-03: INDIAN ETHICS | | GE-03: INDUCTIVE LOGIC AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE |
| | C-06: TEXTUAL STUDY: VEDANTA PHILOSOPHY | | | |
| | C-07: TEXTUAL STUDY (WESTERN) [PART-I] | | | |
| SEM-IV | C-08: WESTERN LOGIC [PART – II] | SEC-04: WESTERN ETHICS | | GE-04: PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIAL LIFE |
| | C-09: TEXTUAL STUDY: NYAYA EPISTEMOLOGY | | | |
| | C-10: TEXTUAL STUDY (WESTERN) [PART-II] | | | |
| SEM-V | C-11: MIMAMSA EPISTEMOLOGY | | DSE-01 & 02 TEXTUAL STUDY: PHILOSOPHY OF TAGORE POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY (CLASSICAL) SPECIAL TEXT (PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION) | |
| | C-12: WESTERN EPISTEMOLOGY | | | |
| SEM-VI | C-13: TEXTUAL STUDY: NYAYA-VAISESIKA METAPHYSICS | | DSE-03 & 04 TEXTUAL STUDY: NON-ORTHODOX SYSTEM POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY (THE SUBALTERN PERSPECTIVE) SPECIAL TEXT (INDIAN) | |
| | C-14: WESTERN METAPHYSICS | | | |

SEMESTER-I**C-01: OUTLINES OF INDIAN PHILOSOPHY (Part – I)**

TOPICS:

1. Nature of Indian Philosophy: plurality as well as common concerns.
2. Basic concepts of the Vedic and the Upanisadic world-views: *ṛta*; the divine and the human realms; the centrality of the institution of *yajña*; *ṛṇa*; *ātman*: *jāgrata*, *svapna*, *susupti*, *turiya*; *Brahman*; *śreyas*; *preyas*; *karma*; *samsāra*; *mukti*.
3. Cārvāka School: its epistemology, metaphysics and ethics.
4. Buddhism: theory of *pramāṇas*; theory of dependent origination; the Four Noble Truths; doctrine of momentariness; theory of no soul. The interpretation of these theories in schools of Buddhism: Vaibhaṣika, Sautāntrika, Yogacāra, Mādhyamika.
5. Jainism: Concepts of *sat*, *dravya*, *guṇa*, *pariyāya*, *jīva*, *ajīva*; *anekāntavāda*, *syādvāda*; *nayavāda*; *pramāṇas*; *ahimsā*; bondage and liberation.

SUGGESTED READINGS:

1. M. Hiriyana : *Outlines of Indian Philosophy*
2. C.D. Sharma : *A Critical Survey of Indian Philosophy*
3. S.N. Dasgupta : *A History of Indian Philosophy, Vols. I to V*
4. Jadunath Sinha : *History of Indian Philosophy, Vols. I & II*
5. S. Radhakrishnan : *Indian Philosophy, Vols. I & II*
6. Datta & Chatterjee : *Introduction to Indian Philosophy*
7. R. Puligandla : *Fundamentals of Indian Philosophy*

C-02: HISTORY OF WESTERN PHILOSOPHY (Part – I)

TOPICS:

1. Introduction: early Greek philosophy.
2. Plato: theory of knowledge; knowledge (*episteme*) and opinion (*doxa*); theory of Forms; soul; the Idea of Good.
3. Aristotle: critique of Plato's theory of Forms; theory of causation; form and matter; potentiality and actuality; soul; God.
4. St. Thomas Aquinas: faith and reason; essence and existence; proofs for the existence of God.
5. Descartes: method and the need for method in philosophy; method of doubt; *cogito ergo sum*; criterion of truth types of ideas; mind and matter; mind-body interactionism; God: nature and proofs for His existence.
6. Spinoza: substance, attributes and modes; the concept of 'God or Nature'; pantheism; mind-body problem; three orders of knowing.
7. Leibniz: monadology; doctrine of pre-established harmony; truths of reason and truths of fact; innateness of all ideas; principles of non-contradiction, sufficient reason and identity of indiscernibles; God: nature and proofs for His existence.

SUGGESTED READINGS:

1. F. Copleston : *A History of Philosophy (Vols. I, II & IV)*
2. D. J. O'Connor : *A Critical History of Western Philosophy*
3. W.T. Stace : *A Critical History of Greek Philosophy*
4. B. Russell : *A History of Western Philosophy*
5. Barlingay & Kulkarni : *A Critical History of Western Philosophy*
6. John Cottingham : *The Rationalists*
7. Jonathan Bennett : *Learning from Six Philosophers, Vols. I & II*
8. W.K.C. Guthrie : *Greek Philosophers from Thales to Plato*

GE-01: NATURE OF PHILOSOPHICAL THINKING

TEXTS:

- Brendan Wilson : *Simply Philosophy*
 Selections from Philosophical Writings of Prof. Daya Krishna

SEMESTER-II

C-03: OUTLINES OF INDIAN PHILOSOPHY (Part – II)

TOPICS:

1. Nyāya: theory of *pramāṇas*; the individual self and its liberation; the idea of God and proofs for His existence.
2. Vaiśeṣika: *padārthas*: *dravya*, *guṇa*, *karma*, *sāmānya*, *viśeṣa*, *samavāya*, *abhāva*; Causation: *asatkāryavāda*; *kāraṇa*: *samavāyī*, *asamavāyī*, *nimitta*; *paramāṇuvāda*; *adṛṣta*; *niḥśreyasam*.
3. Sāṃkhya: causation: *satkāryavāda*; *prakṛti*: its constituents, evolutes and arguments for its existence; *puruṣa*: arguments for its existence; plurality of *puruṣa*; relationship between *prakṛti* and *puruṣa*; *kaivalya*; atheism.
4. Yoga: *citta* and *citta-vṛtti*; eightfold path; God.
5. Advaita: *nirguṇa Brahman*; *adhyāsa*; rejection of difference; *vivartavāda*; *māyā*; three grades of *sattvā*; *pramāṇas*; *jīva*; *jivanamukti*.
6. Viśiṣṭādvaita: *sagūṇa Brahman*; refutation of *māyā*; *pariṇāmavāda*; *apṛthaksiddhi*; *jīva*; *bhakti* and *prapatti*; rejection of *jivanamukti*.

SUGGESTED READINGS:

1. M. Hiriyana : *Outlines of Indian Philosophy*
2. C.D. Sharma : *A Critical Survey of Indian Philosophy*
3. S.N. Dasgupta : *A History of Indian Philosophy, Vols. I to V*
4. Jadunath Sinha : *History of Indian Philosophy, Vols. I & II*
5. S. Radhakrishnan : *Indian Philosophy, Vols. I & II*
6. Datta & Chatterjee : *Introduction to Indian Philosophy*
7. R. Puligandla : *Fundamentals of Indian Philosophy*

C-04: HISTORY OF WESTERN PHILOSOPHY (Part – II)

TOPICS:

1. Locke: refutation of innate ideas; ideas and their classification; knowledge and its grades; substance; qualities: primary and secondary
2. Berkeley: rejection of abstract ideas; rejection of the distinction between primary and secondary qualities; immaterialism; *esse est percipi*; the problem of solipsism
3. Hume: impression and ideas; judgments concerning relations of ideas and judgments concerning matters of fact; causality; external world; self and personal identity; rejection of metaphysics; skepticism
4. Kant: conception of critical philosophy; classification of judgments: analytic, synthetic, *a priori*, *a posteriori*; possibility of synthetic *a priori* judgments; the pure forms of sensibility; intuition and concept, space and time as forms of sensible intuition

SUGGESTED READINGS:

1. F. Copleston : *A History of Philosophy*
2. D. J. O'Connor : *A Critical History of Western Philosophy*
3. C.R. Morris : *Locke, Berkeley and Hume*
4. Rasvihary Das : *A Handbook to Kant's Critique of Pure Reason*
5. B. Russell : *A History of Western Philosophy*
6. Barlingay & Kulkarni : *A Critical History of Western Philosophy*
7. R.S. Woolhouse : *The Empiricists*
8. Jonathan Bennett : *Learning from Six Philosophers, Vols. I & II*

GE-02: EXISTENTIALISM

TEXT:

Sartre: *Existentialism and Humanism*

SEMESTER-III**C-05: WESTERN LOGIC [PART – I]**

TOPICS:

1. Sentence and proposition, Logical form
2. Truth, validity and soundness

3. Laws of thought
4. Boolean interpretation of propositions, Venn diagram technique of testing the validity of syllogism
5. Set Theory: Sets, operations on sets
6. Elementary probability calculus

TEXTS:

1. I.M. Copi – *Introduction to Logic* (Chapters I, II, III, IV & VI)
2. P. Suppes – *Introduction to Logic* (Chapters IX and X)

C-06: TEXTUAL STUDY: VEDANTA PHILOSOPHY

TEXT:

Vedāntasāra – Sadananda Jogindra

C-07: TEXTUAL STUDY (WESTERN) [PART – I]

TEXT:

An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding – David Hume

SEC-03: INDIAN ETHICS

TOPICS:

1. Introduction: concerns and presuppositions; theory of *karma*.
2. *Dharma*: its meaning, definition, classification, *vidhi*, *niṣedha*, *arthavāda*.
3. *Niṣkama karma*, *Brāhmī Sthiti / Sthita prajña*.
4. *Puruṣarthas* and their inter-relations; *puruṣartha sādhanā*.
5. Buddhist ethics: the Four Noble Truths and the Eight Fold Path, *Brahma Vihāra*.
6. Jaina Ethics: *anuvratas* and *mahāvratas*.

TEXTS:

1. *Gītā*
2. *Dhammapada*
3. *Tattvarthādhigamasūtra*: Umaswami
4. *Arthasaṃgraha*

SUGGESTED READINGS:

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|-------------------|---|
| 1. S.K. Maitra | : <i>The Ethics of the Hindus</i> |
| 2. S. Dasgupta | : <i>Development of Moral Philosophy in India</i> |
| 3. M. Hiriyana | : <i>The Indian Conception of Values</i> |
| 4. P.V. Kane | : <i>The History of Dharmasastras</i> (Vol. I) |
| 5. D. Bhargava | : <i>Jaina Ethics</i> (Part – I) |
| 6. G.S.P. Misra | : <i>The Development of Buddhist Ethics</i> |
| 7. S.S. Barlingay | : <i>A Modern Introduction to Buddhist Ethics</i> |

GE-03: INDUCTIVE LOGIC AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

1. The ideas of cause and effect
2. Causal laws and uniformity of nature
3. Induction by simple enumeration
4. Mill's methods of discovering causal relations
5. The problem of induction and limitations of inductive methods
6. Scientific explanation
7. Evaluation of scientific explanation
8. Different stages of scientific investigations
9. Completion and confirmation of hypothesis
10. Classification as hypothesis

SUGGESTED READINGS:

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| 1. I.M. Copi | : <i>Introduction to Logic</i> |
| 2. K.A. Appiah | : <i>Thinking It Through: An Introduction to Contemporary Philosophy</i> |
| 3. Cohen & Nagel | : <i>An Introduction to Logic and Scientific Method</i> |

C-08: WESTERN LOGIC [PART – II]

TOPICS:

1. Truth functions: negations, conjunctions, disjunction, implication, equivalence, interdefinability of truth functions
2. Arguments and argument forms; decision procedure; truth tables; *reductio ad absurdum*
3. Jeffery's tree method for Propositional Logic
4. Techniques of symbolization; proof construction; indirect and conditional proofs
5. Quantification Theory: singular and singly general propositions; rules of quantification; proofs of validity and invalidity

TEXTS:

1. I.M. Copi – *Symbolic Logic* (Chapters I, II, III & IV, upto the end of singly quantified predicate calculus)
- R. Jeffery – *Formal Logic: Its Scope and Limits* for the topic no. 3

C-09: TEXTUAL STUDY: NYAYA-VAISESIKA EPISTEMOLOGY

TEXT:

Tarkasamgraha with Dipikā Tika (Pramāṇa Khaṇḍa) – Translated and elucidated by Gopinath Bhattacharya

C-10: TEXTUAL STUDY (WESTERN) [PART – II]

TEXT:

The Problems of Philosophy – Bertrand Russell

SEC-04: WESTERN ETHICS

TOPICS:

1. Introduction: Concerns and presuppositions; free will
2. Moral dilemmas
3. Teleological Ethics: egoism; hedonism; utilitarianism
4. Deontological Ethics: Kant
5. Intuitionism

SUGGESTED READINGS:

1. W. Frankena : *Ethics*
2. Victor Grassian : *Moral Reasoning*
3. Fred Feldman : *Introductory Ethics*
4. Peter Singer (Ed.) : *A Companion to Ethics*

GE-04: PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIAL LIFE

TEXT:

Julian Baggini : *Making Sense: Philosophy behind the Headlines*

SEMESTER-V**C-11: MIMAMSA EPISTEMOLOGY**

TEXT:

Mānameyodaya (Pramāṇa Khaṇḍa)

C-12: WESTERN EPISTEMOLOGY

TOPICS:

1. Philosophical skepticism and the possibility of knowledge claim.
2. Perception and memory as sources of knowledge
3. Our knowledge of the external world: Rationalism, empiricism, phenomenism
4. Our knowledge of other minds
5. Self-Knowledge
6. *A priori* knowledge: Views of Leibnitz, Hume and Kant; possibility of synthetic *a priori* knowledge; Ayer's attack against the idea of synthetic *a priori* knowledge

7. Different senses of 'know'; propositional knowledge; conditions of propositional knowledge; knowledge and belief
8. Theories of truth: correspondence; coherence; pragmatic

SUGGESTED READINGS:

1. A.D. Woozley : *Theory of Knowledge* (Selections)
2. D.W. Hamlyn : *Theory of Knowledge* (Selections)
3. J. Hospers : *An Introduction to Philosophical Analysis* (Selections)
4. P.K. Moser (Ed.) : *The Oxford Handbook of Epistemology* (Selections)
5. Robert Audi : *Epistemology: A Contemporary Introduction*

DSE-01 & 02:

TEXTUAL STUDY: PHILOSOPHY OF TAGORE

TEXT:

Sadhanā by Rabindranath Tagore.

POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY (CLASSICAL)

1. Plato: Philosopher-King – Allegory of Cave – Forms of State (Books VI, VII, VIII of *Republic*)
2. Thomas Hobbes: Commonwealth – Types of Commonwealth (Part II of *Leviathan*)
3. Jean-Jacques Rousseau: Sovereignty - General Will – Government (Book II and III of *The Social Contract*)
4. Karl Marx: Historical Materialism – Communist Society (Chapters 2 and 9 of *The Thought of Karl Marx*)

TEXT:

1. David McLellan, *The Thought of Karl Marx*, Macmillan, London, 1986

SPECIAL TEXT (PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION)

TEXT:

J. Hick : *Philosophy of Religion*

SEMESTER-VI

C-13: TEXTUAL STUDY: NYAYA-VAISESIKA METAPHYSICS

TEXT:

Tarkasamgraha (Prameya Khaṇḍa) / *Padārthadharmasamgraha* with *Nyāyakaṇḍalī* / *Manameyadaya* (meyakhaṇḍa)

C-14: WESTERN METAPHYSICS

TOPICS:

1. Nature and scope of metaphysics: Study of reality as opposed to appearance; different types of metaphysics
2. Metaphysical issues and speculations relating to understanding of entities and beings constituting the world
 - a) Analysis of substances (concrete particulars); ideas of substratum, parts and properties; bundle theory and substratum theory
 - b) Universals; the philosophical problem; realist theories, nominalism and resemblance theory
3. Metaphysical issues and speculations relating to understanding of change, motion or evolution of the world and the behaviour of entities constituting the world
 - a) Causality: Philosophical problems regarding causality; mechanism and teleology; Aristotle's view; regularity theory; entailment theory; Hume's theory
 - b) Mind-body relation: Distinction between mind and body / mental events and physical events; philosophical problems regarding mind-body relation; interactionism; parallelism; epiphenomenalism
 - c) Free will: the philosophical problem; determinism and indeterminism; compatibilism and incompatibilism
4. Attack against metaphysics: Logical positivism; downfall of logical positivism

SUGGESTED READINGS:

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|---------------------------|---|
| D.W. Hamlyn | : <i>Metaphysics</i> (Selections) |
| M.J. Loux | : <i>Metaphysics: A Contemporary Introduction</i> (Selections) |
| Loux and Zimmerman (eds.) | : <i>The Oxford Handbook of Metaphysics</i> (Selections) |
| J. Hospers | : <i>An Introduction to Philosophical Analysis</i> (Selections) |
| A.C. Ewing | : <i>The Fundamental Questions of Philosophy</i> (Selections) |
| A.J. Ayer | : <i>Language, Truth and Logic</i> (Selections) |
| A.J. Ayer | : <i>Central Questions of Philosophy</i> (Selections) |

DSE-03 & 04

TEXTUAL STUDY: NON-ORTHODOX SYSTEM

TEXT:

Sarvadarśanasamgraha

POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY (THE SUBALTERN PERSPECTIVE)

Topics:

1. B.R. Ambedkar: 'The Castes in India'
2. Sundar Sarukkai: 'The Phenomenology of Untouchability'
3. Shahid Amin: 'Representing the Muslim – Then and Now, Now and Then'
4. W.E.B. Du Bois: Double Consciousness
5. Michele Barrett and Mary McIntosh: 'The Anti-Social Family'
6. Sylvia Walby: 'Woman and Nation'

TEXTS:

1. Sharmila Rege, *Against the Madness of Manu – B.R. Ambedkar's Writings on Brahminical Patriarchy*, Navayana, New Delhi, 2013.
2. Gopal Guru and Sundar Sarukkai, *The Cracked Mirror*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2012.
3. Shail Mayaram, M.S.S. Pandian and Ajay Skaria, *Subaltern Studies XII – Muslims, Dalits and Fabrications of History*, Permanent Black, Delhi, 2007.
4. W.E.B. Du Bois, *The Souls of the Black Folk*, A.C. McClurg & Co., Chicago, 1903.
5. Michele Barrett and Mary McIntosh, *The Anti-Social Family*, Verso, London and New York, 1990.

SPECIAL TEXT (INDIAN)

TEXT:

Rabindranath Tagore: *Personality* (Selections to be determined by the concerned teacher)