



**SECOND SEMESTER 2023–2024**

Course Handout Part II

Date: 09.01.2024

In addition to part-I (General Handout for all courses appended to the time table) this portion gives further specific details regarding the course.

Course No. : **HSS F235**  
Course Title : **Introductory Philosophy**  
Instructor-in-Charge : **A. K. Jayesh**

**Scope and Objective of the Course:**

This course aims to provide a critical introduction to some of the theories and issues that are central to the Western and Indian philosophical traditions. A few of the topics around which the course is structured include (1) the nature and purpose of philosophy, (2) metaphysics and epistemology, (3) scepticism and its philosophical value, (4) theories of cosmology, and (5) problems in contemporary philosophy. The course aims to inculcate in students the ability to determine the nature and worth of any philosophical position, and in the process, introduces them to the rigors and requirements of philosophical thinking.

**Textbook:**

1. Hales, Steven D., 2013. *This Is Philosophy: An Introduction*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.

**Reference Books:**

1. Appiah, Kwame Anthony. 2003. *Thinking It Through: An Introduction to Contemporary Philosophy*. New York: Oxford University Press.
2. Perrett, Roy W. 2016. *An Introduction to Indian Philosophy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
3. Perry, John, Michael Bratman, and John Martin Fischer, eds. 2021. *Introduction to Philosophy: Classical and Contemporary Readings*. 9th ed. New York: Oxford University Press.
4. Stich, Stephen, and Tom Donaldson. 2019. *Philosophy: Asking Questions—Seeking Answers*. New York: Oxford University Press.

In addition to the sources mentioned above, students will be required to go through a number of articles made available at various points in the course.

**Course Plan:**

| Lecture No. | Learning objectives | Topics to be covered | Chapter in the Textbook |
|-------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
|-------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|



|       |  |  |                      |
|-------|--|--|----------------------|
| 1     | Understand the nature of the subject                     | Nature and purpose of philosophy; contemporary philosophy  | Lecture              |
| 2–7   | Understand, analyze, and appraise the notion of God      | Faith; the attributes of God; why there is a God; why there is no God; God and metaphysics; theories of cosmology; contemporary problems.  | TB: Ch. 3.           |
| 8–13  | Discuss and analyze the notion of freedom                | Free will and divine foreknowledge; free will and a regress of reasons for acting; free will and the dilemma argument; metaphysical issues; contemporary problems.   | TB: Ch. 4.           |
| 14–19 | Understand, analyze, and evaluate the notion of the self | The problem of difference and the problem of sameness; preliminary positions; the soul criterion; the physicalist criterion; the psychological criterion; the bundle theory; metaphysical issues; contemporary problems. | TB: Ch. 5.           |
| 20–25 | Analyze and appraise the notion of the mind              | Substance dualism; behaviorism; mind-brain identity theory; functionalism; metaphysical issues; contemporary problems.   | TB: Ch. 6.           |
| 26–34 | Understand and analyze theories of ethics                | Overview of some philosophical theories and issues; divine command theory; egoism; moral relativism; utilitarianism; deontology; virtue ethics; metaphysics and ethics; contemporary problems.                           | TB: Ch. 1 and Ch. 2. |
| 35–40 | Examine and evaluate the notion of knowledge             | Epistemology; scepticism and its philosophical value; the value of truth; the value of evidence; the volume of evidence; sources of evidence; the nature of knowledge; the counterfeit detector.                         | TB: Ch. 7.           |

#### Evaluation Scheme:

| Component                 | Duration    | Weighting (%) | Date & Time             | Nature of Component |
|---------------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Mid-semester Test         | 90 Minutes  | 30            | 16/03 - 11.00 - 12.30PM | CB                  |
| Assignments               | NA          | 20 + 15       | To be announced         | OB + CB             |
| Comprehensive Examination | 180 Minutes | 35            | 18/05 AN                | CB                  |

**Chamber Consultation Hour:** Consultation hours will be announced on the CMS.

**Notices:** Notices, if any, will be displayed on the CMS.



**Make-up Policy:** Make-up cases will be permitted in line with the existing institute policy.

**Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy:** Academic honesty and integrity are to be maintained by all the students throughout the semester and no type of academic dishonesty is acceptable.

**INSTRUCTOR-IN-CHARGE**

