



BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE, Pilani
Hyderabad Campus
(Course Hand-out, Part II)
Second Semester, 2018-2019

07-01-2019

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 F334
Course Title : Srimad Bhagavad Gita
Instructor-in-charge : Dr. Aruna Lolla (aruna@hyderabad.bits-pilani.ac.in)

1. Scope and Objective of the Course

This course is designed to study and understand the concepts of Srimad Bhagavad Gita. It introduces the fundamentals of the science of Soul, how it gets entangled in the world and the three pathways for Liberation: 1.Karma yoga (liberation through work) , 2. Jnana yoga (divinization through Knowledge) and 3.Bhakti yoga (union through devotion). Some of the main components of this course are: Confidential Knowledge, three modes of material nature, Nature, and the Consciousness, Divine and Demonic qualities, and The Perfection of soul.

The course aims to provide a critical introduction to some of the theories and issues that are central to the scripture. The course aims to inculcate in students the ability to determine the nature and mechanism of any yoga discussed above, and in the process, introduces them to the rigors and requirements of philosophical thinking of the Gita.

2. Textbook

The Bhagavad Gita. Trans. S. Radhakrishnan. Harper Collins Publishers, 2014. ISBN : 978-81-7223-898-8

3. Reference Materials

1. Srimad Bhagavad Gita (with Sadhana Vyakhya). Trans. S. Subba Rao Hyderabad: Sri Gita Grandhalaya, 1969.
2. Sri Aurobindo. *Essays on the Gita*. New York: The Sri Aurobindo Library, 1950

4. Course Plan

Lecture No.	Learning Objectives	Topics to be covered	Chapter and verses in Textbook
1	Gain an overview of the subject.	Course Overview: Background and origin of Bhagavad Gita,	
2	Familiarize themselves with the text of Bhagavad Gita and gain an overview of the war scene of Mahabharata	Preparations for war and Arjuna's doubts. His surrender to the Lord as a pupil.	1.1 to 1.47
3	Discuss the basics of Karma Yoga	Transcendental Knowledge, or the science of the soul and Reincarnation.	2.1-2.30
4		Karma Yoga: Gains from doing our duty, Work without reactions and the marks of a person with steady intellect.	2.31-2.72
5		Action in Krishna Consciousness: Working without attachment or Nishkama karma	3.1-3.16
6		Acting dutifully to set a correct example along with methods of conquering the lust and anger.	3.17-3.43
7		Transcendental knowledge Way to transcend entanglement and learning the art of performing duty for the Divine without attachment.	4.1-4.15
7		Three types of activities, the way to be equipoise, understanding sacrifices and their results, the eternal goal.	4.16-4.33; 4.34-4.42
8		Superiority of devotional work over renunciation, working with detachment, way to peaceful life and reasons for entanglement.	5.1-5.12
9		Platform of knowledge-knowing the three doers: the soul, material nature, and the Supreme Soul , Liberation by fixing our consciousness on Supreme Soul, a sinless person, working for public welfare <i>Lokasangraha Karma</i>	5.13-5.29
10		Comparison of yoga and renunciation, advancing in yoga through detached work, the symptoms of a person who has conquered mind. Basics of yoga, sitting places, meditation, results of meditation, perfection of yoga	6.1-6.9 6.10-6.32
11		Necessity to control mind in yoga practice.	6.33-6.47
12	Assess and appreciate the path of Bhakti Yoga	Bhakti Yoga – The process to go back home, back to Godhead. Knowing Krishna as the source of both material and spiritual aspects.	7.1-7.12
13		The controller of the three modes of material nature, surrendering to that controller-Krishna, different natures of the impious, the pious, and the fate of a jnani.	7.13-7.19

14		Demigod worship and freedom through knowledge of the Absolute.	7.20-7.30
15		Arjuna's eight questions and Krishna's answers, need to remember Krishna constantly and, the perfection of life.	8.1-8.8
16		Going back to Godhead by meditating	8.9-8.16
17		Comparison between spiritual and material worlds, Supremacy of devotion in attaining the supreme.	8.17-8.28
18		Qualifications and disqualifications to hear about Krishna, His relationship with the material world	9.1-9.10
19		The difference between a mahatma and an atheist, and Krishna as sacrifice, syllable OM, the most dear friend, etc..	9.11-9.25
20		Glories of a devotee, simple methods of worshipping Krishna	9.26-9.34
21		Krishna- the originator of everything.	10.1-10.11
22		Arjuna confirms Krishna to be the Supreme Personality of Godhead.	10.12-10.42
23		Arjuna getting the divine eyes to see the universal form of the all-pervading Supreme person. Arjuna sees all the demi-gods, sages, serpents within the universal form of Krishna, and Krishna reveals Himself to be the Time.	11.1-11.9; 11.9-11.34
24		Krishna finally shows Arjuna His two armed form, which can be directly seen only through pure, undivided devotional service.	11.35-11.55
25		The different stages in devotion, the highest being mind and intelligence fixed upon Him.	12.1-12.12
26		Various qualities like non-enviousness, freedom from false ego which makes one dear to Krishna.	12.13-12.20
27		Arjuna inquires about the enjoyer, the field of activities, etc., and Krishna explains them.	13.1-13.7;
28	Analyse the basics of Jnana Yoga	Dhyana Yoga; Knowledge of the Absolute; Attaining the Supreme Krishna's answers to question 6 along with the concept of the soul and the Supreme Soul.	13.8-13.19
29		The concepts of <i>Prakriti</i> , <i>Purusa</i> and their union, and the vision of Knowledge.	13.20-13.34
30		The living entity gets entangled by a blend of The mode of Goodness, The mode of Passion and The mode of Ignorance.	14.1-14.13
31		Different destinations according to predomination of a particular mode at the time of death, the symptoms and activities of one who has transcended the modes.	14.14-14.27
32		Attachment with the spiritual world, and transmigration of the souls.	15.1-15.11
33		Krishna- the goal of Vedas, and the summary of the	15.12-15.20

		Vedas and the kinds of living entities.	
34		The difference between transcendental and demoniac qualities, elevation to the original state.	16.1-16.24
35		Faith, worships, foods and sacrifices in the different modes.	17.1-17.13
36		Austerity and charity in different modes, the purposes of sacrifices, charity, and the eating of foods is the Absolute Truth.	17.14-17.28
37		Acting with detachment is true Renunciation and brings freedom from reactions; conclusion of Sankya and Vedanta.	18.1-18.18
38-39		Knowledge, actions, performers of actions, understandings, determinations, happiness- all these are controlled by the three modes.	18.19-18.40
40-41		The process of Transmigration; the most confidential knowledge; Worshipping the Lord through one's occupational work is true renunciation and brings freedom from reactions, The Brahmi stage, knowing Krishna by pure devotional service. The most confidential Knowledge of all is becoming a Pure devotee.	18.41-18.55; 18.56-18.66
42	Develop a perspective on Bhagavad Gita.	Those who study Bhagavad Gita worship Krishna wholeheartedly and who explain this to the non-vious achieve higher devotion.	18.67-18.78

5. Evaluation Scheme:

SL.NO.	Evaluation Component	Weightage (%)	Duration	Date	Nature of component
1	Mid-Semester Test	25	90 Minutes	13/3 9.00 - 10.30AM	Closed Book
2	Assignment 1 & 2	30	TBA		Take home/ Quiz
3	Comprehensive Exam	45	3 Hours	06/05 FN	OB

6. Chamber Consultation Hour: To be announced.

7. Notices: Will be put on the CMS and displayed on the Notice boards.

8. Make-up Policy: Make-up will be granted only in genuine cases.

9. 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.

Aruna Lolla

Instructor-in-Charge