



SECOND SEMESTER 2019-2020

Course Handout Part II

Date: 06.01.2020

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 F246
Course Title : Philosophy of Nāgārjuna
Instructor-in-Charge : Dr. A. K. Jayesh

Scope and Objective of the Course:

The course intends to serve as an introduction to the philosophy of Nāgārjuna, the founder of the middle way school of Mahāyāna Buddhism. By systematically engaging with Nāgārjuna's master work the *Mūlamadhyamakakārikā*, the course introduces students to Nāgārjuna's analysis of the following Abhidharma concepts: aggregates, elements, and conditioned entity; desire and the desirous; agent and action; fire and fuel; ontological independence; prior entity; initial and final limits; intrinsic nature; compounded phenomena; suffering, bondage, and freedom; action and consequence; self and entities; substance metaphysics; time and origin and dissolution of existents; Tathāgata; assemblage; conjunction; four noble truths; nirvāṇa; and the twelve links of dependent origination. Also, in line with the spirit of Nāgārjuna's inquiry, the course aims to inculcate in students the ability to determine the nature and merit of any philosophical position and in the process introduces them to the rigors and requirements of philosophical thinking

Textbooks:

1. Siderits, Mark, and Shōryū Katsura. 2013. *Nāgārjuna's Middle Way: "Mūlamadhyamakakārikā."* Boston: Wisdom.

Reference books

1. Garfield, Jay L., trans. 1995. *The Fundamental Wisdom of the Middle Way: Nāgārjuna's "Mūlamadhyamakakārikā."* New York: Oxford University Press.
2. Garfield, Jay L., and Graham Priest. 2003. "Nāgārjuna and the Limits of Thought." *Philosophy East and West* 53 (1): 1–21.
3. Hayes, Richard. 2017. "Madhyamaka." In *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Stanford University, 1997–. Article published November 6, 2010. <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/spr2017/entries/madhyamaka/>.
4. Hopkins, Jeffrey, trans. and ed. 1998. *Nāgārjuna's "Precious Garland": Buddhist Advice for Living and Liberation*. New York: Snow Lion.
5. Lindtner, Chr. (1982) 1990. *Nagarjuniana: Studies in the Writings and Philosophy of Nāgārjuna*. Reprint, Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass.



6. Loizzo, Joseph John, trans. 2007. *Nāgārjuna's "Reason Sixty" with Chandrakīrti's "Reason Sixty Commentary."* New York: American Institute of Buddhist Studies.
7. Ruegg, David Seyfort. 1981. *The Literature of the Madhyamaka School of Philosophy in India.* Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz.
8. Santina, Peter Della. 2002a. *Emptiness: The Seventy Stanzas*, in *Causality and Emptiness: The Wisdom of Nagarjuna*, 132–76. Singapore: Buddhist Research Society.
9. ———. 2002b. *Reasoning: The Sixty Stanzas*, in *Causality and Emptiness: The Wisdom of Nagarjuna*, 66–130. Singapore: Buddhist Research Society.
10. Sprung, Mervyn, trans. 1979. *Lucid Exposition of the Middle Way: The Essential Chapters from the "Prasannapadā" of Candrakīrti.* In collaboration with T. R. V. Murti and U. S. Vyas. Boulder: Prajñā.
11. Tola, Fernando, and Carmen Dragonetti, trans. 1995. *Nāgārjuna's Refutation of Logic (Nyāya): "Vaidalyaprakaraṇa"; 'Zib mo rnam par ḥthag pa zes bya baḥi rab tu byed pa.* Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass.
12. Walser, Joseph. 2005. *Nāgārjuna in Context: Mahāyāna Buddhism and Early Indian Culture.* New York: Columbia University Press.
13. Westerhoff, Jan. 2009. *Nāgārjuna's Madhyamaka: A Philosophical Introduction.* New York: Oxford University Press.
14. ———, trans. 2010. *The Dispeller of Disputes: Nāgārjuna's "Vigrahavyāvartanī."* New York: Oxford University Press.
15. ———. 2011. "The Merely Conventional Existence of the World." In *Moonshadows: Conventional Truth in Buddhist Philosophy*, edited by Cowherds, 189–212. New York: Oxford University Press.
16. ———. 2013. "Metaphysical Issues in Indian Buddhist Thought." In *A Companion to Buddhist Philosophy*, edited by Steven M. Emmanuel, 129–50. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.
17. ———. 2014a. "Madhyamaka: Conventional Categories in Madhyamaka Philosophy." In *Categorization in Indian Philosophy: Thinking Inside the Box*, edited by Jessica Frazier, 115–31. Surrey: Ashgate.
18. ———. 2014b. "Nāgārjuna." In *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Stanford University, 1997–. Article published February 10, 2010. <http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/sum2014/entries/nagarjuna/>.
19. ———. 2015. "The Connection between Ontology and Ethics in Madhyamaka Thought." In *Moonpaths: Ethics in the Context of Conventional Truth*, edited by Cowherds, 203–20. New York: Oxford University Press.
20. ———. 2016. "On the Nihilist Interpretation of Madhyamaka." *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 44 (2): 337–76.
21. ———. 2017. "Nāgārjuna and the Philosophy of Language." *Journal of Indian Philosophy*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10781-017-9341-3>.



Course Plan:

Lecture No.	Learning objectives	Topics to be covered	Chapter in the Text Book
1	Understand the nature and objective of the course		
2	Understand the context of Nāgārjuna's philosophy	Abhidharma and Madhyamaka	
3	Analyze, understand, and evaluate Nāgārjuna's destruction of the notion of condition	Conditions	Chapter 1 (TB)
4	Analyze, understand, and evaluate Nāgārjuna's destruction of the notion of motion	Motion	Chapter 2 (TB)
5	Analyze, understand, and evaluate Nāgārjuna's destruction of the notion of senses	Senses	Chapter 3 (TB)
6	Analyze, understand, and evaluate Nāgārjuna's destruction of the notion of aggregates	Aggregates	Chapter 4 (TB)
7	Analyze, understand, and evaluate Nāgārjuna's destruction of the notion of elements	Elements	Chapter 5 (TB)
8	Analyze, understand, and evaluate Nāgārjuna's destruction of the notions of desire and the desirous	Desire and the desirous	Chapter 6 (TB)
9	Analyze, understand, and evaluate Nāgārjuna's destruction of the notion of conditioned existence	Conditioned entities	Chapter 7 (TB)
10	Analyze, understand, and evaluate Nāgārjuna's destruction of the notions of agent and action	Agent and action	Chapter 8 (TB)
11	Analyze, understand, and evaluate Nāgārjuna's destruction of the notion of prior entity	Prior entity	Chapter 9 (TB)
12	Analyze, understand, and evaluate Nāgārjuna's destruction of the notions of fire and fuel	Fire and fuel	Chapter 10 (TB)
13	Analyze, understand, and evaluate Nāgārjuna's destruction of the notions of initial and final limits	Initial and final limits	Chapter 11 (TB)
14	Analyze, understand, and evaluate Nāgārjuna's destruction of the notion of suffering	Suffering	Chapter 12 (TB)
15	Analyze, understand, and evaluate	Compounded	Chapter 13



	Nāgārjuna's destruction of the notion of compounded phenomena	phenomena	(TB)
16	Analyze, understand, and evaluate Nāgārjuna's destruction of the notion of conjunction	Conjunction	Chapter 14 (TB)
17	Analyze, understand, and evaluate Nāgārjuna's destruction of the notion of intrinsic nature	Intrinsic nature and ontological independence	Chapter 15 (TB)
18	Analyze, understand, and evaluate Nāgārjuna's destruction of the notions of bondage and freedom	Bondage and freedom	Chapter 16 (TB)
19	Analyze, understand, and evaluate Nāgārjuna's destruction of the notions of action and consequence	Action and consequence	Chapter 17 (TB)
20	Analyze, understand, and evaluate Nāgārjuna's destruction of the notions of self and entities	Self and entities and substance metaphysics	Chapter 18 (TB)
21–23	Analyze, understand, and evaluate Nāgārjuna's destruction of the notion of time	Time and the origin and dissolution of existents	Chapter 19 and 21 (TB)
24–26	Analyze, understand, and evaluate Nāgārjuna's destruction of the notion of assemblage	Assemblage	Chapter 20 (TB)
27	Analyze, understand, and evaluate Nāgārjuna's destruction of the notion of the Tathāgata	Tathāgata	Chapter 22 (TB)
28	Analyze, understand, and evaluate Nāgārjuna's destruction of the notion of false conception	False conception	Chapter 23 (TB)
29–33	Analyze, understand, and evaluate Nāgārjuna's destruction of the notion of four noble truths	Four Noble Truths	Chapter 24 (TB)
34–38	Analyze, understand, and evaluate Nāgārjuna's destruction of the notion of Nirvāna	Nirvāna	Chapter 25 (TB)
39–41	Analyze, understand, and evaluate Nāgārjuna's destruction of the notion of twelve links of dependent origination	Twelve links of dependent origination	Chapter 26 (TB)
42–43	Analyze, understand, and evaluate Nāgārjuna's destruction of the notion of views	Views	Chapter 27 (TB)

Evaluation Scheme:



Component	Duration	Weightage (%)	Date & Time	Nature of Component
Assignment 1	TBA	15	TBA	Open Book
Mid-Semester	90 Minutes	30	5/3 9.00 - 10.30AM	Close Book
Assignment 2	TBA	15	TBA	Open Book
Comprehensive Exam	3 Hours	40	09/05 AN	Close Book

Chamber Consultation Hour: To be announced in the class

Notices: Notices concerning the course will be displayed on the CMS

Make-up Policy: Make-up cases will be permitted depending on 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

