



In addition to Part I (General Handout for all courses appended to the time table), this portion gives further details about the course.

**Course No.:** HSS F331  
**Course Title:** Śaṅkara's Thoughts  
**Instructor-in-charge:** Dr. A. K. Jayesh

**Scope and Objective:**

The course aims to provide a critical introduction to the core doctrines of Śaṅkara, the seventh-century Indian *Advaita Vedānta* philosopher. By systematically engaging with Śaṅkara's master work the *Brahmasūtrabhāṣya*, students will be introduced to the basic concepts of *Advaita Vedānta*: *ātman* and *jīva*; nature, sources, and validity of knowledge; *Brahman* and *Īśvara*; *māya* and world; bondage and liberation, among others. Students will be introduced also to the arguments of Śaṅkara's interlocutors and will be encouraged to appraise the nature and significance of Śaṅkara's philosophical project.

**Text Book:**

Gambhirananda, Swami, trans. 2016. *Brahma-Sūtra-Bhāṣya of Śrī Śaṅkaracārya*. Kolkata: Advaita Ashrama.

**Reference Books:**

- Alston, A. J. ed. and trans. 2004. *A Śaṅkara Source Book*. 2nd edn. 5 vols. London: Shanti Sadan.
- Deutsch, Eliot. 1971. *Advaita Vedānta: A Philosophical Reconstruction*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.
- Deutsch, Eliot and J. A. B. van Buitenen, eds. 1971. *A Source Book of Advaita Vedānta*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.
- Grimes, John. 1996. *A Concise Dictionary of Indian Philosophy*. Rev. edn. Albany: State University of New York Press.
- Gupta, Bina. 1991. *Perceiving in Advaita Vedānta: Epistemological Analysis and Interpretation*. Lewisburg, PN: Bucknell University Press.
- Jamison, Stephanie W., and Joel P. Brereton, trans. 2014. *The Rīgveda: The Earliest Religious Poetry of India*. 3 vols. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Lott, Eric J. 1980. *Vedāntic Approaches to God*. London: Macmillan.
- Mādhavānanda, Swāmī, trans. 1988. *The Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad: With the Commentary of Śaṅkaracārya*. 7th edn. Delhi: Advaita Ashrama.



- Mayeda, Sengaku, trans. and ed. 1992. *A Thousand Teachings: The Upadeśasāhasrī of Śaṅkara*. Albany: State University of New York Press.
- Murty, K. Satchidananda. 1974. *Revelation and Reason in Advaita Vedānta*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass.
- Olivelle, Patrick, trans. 1992. *Samnyāsa Upaniṣads: Hindu Scriptures on Asceticism and Renunciation*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- . 1998. *The Early Upaniṣads*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Perrett, Roy W. 2016. *An Introduction to Indian Philosophy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Potter, Karl H., ed. 1981. *Encyclopedia of Indian Philosophies*. Vol. 3, *Advaita Vedānta up to Śaṅkara and His Pupils*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- . 2006. *Encyclopedia of Indian Philosophies*. Vol. 11, *Advaita Vedānta from 800 to 1200*. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass.
- Prabhavananda, Swami, trans. 1970. *Shankara's Crest Jewel of Discrimination*. New York: Mentor.
- Sarma, Deepak, ed. 2011. *Classical Indian Philosophy: A Reader*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Thibaut, George, trans. 1962. *The Vedānta Sūtras of Bādarāyana with the Commentary by Śaṅkara*. New York: Dover.

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 Number	Learning Objectives	Topics to be Covered	Chapter in the Text Book
1	Understand the nature of the subject	What is philosophy?	Lecture
2–12	Understand, analyse, and evaluate the notion of reconciliation through proper interpretation	<i>Brahman</i> ; origin; scripture as a source of knowledge; the first cause; known entity; infinite; immutable; inferred entity; causality; material cause; master explanation.	TB: Ch. 1.
13–22	Understand, analyse, and appraise the notion of non-contradiction	Conflict with <i>smṛti</i> ; difference in nature; <i>Brahman</i> and becoming; creation without materials; transformation; powers; motive; negations; origin of <i>Brahman</i> ; order of dissolution; mind	TB: Ch. 2.



		and intellect; birth and death; soul; <i>prāṇas</i> .	
23–32	Understand, analyse, and evaluate the notion of spiritual practice	Departure from the body; the nature of <i>Brahman</i> ; unconditioned <i>Brahman</i> and soul; <i>Brahman</i> one without a second; fruits of action; attributes of <i>Brahman</i> ; qualified <i>Brahman</i> ; conceptions of the immutable; inmost self; the self distinct from body; fruition of knowledge; liberation.	TB: Ch. 3.
33–42	Understand, analyse, and appraise the notion of result	Identity of the self with <i>Brahman</i> ; symbols; superimposition; active merit and demerit; death; merger and absorption; path to <i>Brahman</i> ; conditioned <i>Brahman</i> ; knowledge and results of actions; knower of <i>Brahman</i> ; nature of freedom; liberated soul and <i>Brahman</i> ; characteristics of the liberated soul; fulfilment of desire through will;	TB: Ch. 4.



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**Evaluation Scheme: (100 marks)**

Component	Duration	Weighting (in %)	Date and Time	Nature of Component
Assignment 1	NA	15	TBA	OB
Mid-Semester	90 Minutes	30	14/3 1.30 -3.00 PM	CB
Assignment 2	NA	15	TBA	OB
Comprehensive Exam	3 Hours	40	09/05 FN	CB

**Chamber Consultation Hours:** To be announced in the class.

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

**Make-up Policy:** Make-up component will be allowed provided there is credible documentary evidence to prove the authenticity of the case.

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

**Instructor-in-charge**

