



Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani
Hyderabad Campus

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 F334
Course Title : Srimad Bhagavad Gita
Instructor-in-charge : Aruna Lolla

Scope and Objective of the Course

Bhagavad Gita is a compendium of the Upanishads, a treatise on the knowledge of the Supreme Being (Brahma Vidya) and its application to life (Yoga Sastra), in the form of a dialogue between Sri Krishna and Arjuna just before the battle of Mahabharata.

The basic objective of studying this scripture is to comprehend the scheme of human life, know the importance of Duty, Devotion and Self Knowledge so as to transcend the human limitations and attain the supreme state of Sat-Chit-Ananda, which is Existence, Knowledge and Bliss Absolute. As one progresses in this Yoga, one comes out grief, fear and sin. It helps in removing unnecessary worry and stress and improves clarity and focus of one's mind.

Textbook:

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

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

Course Plan:

Lecture No.	Learning objectives	Topics to be covered	Chapter and Verses in the Text Book
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1	Gain an overview of the subject.	Course Overview: Background and origin of Bhagavad Gita,	
2	Familiarize 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 essentials of Karma Yoga	Science of the soul and Reincarnation. Transcendental Knowledge	2.1-2.30
4		Karma Yoga: Gains from doing our duty, Work without reactions and the marks of a person with steady intellect or <i>Sthita Pragya</i> .	2.31-2.72
5		Action in Krishna Consciousness: Working without attachment , egoism of the doer and worry about the results.	3.1-3.16
6		Acting dutifully with methods of conquering the lust and anger.	3.17-3.43
6		Transcendental knowledge Way to transcend entanglement and learning the art of performing duty for the Divine without attachment.	4.1-4.15
7		Karma Three types of activities: <i>Karma, Akarma and Vikarma</i> . The way to attain 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- 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 marks of a person who has conquered	6.1-6.9 6.10-6.32

		mind. Basics of yoga, posture, meditation, prerequisites of meditation, perfection in yoga.	
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.	
13		The essential part / principal axis of all is the Godhead or Sri Krishna. Like Om in the Veda, the intelligence of the intelligent etc..	7.1-7.12
14		Yoga Maya; Types of devotees and Types of devotion	7.20-7.30
16		Going back to Godhead by meditating. Thoughts grow stronger by repetition; Importance of last thought : It determines the future destination of the soul.	8.1-8.16
17		Fourteen worlds, Time; Two <i>margas</i> / routes towards Liberation	8.17-8.28
18		The Supreme Being creates and pervades all Creation. Yet He is unattached.	9.1-9.10
19		Human perception of the Divine and their modes of worship. The Supreme Being is the mother, father and grandfather of all Creation.	9.11-9.25
20		Glories of a devotee, simple methods of worshipping the Divine.	9.26-9.34
21		Godhead- the originator of everything.	10.1-10.11
22-23		Adoring the Supreme Personality of Godhead through the manifested glories or <i>Vibhooties</i>	10.12-10.42
24-25		The Cosmic form of Supreme Being. He is Time responsible for growth, sustenance and destruction of the universe. He is also the universal Doer.	11.1-11.55
26		Different stages in devotion, the highest being mind and intellect fixed upon Him.	12.13-12.20

		Principles helpful for attaining worldly success (efficiency) and Transcendental Bliss	
27	Analyse the basics of Jnana Yoga	Various constituents of the field or Kshetra and the pervading soul/ Consciousness, i.e., the Kshetragya are explained.	13.1-13.7;
28		Dhyana Yoga; Knowledge of the Absolute; Attaining the Supreme The concept of the soul and the Supreme Soul and the vision of Knowledge. are deliberated.	13.8-13.19
29		The concepts of <i>Prakriti-Purusa</i> , <i>Kshetra</i> - <i>Kshetrgya</i> and their union	13.20-13.34
30		The soul gets entangled by a blend of three Gunas or qualities of Nature: Satva, Rajas and Tamas.	14.1-14.13
31		Different destinations according to predomination of a particular Guna at the time of death, the signs and activities of one who has transcended the Gunas.	14.14-14.27
32		Understanding the Samsara and how to come out of that puzzle by taking refuge in the Supreme Being	15.1-15.11
33		How the Absolute Being or Sri Krishna sustains us at physical, vital, mental and spiritual levels.	15.12-15.20
34		The difference between the Divine and demoniac/ satanic qualities, elevation to the original state.	16.1-16.24
35		Faith, worships, foods and sacrifices in the different modes / <i>Gunas</i> .	17.1-17.13
36		Austerity and charity in different <i>Gunas</i> , Penance at three levels: Physical, Vital and Mental. Om-Tat- Sat: the three mystic syllables of Brahma.	17.14-17.28
37		Acting with detachment is true Renunciation and brings freedom from reactions: inference of Sankya and Vedanta.	18.1-18.18
38-39		Knowledge, actions, performers of actions, understandings,	18.19-18.40

		determinations, happiness- all these are controlled by the three <i>Gunas</i> .	
40-41		The process of Transmigration; the most confidential knowledge; Worshipping the Divine through one's occupational work is true renunciation and brings freedom from reactions, The Brahmi stage, knowing the Godhead by pure devotional service.	18.41-18.55; 18.56-18.66
42	Develop a perspective on Bhagavad Gita.	Those who study Bhagavad Gita worship the Divine wholeheartedly and who explain this to the non-envious achieve higher devotion.	18.67-18.78

Evaluation Scheme:

Component	Duration	Weightage (%)	Date & Time	Nature of Component
Assignment/ Seminar/Quiz	TBA	30(15+15)	TBA	Open Book
Mid-Semester Test	90 Minutes	30	15/03 - 4.00 - 5.30PM	Closed Book
Comprehensive examination	3 hours	40	17/05 AN	Open Book

Chamber Consultation Hour: The consultation hours will be shared on the CMS.

Notices: Notices 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.

Aruna Lolla
INSTRUCTOR- IN-CHARGE

