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**FIRST SEMESTER 2023-2024**

# Course Handout Part II

Date: 11-08-2023

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 F331

## Course Title : Shankara’s Thoughts

## Instructor-in-Charge : Dr. Maya Vinai

**Scope and Objective of the Course:** The course aims to provide a critical introduction to (1) the life and achievements of Adi Śhaṅkara, (2) pre-Śhaṅkara *Vedānta*, and (3) Śhaṅkara’s contribution to Indian heritage. A few of the basic *Advaita* concepts and theories *around which the course is structured include* (1) *ātman and jīva; (2) nature, sources, and validity of knowledge; (3) Brahman and Īśvara; (4) maya and world; (5) avidyā; and (6) bondage and liberation.*

**Textbooks:**

1. Ranganathananda, Swami*. The Message of Vivekachudamani.* Kolkata: Advaita Ashrama, 2013.
2. Internet Sources for certain literary compositions of Adi Sankara *(Bhaja Govindan/ Manisha Panchakam/ Nirvana Shatkam/ Guru Paduka Stotram)*

**Reference books**

1. Alston, A. J. ed. and trans. 2004. *A Śaṅkara Source Book*. 2nd edn. 5 vols. London: Shanti Sadan.
2. Deutsch, Eliot. 1971. *Advaita Vedanta: A Philosophical Reconstruction*. Honolulu: University of Hawai‘i Press.
3. Deutsch, Eliot and J. A. B. van Buitenen, eds. 1971. *A Source Book of Advaita Vedānta*. Honolulu: University of Hawai‘i Press.
4. Grimes, John. 1996. *A Concise Dictionary of Indian Philosophy*. Rev. edn. Albany: State University of New York Press.
5. Gupta, Bina. 1991. *Perceiving in Advaita Vedānta: Epistemological Analysis and Interpretation*. Lewisburg, PN: Bucknell University Press.

**Course Plan:**

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| **Lecture No.** | **Learning objectives** | **Topics to be covered** | **Chapter in the Text Book** |
| 1. 2 | To familiarize with the course content and understand the social environment during Adi Shankara’s times. | Course Overview  (The Orthodox and Un-Orthodox Schools of Indian Philosophy) | Class Notes |
| 3 - 6 | To acquaint with the life of Adi Shankara and the various literary and philosophical treatises written by Adi Shankara. | Life and achievements of Adi Shankara.  (Birth/ Education/ Mathas established/ / 4 major disciples and Shankara’s major works/ *Digvijaya* by Adi Shankara.  Types of audience for Adi Shankara’s compositions) | Class Notes/ Web sources |
| 7- 9 | To understand the structure of Vedas and traditional philosophical schools that existed in ancient India before Adi Shankara | Pre Shankara-Vedanta.  Basic Concepts and theories of Advaita philosophy.  Origin of Advaita philosophy  (Dwaita-Dualist/Vishista Advaita- Qualified non-Dualist and Advaita- non dualist) and its basic ideology, and the other major schools of philosophy that existed in India | Class Notes |
| 10- 20 | Understand, analyze, and appraise the notion of *Pancha*- *Kosha* and causes for duality of self | *Concept of Atman* and *Jeeva*  Bondage  *Pancha- Kosha/ Bhaja Govindam*  Qualities of an ideal student- *sadhana chatustaya* & *shad* *sampatti*, the necessity of self-effort, qualities of an ideal guru (*guru paduka stotram*) | TB: Pg 61- 143  &  Web Sources |
| 21- 29 | To analyze Shankara’s Metaphysics | Maya and the World.  Nature, sources, and validity of knowledge.  Bondage and Liberation.  What is self? (Identification of self with the world/ super-imposition/ illusion of reality/ *Nirvana* *Shatkam*) | TB: Pg 260- 294  443- 478  & *Nirvana Shatkam* |
| 30- 38 | Evaluate the concept of Brahman | Brahman and Iswara  The three gunas, (manifestation of gunas on self) nature of *Brahman*; Nirguna Brahman, unconditioned *Brahman* and soul; *Brahman* one without a second; attributes of *Brahman*; qualified *Brahman*; conceptions.  Shankara’s concept of *Jeevan mukta* | TB: Pg 478-497 |
| 39- 40 | Summing up of the course | Shankara’s contribution to Indian Heritage. Criticism leveled against Shankara’s Philosophy  Advaitic Thinkers after Adi Shankara | Class Notes |

**Evaluation Scheme:**

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| **Component** | **Duration**  **(Minutes)** | **Weightage (%)** | **Date & Time** | **Nature of Component** |
| Assignment/ Quizzes/ Presentation 2 | NA | 30% | TBA | Open Book |
| Mid Semester Examination | 90 | 30% | 13/10 - 9.30 - 11.00AM | Closed Book |
| Comprehensive  Examination | 180 | 40% | 18/12 FN | Closed Book |

**Chamber Consultation Hour:** **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.

Dr. Maya Vinai

**INSTRUCTOR-IN-CHARGE**