



COURSE HANDOUT (PART II)

In addition to part I (General Handout) for all courses appended to the Timetable), this portion gives further specific details regarding the course.

Course No. : **HSS F334**
Course Title : **SRIMAD BHAGAVAD GITA**
Instructor-in-Charge: **K Haribabu** (khari@pilani.bits-pilani.ac.in)
Instructor : **Shyama Hari Das**

1. Course Description:

This course introduces students the timeless wisdom spoken by Lord Krishna in the *Bhagavad Gita* and enables them to appreciate and apply those in daily life. Beginning with the fundamentals of the science of soul, the content includes various types of yogic practices, viz., *karma-yoga* (action in Krishna consciousness), *jnana-yoga* (philosophical research for truth), *dhyana-yoga* (meditative practice), *astanga-yoga* (eightfold yoga system) and culminates with *bhakti-yoga* (devotional service to Krishna). Adopting a topical approach, the course also touches upon these subject matters: the most confidential knowledge, three modes of material nature, nature, enjoyer and the consciousness, divine and demoniac qualities, and the perfection of knowledge.

2. Scope and Objective:

Meant for anyone who wants to make his or her life peaceful, blissful and perfect by aligning oneself to the principles set forth in Srimad Bhagavad Gita, the prime objectives of this course are to understand our relationship (*sambhandha*) with Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, the process of reviving that relationship (*abhidheya*), and the goal of that process (*prayojana*).

3. Text Books:

- Prabhupada, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta. Bhagavad Gita As It Is. Mumbai: Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, 2009.
- The Bhagavad Gita. Gorakhpur: Gita Press, 2007.

4. Reference Books:

- Prabhupada, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta. *Isopanishad*. Mumbai: Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, 2002.
- Dasa, Bhurijana. *Surrender Unto Me*. Vrindavan: Vrindavan Institute of Higher Education, 1997.
- Prabhupada, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta. *The Science of Self-Realization*. Mumbai: Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, 2002.

5. Lecture Plan:

Learning	Lecture	Topics	References
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Objective	#		(Chapter # and sloka # indicated)
Introduction to Bhagavad Gita	1	Srila Vyasa Deva: compiler of Srimad Bhagavad Gita; His selfless contribution: compilation of Vedas, classification; unique position and glories of Bhagavad Gita in Vedic literature	Class notes and T1: Introduction
	2-3	Setting the scene; subject matter of Bhagavad Gita; infallible Vedic knowledge-four defects, ways of gaining knowledge; sanatana dharma; practice to study Srimad Bhagavad Gita	T1: Introduction R1: Introduction
Dilemma in the material world	4-5	Arjuna's dilemmas and doubts; perplexities of life in this world: birth, death, disease and old age, three-fold miseries; material relationships: temporary, cause misery; the only solution: spiritual relationship	1.26-46, 8.15, 5.22, 7.14, 13.9, 2.6-7, 10.9, 9.33
Bringing life under spiritual guidance	6	Absolute necessity of spiritual relationship with a bona fide spiritual master/teacher; qualifications of a spiritual master; check and balance through Guru, sadhu and sastra	2.7-8; 2.56-61; 4.1-3; 4.34-35, 1.43
	7	Qualifications of a disciple/student	4.34, 13.8-12, 16.1-3
	8	Ascending knowledge vs. descending knowledge; importance of hearing; process of hearing	2.53, 7.1, 4.3, 4.26, 13.26 R1: Mantra 10
Science of soul (jiva)	9-10	What is soul? Proof of existence of soul, its nature and individuality; the doctrine of life comes from life; activities in knowledge of science of soul	2.12-30, 7.4, 7.5
	11	Cause of suffering in this world;	7.27, 15.7, 15.10,





		constitutional position of living entity	15.16-18
Supreme Lord (isvara)	12-14	Knowing Krishna, the Supreme personality of Godhead; Krishna as the source of both material and spiritual energies, and the supreme controller; understanding the position of God, His expansions and living entities	7.4-7.12, 7.13-14, 9.10, 10.8, 15.7, 4.5, 5.29
	15	Lord's descent: His love, purpose and mission; Paramatma: our ever well wishing best friend	4.6-9, 9 th chapter, 10.9-11, 3.23, 15.15, 18.61, 5.29
	16	Inconceivable nature of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, His qualities and pastimes; cultivating spiritual relationship: the only way to understand Him	9.4-6, 9.11, 10.1-3, 11.54, 18.55, 4.3, 18.65, 9.34, 7.1
	17	Is God personal or impersonal? Three aspects of the Absolute Truth; path of personalism vs. path of impersonalism	14.27, T1: 2.2 purport, 12.1-7, 5.29, 10.2 4.9, 4.3, 2.12, 4.10-11, 9.4-5, 7.7, 7.24
	18	Demigod worship: universal administration; demigods and their relationship with Krishna; right way to approach demigods	3.10-12, 7.20-23, 9.21, 9.25, 10.2
Yoga (Connecting with Supreme Lord)	19-20	What is yoga? Types of yoga – dhyana, karma, jnana, bhakti; limitation of asthanga yoga in kali yuga; gradual and direct method - bhakti yoga; pure devotional service; the topmost yoga system	2.47; 2.48-51; 6.10-14; 6.33-34; 6.47, 8.28, chapter 7-12
	21	Different platforms of worship: fear, desire, duty, love; difference between platform of love and other platforms; awakening love of God being superior to doing social service	2.47, 6.47, 4.7, 7.16, 7.19





Material Nature	22	Three modes of material nature: conditioning of the living entity; characteristics of goodness, passion and ignorance; how the modes bind us; free will and destiny; Working for Krishna and working for maya; Supreme Lord is transcendental to modes; liberation from three modes	14.5-25, 17.1-28, 14.26, 9.13, 2.45, 7.12-14, 3.5, 3.27, 3.29, 3.33, 4.13, 4.23, 5.14, 15.2, 18.19-41
Karma and karma yoga	23-24	Why bad things happen to good people? Law of karma: good karma, bad karma and akarma; how to become free from karma and reincarnation; karma kanda: flowery language of Vedas; karma yoga and its importance; contemporary relevance of karma yoga; sakama and nishkama karma yoga	4.16-18, 2.42-43, 2.48 3 rd and 5 th chapter, 2.22, 6.41, 6.42-44
	25	Peace formula: proper and artificial renunciation; defining quota; proper utilization of quota that is given to us; three point peace formula	5.29, 3.9-11 R1: Mantra 1
Kala	26	Time (kala) and its influence; impact of this understanding on our heart (<i>nimita matra bhava svaya sachin</i>)	11.32, 8.17-19, 13.6-7, 11.33
Bhakti yoga (Pure devotional service to Krishna)	27-28	Knowledge of the Absolute	7.1-7.7, 7.18-19, 7.25-30
	29-31	Attaining the Supreme	8.5-8, 8.14-16
	32-34	The Most Confidential Knowledge	9.1-34
	35-37	The Opulence of the Absolute	7.4-11, 10.1-34
Divine and demoniac natures	38	Four types of people who surrender to Krishna; four types of people who don't surrender to Krishna; difference between transcendental and demoniac qualities; returning to our divine nature	7.15-19, 16.1-24;
Conclusion	39-40	Qualities which endear one to Krishna; Krishna's concluding instructions; Arjuna's understanding and realizations.	12.13-20; 18.65-66; 18.73
	41	Sanjaya's realizations; way to be victorious.	18.74-78





6. Evaluation Scheme:

#	Component	Weight	Duration	Date and Time	Remarks
1	Mid-semester Test	25%	1½ hours	10/10 2:00 - 3:30 PM	Closed-book
2	Comprehensive Examination	40%	3 hours	14/12 FN	Partly open-book type
3	Home assignment	15%	-	To be announced later	-
4	Course Quiz	15%	30-40 min.	To be announced later	Closed-book
5	In-Class Quiz	5%	20 min	Surprise	

7. Grading Policy:

Award of grades would be guided by the histogram of marks and course average. If a student happens to be in the borderline of two grades, the decision on the final grade will be based on his/her regularity in attending classes and participation in discussions.

8. Make up policy:

For a foreseen absence, make-up request should be made personally to the Instructor-in-Charge, well ahead of the component. Reasons for unanticipated absence that qualify a student to apply for make-up include medical emergencies or personal exigencies only. In such an event, the student should contact the Instructor-in-Charge at the earliest.

9. Chamber Consultation Hour:

Tuesday 12 to 1 pm & 3-4PM, in cubicle 6121-M.

10. Notices:

All important course notices shall be displayed on the notice board of Faculty Division-I.

Instructor-in-Charge
HSS F334

