

**BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE, PILANI**  
**INSTRUCTION DIVISION**  
**FIRST SEMESTER 2015-2016**  
**Course Handout (Part II)**

**Date: 7/5/2016**

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 : **HUM C382/HSS F331**

Course Title : *Shankara's Thoughts*

Instructor-in-charge : Maya Vinai

**1. Scope and Objective of the Course:**

*The course is an attempt to acquaint the students with the life, system of thought and achievements of Adi Sankara. It also highlights the contribution of Sankara to the understanding of Vedanta Philosophy.*

**2. Text Book:** Sankara, *Vivekachoodamani*, translation and commentary by Swami Chinmayananda, Mumbai: Central Chinmaya Trust, 1971.

**3. Reference Books:**

R1: Vivekachudamani by Swami Ranganathananda. Advaita Ashrama; 1st edition (December 1, 2008)

R2: P. Sankaranarayanan. What is Advaita? Bhavan's Book University, 1999.

R3: Sankara the Missionary, Mumbai, Central Chinmaya Mission Trust, 1990.

R4: Sharma, Chandradhar, A Critical Survey of Indian Philosophy, New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers Pvt. Ltd., 1987.

R5: Mahadevan, T.M.P., Ten Saints of India, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bombay, 1971.

R6: Swami, Atmanand, Sankara's Teachings in his own Words, Bombay: Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, 1964.

R7: Radhakrishnan, S., Vedanta According to Sankara and Ramanuja, Oriental Book Agency, Poona, 1928.

R 8: P. George Victor, Life and Teachings of Adi Shankaracarya. New Delhi: D. K Print world, 2002.

**4. Course Plan:**

Lecture No.	Learning Objectives	Topics to be covered	Test Book (T)/ Reference (R)
1-2	To acquaint with the life and environment during Adi Shankara	Life and Works, Society and Culture during the times of Adi Shankara.	Class Notes
3-5	To understand the	Placing advaita philosophy amongst the	Class Notes

	structure of Vedas and traditional philosophical schools of ancient India	other school of orthodox (Samkhya, Yoga, Nyaya- Vaisheshika, Uttara and Purva Mimamsa) and unorthodox thoughts (Jainism, Buddhism and Charvaka)	
6	To develop an understanding of the works of Sankara	A brief explanation of Shankara's works.	Class Notes
7	To provide an insight into the four mathas established by Shankara	Shankara's 4 major disciples	Class notes
8-10	Classification of Vedanta	The three major Vedantic traditions ( <b>Dvaita</b> -Dualist/ <b>Vishistadvaita</b> -Qualified non-Dualist and <b>Advaita</b> - non dualist) and its basic ideology	
11	To develop an understanding of Sankara's Metaphysics	Sankara's Advaita: Basic Concepts and Theories:	Class Notes
12	Background study	Understanding the form and concerns expounded in <i>Vivekachudamani</i>	Class Notes
13-15	Atman	Atman and Jiva (selected verses)	51-61
15-18	Brahman	Brahman and Isvara	237-249
19-20	Maya	Maya and World	108-119
21	Nature of the World	Contd.	108-119
22	Ignorance	Ignorance and Bondage	62-66
23-26	Bondage	Contd.	267-348
27	Sankara's Soteriology	The Doctrine of Moksha or Liberation	398-479
28	Liberation	Contd.	398-479
29	Sankara's Ethics	Values of Life in Sankara's System and Present Relevance	250-253
31-34	Shankara's Other works and Charges against Sankara's system	Contd.	Class Notes
35-40	Other works by Shankara		Class Notes

**5. Evaluation Scheme:**

<b>EC NO.</b>	<b>Evaluation Component</b>	<b>Weight age</b>	<b>Date, Time &amp; Venue</b>	<b>Nature of Component</b>
1	Test I (Closed)	30%	Check with Timetable provided	CB
2	Test II (Open)	30%		CB
3	Comprehensive Exam (Closed).	40%		CB

**6. Chamber Consultation Hour:** To be announced in the class.

**7. Notices:** Notices, if any, concerning the course will be displayed on LTC notice board near cafeteria

**8. Make-up Policy:** Make-up component will not be allowed in case of Group Discussion/seminar.

Dr. Maya Vinai  
**Instructor-in-charge**

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