



Date: 02-Aug-2018

### **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 : **Manoj Kannan**  
Instructors : **Shyama Hari Das, K. Haribabu**

#### **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:**

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

#### **4. Reference Books:**

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





### 5. Lecture Plan:

Learning Objective	Lec. #	Topics	References (Chapter # and sloka # indicated)
Introduction to Bhagavad Gita	1	What is Bhagavad-gita; the five subject matters of Bhagavad-gita	Class notes and T1: Introduction
	2-3	Setting the scene; infallible Vedic knowledge-four defects, ways of gaining knowledge; <i>sanatana dharma</i>	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	6-7	Absolute necessity of spiritual relationship with a bonafide spiritual master/teacher; qualifications of a spiritual master; check and balance through Guru, sadhu and <i>sastra</i>	2.7-8; 2.56-61; 4.1-3; 4.34-35, 1.43
	8	Qualifications of a disciple/student	4.34, 13.8-12, 16.1-3
	9	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)	10-11	What is soul? Proof of existence of soul, its nature and individuality; the doctrine of 'life comes from life'; activities in knowledge of the science of soul	2.12-30, 7.4, 7.5
	12	Cause of suffering in this world; constitutional position of living entity	7.27, 15.7, 15.10, 15.16-18
God, the Supreme Lord	13-15	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



	16	Lord's descent: His love, purpose and mission; <i>Paramatma</i> : our ever well-wishing best friend	4.6-9, 9 <sup>th</sup> chapter, 10.9-11, 3.23, 15.15, 18.61, 5.29
	17	Inconceivable nature of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, His qualities and pastimes; cultivating spiritual relationship being 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
	18	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
	19	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)	20-22	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
	23	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	24-27	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 <i>maya</i> ; 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	28-32	Why bad things happen to good people? Law of karma: good <i>karma</i> , bad <i>karma</i> and <i>akarma</i> ; how to become free from <i>karma</i> and rebirth; <i>karma kanda</i> : flowery language of Vedas; <i>karma yoga</i> and its importance; contemporary relevance of karma yoga; <i>sakama</i> and <i>nishkama</i> karma yoga	4.16-18, 2.42-43, 2.48 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> chapter, 2.22, 6.41, 6.42-44



<i>Kala</i>	33	Time ( <i>kala</i> ) and its influence; impact of this understanding on our heart (“ <i>nimitamatram bhava savyasachin</i> ”)	11.32, 8.17-19, 13.6-7, 11.33
Universal Form	34-35	Universal form	11 <sup>th</sup> chapter
Divine and demoniac natures	36-37	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	38-39	Qualities which endear one to Krishna; Krishna’s concluding instructions; Arjuna’s understanding and realizations	12.13-20; 18.65-66; 18.73
	40-41	Sanjaya’s realizations; way to be victorious.	18.74-78

#### 6. Evaluation Scheme:

#	Component	Weight	Duration	Date and Time	Remarks
i.	Mid-semester Test	25%	1½ hours	11/10 9:00 - 10:30 AM	Closed-book
ii.	Comprehensive Examination	40%	3 hours	6/12 FN	One section is open-book
iii.	Course Quiz	10%	40 – 50 min.	To be announced later	Closed-book
iv.	Assignments	25%	-	-	Some may be in-class; others will be take-home

#### 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, participation in discussions and timely submission of assignments.

#### 8. Attendance Policy:





Presence in lecture classes and attentive hearing is a pre-requisite for the successful completion of this course. In case a student misses a lecture, he/she would do well to inform the instructor-in-charge prior to the class to avail the benefit of excused absence.

**9. Make up policy:**

For a foreseen absence in mid-term test, comprehensive examination or quiz, the 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. No make-ups are generally possible for assignments, particularly the in-class ones, unless the genuineness of the case is compelling enough, or a leave of excused absence is granted.

**10. Chamber Consultation Hour:**

Thursdays 4:30 to 5:30 PM, Rm. 3270

**11. Announcements and Notices:**

All announcements related to the course will be made in the class. Certain notices such as seating arrangements, etc. for quizzes shall be sent by email and also available on Google Drive at the location that will be shared.

**Instructor-in-Charge**  
**HSS F334**

