



**FIRST SEMESTER, 2018-2019**

**Course Handout (Part II)**

Date: 02.08.2018

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

Course No.: **HSS F235**  
Course Title: **Introductory Philosophy**  
Instructor-in-charge: **ANUPAM YADAV**

**1. Scope and Objective**

A critical survey of some of the major Western and Indian philosophical viewpoints and in that the objective is to bring to the fore their significance in human lives.

**2. Text books:**

1. Thilly, F., A History of Philosophy, Central Book Depot, Allahabad, 1984.
2. Sharma, C.D., Critical Survey of Indian Philosophy, Motilal Banarasidas, New Delhi, 1960.

**Reference books:**

1. Puligandla, R., Fundamentals of Indian Philosophy, D.K. Print World (P) (Ed.), New Delhi: 1997
2. Hiriyanna, M., The Essentials of Indian Philosophy, George Allen and Unwin Ltd., London, 1949.

**Course Plan:**

Module No.	Lecture Session	Reference	Learning Outcomes
1. Introduction, Nature of Philosophizing, Traditional divisions of Philosophy, Relation between philosophy, science, and religion.	L 1.1 - 1.3  1.1 To get familiar with the subject matter and act of philosophizing.  1.2 The traditional divisions of the discipline - Philosophy  1.3. Relation between philosophy, science, and religion	Introduction, TB1  Introduction, TB1  Introduction, TB1	Getting familiar with the subject-matter of philosophy and the act of philosophizing, knowing the divisions within the subject and understanding the linkages between philosophy, science and religion.





2. Greek Philosophy before Socrates, Plato on knowledge and ideas, virtues and society, Aristotle's Criticisms of Plato,	<p>L 2.1 - 2.4</p> <p>2.1. The beginning of philosophy in pre-Socratic Greek thinkers and Socrates</p> <p>2.2 Plato on knowledge and Ideas</p> <p>2.3 Plato on virtues, self, and society</p> <p>2.4 Aristotle's criticisms of Plato's theory of Ideas</p>	<p>TB1, Ch. 1</p> <p>TB1, Ch. 1</p> <p>TB1, Ch. 3</p> <p>TB1, Ch. 3</p>	Understanding the philosophical questions in pre-Socratic thinkers and Socrates. Knowing Plato's idealism, theory of knowledge and his views on virtues, self and society. Also learning Aristotle's metaphysics and criticisms against Plato.
3. Continental Rationalism, Rene Descartes and Spinoza	<p>L 3.1 – 3.4</p> <p>3.1 Continental Rationalism</p> <p>3.2 – 3.4 Rene Descartes: what do we know with certainty, the self as mind, God, mind-body dualism, external bodies and Spinoza's metaphysics</p>	<p>TB Ch. 11</p> <p>TB1, Ch. 12</p>	Learning the genesis of philosophy in modern period, especially the foundation of rationalism in Descartes' methods, knowing the nature of mind, God and external bodies in Descartes and the ways mind-body dualism is understood in Descartes and Spinoza.
4 British Empiricism: Tenets of empiricism in Locke, Berkeley and Hume	<p>L 4.1 – 4.4</p> <p>4.1- 4.2 Locke's empiricism, views on knowledge and Berkeley's rejection of abstract ideas</p> <p>4.3 - 4.4 Origin and nature of knowledge, skepticism, problems of substance and cause.</p>	<p>TB1, Ch. 13</p> <p>TB1, Ch. 13</p>	Understanding the meaning of empirical investigations, learning the nature and classification of knowledge and Humean skepticism.
5 Questions of Ethics in Hume, Kant, Bentham and Mill	<p>L 5.1 - 5.4</p> <p>5.1 David Hume on sympathy</p> <p>5.2 Kant on duty</p> <p>5.3 – 5.4 Bentham and Mill's utilitarianism</p>	<p>TB1, Ch. 13</p> <p>TB1, Ch. 16</p> <p>TB1, Ch. 19</p>	Understanding the nature of ethics: acts and judgments in the thoughts of Hume, Kant, Bentham and Mill.
6. Existentialism: the	L 6.1 – 6.4		Knowing existentialism as a





**BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE, PILANI**  
**Pilani Campus**  
**Instruction Division**

main characteristics and the idea of ethical self	6.1-6.3 The problems of existence in main existentialist thinkers like Kierkegaard, Sartre and Heidegger  6.4 The idea of ethical self in existentialism	TB1, Ch. 20  TB1, Ch. 20	way of life, understanding the issues of existence and the nature of ethical self
7. Introduction to various Indian philosophical systems, Vedas and Upanisads, Atman and Brahman	L 7.1 – 7.3  7.1 Various Indian philosophical systems  7.2 Vedas and Upanisadas  7.3 Atman and Brahman	TB2, Ch. 1  TB2, Ch. 1  TB2, Ch. 1	To be familiar with the Indian philosophical thought, knowing the nature of Vedas and Upanishadas and the major philosophical themes of Atman and Brahman
8. Samkhya and Yoga	L 8.1 – 8.4  8.1 – 8.2 Samkhya: Purusa and Prakrti and the theory of evolution  8.3 – 8.4 Yoga: chitta and its vritties, Astanga yoga	TB2, Ch. 9  TB2, Ch. 10	Knowing Sankhya's metaphysical position on reality, the fundamental division between Prakrti and Purusa and understanding the Yoga system of thought and its relation to Sankhya.
9. Vaishesika and Nyaya	L 9.1 – 9.3  9.1 Atomism of Vaishesika and Categories  9.2 – 9.3 Nyaya: sources of knowledge and validity and comparison between Aristotle and Nyaya's inference	TB2, Ch. 11  TB2, Ch. 12	Understanding the epistemology propounded in Nyaya and the ontology given in Vaishesika system.
10. Vedanta system: Non-dualism of Sankara, Sankara on the absolute, self, and world. Ramanuja: qualified non-dualism	L 10.1 – 10.3  10.1 Sankara on the Absolute, self, and world  10.2 Ramanuja's qualified non-dualism and self  10.3 Comparative analysis of Shankara and Ramanuja's Vedanta	TB2, Ch. 15  TB2, Ch. 18	Understanding the philosophy of Vedanta in Sankara and Ramanuja and a comparative analysis of the two.
11. Heterodox Systems:	L 11.1 - 11.4		Understanding the heterodox





BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE, PILANI  
Pilani Campus  
Instruction Division

Jainism and Buddhism	11.1 To know about the heterodox system of thoughts	TB2, Ch. 5	systems of Indian philosophy, the thought systems of Buddhism and Jainism and a general understanding and relevance of the subject to other disciplines.
	11.2 Buddhism: four noble truths, doctrine of dependent origination and nirvana	TB2, Ch. 4	
	11.3 Jainism: jiva, ajiva and anekantavada	TB2, Ch. 1	
	11.4 Concluding note on Indian philosophical systems, general aims and relevance	RF1, Ch. 1	

Upon completion of the course students will have

- An understanding of the various philosophical schools of Indian and Western traditions
- A critical and comparative grasp of the philosophical viewpoints & debates
- An ability to build theoretical constructions and extend philosophical thinking to other disciplines
- An ability to practice the habit of thinking rationally and critically in leading an ethical and meaningful life.

**Evaluation Scheme:**

EC No.	Evaluation Component	Duration	Weightage	Date, Time & Venue	Remarks
1	Mid Semester Test	90 Minutes	30	13/10 2:00 - 3:30 PM	CB
2	Assignment, Presentation & Quiz	-	30	To be announced	OB/CB
3	Comprehensive Examination	3 Hours	40	11/12 FN	CB

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

**Notices:** Notices, if any, concerning the course will be displayed on the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences notice board.

**Makeup Policy:** Make-up components will be allowed provided there would be a documentary proof to support the case.

**Instructor-in-charge**  
**HSS F235**



Please Do Not Print Unless Necessary