



Date: 25-Jan-2021

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**
Co-instructor : **VINAY CHAMOLA**

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 need to understand spirituality, the content includes science of soul, 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	1-3	What is Bhagavad-gita; the five subject matters of Bhagavad-gita	Class notes and T1: Introduction
	4-6	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	7-8	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	9-10	Absolute necessity of spiritual relationship with a bona fide 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
	11-12	Qualifications of a disciple/student	4.34, 13.8-12, 16.1-3
	13	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)	14-15	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
	16	Cause of suffering in this world; constitutional position of living entity	7.27, 15.7, 15.10, 15.16-18
God, the Supreme Lord	17-19	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



Learning Objective	Lec. #	Topics	References (Chapter # and sloka # indicated)
God, the Supreme Lord	20	Lord's descent: His love, purpose and mission; <i>Paramatma</i> : our ever well-wishing best friend	4.6-9, 9 th chapter, 10.9-11, 3.23, 15.15, 18.61, 5.29
	21	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
	22	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
	23	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)	24-26	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
Material Nature	27-29	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	30-32	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 rd and 5 th chapter, 2.22, 6.41, 6.42-44



Learning Objective	Lec. #	Topics	References (Chapter # and sloka # indicated)
Kala	33	Time (<i>kala</i>) and its influence; impact of this understanding on our heart (“ <i>nimita matram bhava savya sachin</i> ”)	11.32, 8.17-19, 13.6-7, 11.33
Universal Form	34	Universal form	11 th chapter
Divine and demoniac natures	35-36	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	37	Qualities which endear one to Krishna; Krishna’s concluding instructions; Arjuna’s understanding and realizations	12.13-20; 18.65-66; 18.73
	38-39	Sanjaya’s realizations; way to be victorious.	18.74-78

6. Evaluation Scheme:

#	Component	Weight	Duration	Date and Time	Remarks
i.	Mid-semester Test	50	1½ hrs.	To be announced by AUGSD	
ii.	Quizzes and Assignments	80	Variable	Spread out throughout the semester	Pre-announced
iii.	Comprehensive Examination	70	2 hours	10-May-2021 FN	

7. Attendance Policy:

While the Academic Regulations do not stipulate a minimum percentage of attendance before a student is permitted to appear in any test/examination, because the Institute has an internal and continuous evaluation system, these regulations clearly expect every student to be responsible for regularity of his/her attendance. Particularly for this course, ***presence in lectures and attentive hearing is a pre-requisite for the successful completion.*** Attendance will be recorded in each and



every contact session. 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.

8. 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. When in spite of all the facilities such as make-up, feedback from examinations and interaction with the teacher, a student fails to cooperate with the teacher in the discharge of his/her part of the contract to such an extent that the teacher is unable to award any grade, regulations allow the Instructor-in-Charge to give a "Not Cleared" (NC) report.

9. Make up policy:

For a foreseen absence in mid-semester 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 has been granted by the Instructor-in-Charge.

10. Chamber Consultation:

Appointment can be taken by sending an email.

Contact details: (01596) 255855, manojkannan@pilani.bits-pilani.ac.in

11. Announcements and Notices:

All announcements related to the course will be made during the class hours. Email intimations may also be sent.

Instructor-in-Charge
HSS F334