

Syllabus for the M.Phil Programme in Philosophy

Department of Philosophy

University of Hyderabad

Courses and Syllabi

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PH 701 Contemporary Indian Thought

Semester: 1

Credits: 4

Course description

This course discusses the significant and emerging themes in Contemporary Indian Thought. This course is an attempt to introduce the concepts of Contemporary Indian Thought. Every civilization is better known for its cultural values. Everybody is familiar with the ancient philosophical tradition of India. Modern India also produced many thinkers with whom we share our thought process. Because of this commonality we are contemporary to those thinkers like Vivekananda, Mahatma Gandhi and so on.

Course objectives

The primary objective of this course is to make students familiar with the works and studies related to Contemporary Indian Thought. So this course is framed in such a way where students can get the nuance of these philosophers like Mahatma Gandhi, Sri Arobindo and Krishna Chandra Bhattacharya.

Course structure:

Unit 1 Introduction to Contemporary Indian thought

1. Historical background
2. Philosophical background

Unit 2 Mahatma Gandhi

1. Life and works of Mahatma Gandhi
2. Philosophical background
3. Concept of God
4. Concept of Truth
5. Non-Violence
6. Satyagraha
7. Sarvodaya

Unit 3 Sri Arobindo

1. Life and works of Sri Arobindo
2. Philosophical background
3. Theory of Involution
4. Integral yoga

Unit 4 Krishna Chandra Bhattacharya

1. Life and works of K. C. Bhattacharya
2. Philosophical background
3. Theory of Negation
4. uncertain reality

SUGGESTED READINGS

- Nehru Jawaharlal, *Discovery of India*, Asian Publishing House, Bombay, 1972.
- Parekh Bhikhu, *Gandhi's Political Philosophy: A Critical Examination*, Ajanta Publication, Delhi, 1986.
- Iyer Raghavan, *Collected Works of Gandhi*, Three Vols, Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- Raju Raghuram, *Debating Gandhi*, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 2006.
- Gandhi M. K., *My Experiment With Truth*, Navjeevan Trust
- Antarkar, S. S. 1992. "Krishna Chandra Bhattacharyya's Theory of Value", in *Journal of Indian Council of Philosophical Research*, Vol.X No. 1, special issues on The Philosophy of K. C. Bhattacharyya.
- Aurobindo, Sri. 1972. *The Synthesis of Yoga: Part One and Two*, vol.20, Pondicherry: Sri Aurobindo Birth Centenary Library.
- Bagchi, K. 1981, "Towards a Metaphysic of Self: Perspectives on Professor Krishnachandra Bhattacharyya's unpublished essay on 'Mind and Mater,'" *Journal of Indian Philosophy*, No.9.
- Bhattacharya, Kalidas. 1975. *The Fundamentals of K. C. Bhattacharyya's Philosophy* Calcutta, Saraswat Library
- Bhattacharya, Kalidas. 1982. "Traditional Indian Philosophy as Modern Indian Thinkers View it", in *Indian Philosophy: Past and Future*, Pappu, Rama Rao, S. S. and R. Puligandla. eds. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass.
- Bhattacharya, Krishna Chandra. 1983. "Subject as Freedom," and "The Concept of Philosophy," *Studies in Philosophy, Vol.I and II*, ed. Gopinath Bhattacharyya, Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass.
- Chattopadhyaya, D. P. 1992. "The Concept of Freedom and Krishna Chandra Bhattacharyya," in *Journal of Indian Council of Philosophical Research*, Vol.X.No.1, special issues on The Philosophy of K. C. Bhattacharyya.
- Dasgupta. S.N. 1982. "Dogmas of Indian Philosophy." *Philosophical Essays* Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass.
- Lal Basant Kumar *Contemporary Indian Philosophy* Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass

PH-702 Contemporary Western Thinkers

Semester: 1

Credits: 4

Objective

This course is designed to have discussions on the main trends of contemporary Western philosophy such as Analytic Philosophy, Phenomenology and Existentialism through an in-depth study of three important contemporary thinkers such as Wittgenstein, Husserl and Heidegger. These revolutionary thinkers have not only influenced their age but also have shaped philosophical thinking for all time to come. There will be scope in this course to understand and evaluate their contributions to philosophy.

Course Content:

General Introduction (2 lectures)

Part I

Wittgenstein's Philosophy as developed in the *Tractatus* : reflections on philosophical method: reflections on language, logic, metaphysics, self and the world; the nature of the mystical.

(6 lectures)

Wittgenstein's critique of his early philosophy in the *Investigations*: the new concept of language, logic and the world: forms of life, language-games, rule-following and the private language argument.

(6 lectures)

Assessment of Wittgenstein's contributions

(2 lectures)

Part II

Husserl's phenomenological method: reflections on logic and mathematics: anti-naturalism and anti-psychologism:

(6 lectures)

The transcendental turn: the phenomenological reductions: ego and the world: intentionality and meaning: the problem of idealism and realism.

(6 lectures)

The critical assessment of Husserl's phenomenology (2 lectures)

Part III

Heidegger's reflections on philosophical method: departure from transcendental phenomenology: the metaphysics of being: the reflections on human existence (Dasein)

(6 lectures).

Time and being, historicity and temporality, authenticity and freedom.

The nature of truth.

(6 lectures)

Assessment of Heidegger's contributions

(2 lectures)

Prescribed Readings:

Wittgenstein, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* trans. D.F.Pears and B.F.McGuinness, Routledge and Kegan Paul, London, 1961.

Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations*, trans., G.E.M. Anscombe, Blackwell, Oxford, 1953.

E. Husserl, *Logical Investigations*, trans. J.N.Findlay, Vol. I, Routledge and Kegan Paul, London, 1970.

Husserl, *Ideas: General Introductions to Pure Phenomenology*, trans. W.R. Boyce Gibson, Allen and Unwin, London, 1931.

Husserl, *The Crisis of European Sciences and Transcendental Phenomenology: An Introduction to Phenomenological Philosophy*, trans. David Carr, Northwestern University Press, Evanston, 1970.

M. Heidegger, *Being and Time*, trans. John Macquarrie and Edward Robinson, Blackwell, Oxford, 1972.

Heidegger, *Basic Writings*, ed. D.F.Krell, Routledge and Kegan Paul, London, 1978.

Supplementary Readings:

I.M.Copi and R.W. Beard (eds.) *Essays on Wittgenstein's Tractatus*, Macmillan, New York; Routledge and Kegan Paul, London, 1966

George Pitcher, ed. *Wittgenstein: The Philosophical Investigations, A Collection of Critical Essays*, Macmillan, New York, 1966.

J.N.Mohanty, *The Possibility of Transcendental Philosophy*, Martinus Nijhoff, Dordrecht/Boston, 1985.

A.D.Smith, *Husserl and the Cartesian Meditations*, Routledge, London and New York, 2003.

Barry Smith and D.W.Smith (eds.), *The Cambridge Companion to Husserl*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge and New York, 1995.

Mehta, J.L., *Philosophy of Martin Heidegger*, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, 1967.

Charles B. Guignon (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Heidegger*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge and New York, 1993.

Internal Assessment: There will be two written examinations and a term paper consisting of 20 marks each.

PH-703 Research Methodology

Semester: 1

Credits: 4

Objective

The aim of the course is to give research students of M.Phil. programme an understanding of the Concepts and Categories germane to the texture of philosophical reasoning. This will be of help in making their research undertaking methodologically sensitive to the various modes of philosophizing. The course deals primarily with metaphilosophical problems and issues.

Course Content:

- I. The Nature of Philosophical Reasoning
- II. Asking Right questions in Philosophy
- III. Philosophy and its History
- IV. Transcendental Arguments in Philosophy
- V. Thought Experiments in Philosophy
- VI. Interpreting Philosophical Texts
- VII. Task of Philosophy: Explanation or Systematization?
- VIII. Analytical/Continental Philosophy: Methodological Issues.

Readings:

1. Rescher, Nicholas
Philosophical Reasoning: A Study in the Methodology of Philosophical Reasoning
Blackwell, Oxford 2001.
2. Passmore, John Philosophical Reasoning Duckworth, 1970
3. Rescher, Nicholas What if? Thought Experiments in Philosophy Transaction Publishers, London, 2005.
4. Taylor, Charles 'Philosophy and Its History' Philosophy in History: Essays on the Historiography of Philosophy.
Edited by Richard Rorty, J W Schneewind and Quinton Skinner, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1984.
5. Taylor, Charles Philosophical Arguments Harvard University Press, Cambridge Massachusetts 1995.
6. Emmet E.R
Learning to Philosophize, Penguin 1964
7. Rorty, Richard 'Introduction' Linguistic Turn: Recent Essays in Philosophical Method.
Edited by Richard Rorty, The University of Chicago Press, Chicago 1967.