

MINUTES OF THE 7th BOARD OF STUDIES MEETING (19th August 2022)

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY, SOPHIA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), MUMBAI

Date of Meeting: 19th August 2022;

Time: 12.00 pm.to 1.30 pm

Mode: Online via Zoom

The meeting was attended by all the members of the BoS in Philosophy. The Chairperson, Dr. Trevor Allis, welcomed all the members of the BoS. Thereafter, the meeting took to discuss the agenda.

With reference to Agenda No.1, the minutes of the previous meeting as shared was accepted.

With reference to Agenda No.2, the BoS was informed about the changes in the examination pattern decided by the college (IA & SEE) as offline lectures have resumed. 50 Marks IA with objective and descriptive components and 50 Marks SEE in descriptive mode is the system followed. The offline examination paper pattern (SEE and IA) at FYBA, SYBA and TYBA to be introduced w.e.f June 2022 was approved by the Board of Studies. Adv. Irfan commented that it would be advisable to have IA components to be made problem-centred. Dr. Trevor replied that it has been a practice already.

With reference to Agenda No.3 the BoS discussed the feedback for the previous year for the 1 credit Add-On course on Peace and Conflict Resolution in collaboration with Centre for Study of Society and Secularism (CSSS), appreciated it, and approved the continuation of the course for the future. Dr. Kamala enquired whether the course could be extended in collaboration to SIES students as well in future. It was welcomed subject to the policy decisions in this regard from the college side.

With reference to Agenda No.4 the BoS discussed and approved the plan to launch a 1 credit 'Add-On course on Critical Thinking' from the academic year 2023-24. The

tentative syllabus proposed was discussed and suggestions for the proposed syllabus were taken for further modification.

Suggested revisions and inclusions to the draft syllabus proposed are given below:

- Dr. Geeta suggested that alternative modes of reasoning, inductive reasoning, probabilistic argumentation etc. could also be supplied with and that J.L Austin- the case media, legal language could be a part of study.
- Dr. Kieth suggested to supplement critical thinking with social critique and application of critical theory. Habermas, Huxley, and Adorno were suggested to be reading list.
- Dr. Ranjan commented that the sceptic point of view seems missed out in the proposed draft.
- Ms. Krishna suggested that 'cognitive biases' can also be made part of study.
- Dr, Kamala expressed that the syllabus should be kept not too heavy and loaded as add on courses are being taken up by students from diverse streams with no philosophy background.
- It was suggested that the expression 'pseudo-reasoning' can be replaced by 'varieties of reasoning' to widen the scope.
- It was also suggested that 'Module 4 on probabilistic reasoning' can be placed under section on alternative reasoning. Dr. Ranjan suggested that Dr. Amartya Sen can be included into reading list in this regard.
- Dr. Kieth appreciated that the Philosophy add on courses offered are indeed a step toward bringing philosophy into practice.

The discussions were completed by 1.30 pm and the BoS Meeting came to an end with a vote of thanks by the Chairperson.

Chairperson BoS Philosophy



Dr Trevor Allis

Associate Professor

Sophia College (Autonomous)