



SOPHIA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)

Affiliated to the University of Mumbai

Programme: Arts

Philosophy (Majors)

Syllabus for the Academic Year 2023-2024
based on the National Education Policy 2020

Paper Title	Introduction to Western Ethics
Code	APHI111MJ
Year of introduction	2023-24
Class	FYBA
Semester	4
Total Credits	04
External Assessment	50
Internal Assessment	50

Course Objectives: The course aims

1	Familiarize students with significant contributions the history of moral theory in the western world.
2	Inculcate in students an essence of morality based on analytical reasoning rather than dogmatic assertion.
3	To provide students with an ethical framework for assessing moral decisions in different areas of life.

Course Learning Outcomes: After successful completion of the course students should be able to:

1	Use philosophical and ethical terms and concepts correctly and consistently.
2	Apply critical thinking and reasoning skills to ethical issues in a variety of real world contexts.
3	Analyse how ethical issues are handled differently by different ethical theories.

SYLLABUS: INTRODUCTION TO WESTERN ETHICS

Unit 1		No of Lect. (15)
Topic 1	Nature and branches of Philosophy	4
Topic 2	What is ethics? Its nature and scope	4
Topic 3	Basic concepts and distinctions in ethics	4
Topic 4	Ethics, law and conscience.	3
Unit 2		No of Lect. (15)
Topic 1	Ethics and Fate: Homer's Iliad.	3
Topic 2	Socratic ethics.	4
Topic 3	Virtue and character.	4
Topic 4	Epicurus and Stoicism.	4
Unit 3		No of Lect. (15)
Topic 1	Egoism and altruism.	3
Topic 2	Hedonism: Jeremy Bentham.	4
Topic 3	Utilitarianism: J S Mill.	4
Topic 4	Ethics of duty: Immanuel Kant.	4

Unit 4		No of Lect. (15)
Topic 1	Divine command theory of ethics	5
Topic 2	Existentialist Ethics: J P Sartre	5
Topic 3	Feminist Ethics of Care: Carol Gilligan	5

REFERENCES:

- Ray Billington, *Living Philosophy: An Introduction to Moral Thought*. 3rd edition.
- Richard Creel, *Thinking Philosophically: An Introduction to Philosophy*.
- James Rachels, *Elements of Moral Philosophy*, 4th edition.
- Barbara MacKinnon and Adrew Fiala, *Ethics: Theory and Contemporary Issues* 8th edition.
- Ayn Rand, *The Virtue of Selfishness*.
- Gordon Graham, *Theories of Ethics*.
- Mark Dimmock and Andrew Fisher, *Ethics for A Level*
- Kenan Malik, *The Quest for a Moral Compass*.

Paper Title	Thinking Through Philosophy
Code	APHI222MJ
Year of introduction	2023-24
Class	FYBA
Semester	2
Total Credits	04
External Assessment	50
Internal Assessment	50

Course Objectives: The course aims

CO 1.	To understand the basic notions about Philosophy as a subject of study, its method and the tasks Philosophers engage in, and to familiarise with how to read and write Philosophy.
CO 2.	To study the concepts of myth and its connections with ancient Philosophy and analyse how the ancient Greek Philosophers thought about nature and reality of the world.
CO 3.	To familiarise with the areas and issues dealt in Philosophy such as Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mind, and Bioethics.
CO 4.	To look through the lens of Philosophy a few characters in Mahabharat and to apply critical reasoning in engaging ethical discussions.

Course Learning Outcomes: After successful completion of the course students should be able to:

CLO 1.	Recall the basic subject matter of Philosophy and to familiarize with methods used in Philosophizing and describe how to read and write Philosophical essays.
CLO 2.	Distinguish between myth and Philosophy and discuss the ways in which ancient Greek Philosophers thought about nature and reality of the world.
CLO 3.	Develop the skill to critically think through thought experiments prominent issues discussed in Philosophy such as Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mind, and Bioethics.
CLO 4.	Apply critical reasoning and analyze a few characters in Mahabharat and the ethical discussions engaged on discourses about them in it.

SYLLABUS: THINKING THROUGH PHILOSOPHY

Unit 1	What is Philosophy?	No of Lect. (15)
Topic 1	Method of Philosophy	5
Topic 2	What Philosophers do	5
Topic 3	Reading and writing philosophy	5
Unit 2	Philosophy Through Ancient Greeks	No of Lect. (15)
Topic 1	Philosophy and Myth: Hesiod and Homer (CA 1)	5
Topic 2	Natural Philosophers: Thales, Anaximander and Anaximenes	5
Topic 3	Pythagoras, Parmenides and Heraclites	5

Unit 3	Philosophy Through Thought Experiments	No of Lect. (15)
Topic 1	Metaphysics: "Where did the universe come from?"	5
Topic 2	Philosophy of Mind: "Brain Snatched"	5
Topic 3	Bioethics: Killing Mary to Save Jodie"	5
Unit 4	Philosophy Through The Mahabharat (CA 2)	No of lect. (15)
Topic 1	Who is to judge? "Draupadi's courage"	5
Topic 2	Ethics of detachment: "Arjuna's Despair"	5
Topic 3	Differential Treatment: "Karna's Status anxiety"	5

ASSESSMENT PATTERN

Continuous Assessment (CA): 50 marks

- CA1: MCQ/Subjective test for 25 marks.
- CA2 Assignment for 25 marks.
- An additional 25 marks test will be held ONLY for those who missed any one or both of the above due to valid reasons.
- A learner who does not get 20 marks will need to appear for an ATKT.

Summative Assessment (SA): 50 marks

READING LIST

Unit 1 What is Philosophy?

- Richard Creel, *Thinking Philosophically*.
- Clare Saunders and others, *Doing Philosophy: A Practical Guide for Students*, chapter 1

Unit 2: Philosophy Through Ancient Greeks

- William Lawhead, *Voyage of Discovery*, chapters 1 and 2

Unit 3 Philosophy Through Thought Experiments

- Stephen Law, *The Philosophy Gym*

Unit 4 Philosophy Through The Mahabharat

- Gurcharan Das, *The Difficulty of Being Good*
- Irawati Karve, *Yuganta*
- Christopher Key Chapple, "Karna and the Mahabharat: An Ethical Reflection"
