



SOPHIA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)

Affiliated to the University of Mumbai

Programme: Arts

Philosophy (Minors)

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

Paper Title	Introduction to Philosophy
Code	APHI111MN
Year of introduction	2023-24
Class	FYBA
Semester	4
Total Credits	04
External Assessment	50
Internal Assessment	50

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The course aims

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.
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
3	To familiarise with the areas and issues dealt in Philosophy such as Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mind, and Bioethics.
4	To look through the lens of Philosophy a few characters in Mahabharat and to apply critical reasoning in engaging ethical discussions.

COURSE OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

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.
2	Distinguish between myth and Philosophy and discuss the ways in which ancient Greek Philosophers thought about nature and reality of the world.
3	Develop the skill to critically think through thought experiments prominent issues discussed in Philosophy such as Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mind, and Bioethics
4	Apply critical reasoning and analyze a few characters in Mahabharat and the ethical discussions engaged on discourses about them in it.

SYLLABUS: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

Unit 1	What is Philosophy	No. of Lect. (15)
Topic 1	Nature of a philosophical enquiry; Method of Philosophy	5
Topic 2	Philosophy, Science and Religion	5
Topic 3	What Philosophers do. Reading and writing philosophy	5
Unit 2	Ancient Greek Philosophy	No. of Lect. (15)
Topic 1	Philosophy and Myth: Hesiod and Homer	5
Topic 2	Natural Philosophers: Thales, Anaximander and Anaximenes	5
Topic 3	Pythagoras, Parmenides and Heraclites; Pluralists	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	Indian Philosophy: The Mahabharat	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

REFERENCES

Unit 1

Richard Creel, *Thinking Philosophically*.

Clare Saunders and others, *Doing Philosophy: A Practical Guide for Students*, chapter 1

Unit 2:

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

Unit 3

Stephen Law, *The Philosophy Gym*

Unit 4

Ref. Gurcharan Das, *The Difficulty of Being Good*;

Irawati Karve, *Yuganta*

“Karna and the Mahabharat: An Ethical Reflection”



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Programme: Arts

Philosophy (Minors)

Syllabus for the Academic Year 2023-2024
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Paper Title	Introduction to Moral Philosophy
Code	APHI222MN
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.	Familiarize students with significant contributions the history of moral theory in the western world
CO 2.	Inculcate in students an essence of morality based on analytical reasoning rather than dogmatic assertion.
CO 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:

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

SYLLABUS: INTRODUCTION TO MORAL PHILOSOPHY

Unit 1	Introduction to Moral Philosophy	No of Lect. (15)
Topic 1	Branches of Philosophy: Metaphysics, Epistemology and Ethics	5
Topic 2	Nature of ethics	5
Topic 3	Basic Concepts and preliminary distinctions: branches of ethics; fact value distinction; moral, amoral, and non-moral, intrinsic value and extrinsic value	5
Unit 2	Greek Ethics	No of Lect. (15)
Topic 1	Socratic ethics: Sophists, Socratic Method, Virtue and knowledge, can virtue be taught?	5
Topic 2	Ethics of Character: Eudaimonia, Virtue is a habit, Doctrine of Mean	5
Topic 3	Stoicism	5
Unit 3	Normative Ethical Theory	No of Lect. (15)

Topic 1	Utilitarianism: Hedonistic calculus – Jeremy Bentham	5
Topic 2	Mill's version of utilitarianism, Act and Rule Utilitarianism.	5
Topic 3	Deontology: Good will, hypothetical and categorical imperative, Respect for persons.	5
Unit 4	Alternative Approaches to Ethics	No of lect. (15)
Topic 1	Divine command theory	5
Topic 2	Existentialist ethics: Jean Paul Sartre	5
Topic 3	Feminist ethics: Carol Gilligan	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

References and Reading List

Unit 1 References

Richard Creel, *Thinking Philosophically*, chapter 1

Rogers, *A Short History of Ethics*, chapter 1 (nature of ethics)

Mel Thompson, *Access To Religion and Philosophy*, pp. 35-36 (Basic concepts)

Richard Burnor, *Ethical Choices*, chapter 1, Part IV (Intrinsic and extrinsic value)

Unit 2 References

Norman Melchert and David Morrow, *The Great Conversation*, chapter 9 (Aristotle); William Lawhead: *Voyage of Discovery* chapter 3 (Socrates) and 5 (Aristotle)

Brent Adkins, *A Guide to Ethics and Moral Philosophy*, chapter 1 and 2. (Aristotle)

Unit 3 References

Brent Adkins, *A Guide to Ethics and Moral Philosophy*, Part II, chapter 5 to 8

Russ Shaffer Landau, *Living Ethics: An Introduction with Readings*, chapter 5 (Utilitarianism) and chapter 6 (Deontology)

Unit 4 References

James Rachels, *Elements of Moral Philosophy*, chapter 4 (ethics and religion), chapter 11 (Feminist ethics)

Ray Billington, *Living Philosophy: An Introduction to Moral Thought*, chapter 7 (Existentialism)

Stephen Darwall, *Philosophical Ethics*, chapter 19 (Ethics of care)
