



**SOPHIA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)**

Affiliated to the University of Mumbai

Programme: Arts

Philosophy (Minors)

**Syllabus for the Academic Year 2024-2025**  
**based on the National Education Policy 2020**

<b>Paper Title</b>	<b>Western Philosophy</b>
<b>Code</b>	<b>APHI233MN</b>
<b>Year of introduction</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
<b>Class</b>	<b>SYBA</b>
<b>Semester</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>External Assessment</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Internal Assessment</b>	<b>50</b>

**Course Objectives: The course aims**

CO 1	At broad introduction to some of the central concepts and debates in modern western epistemology.
CO 2	To develop a critical understanding of the history of modern epistemology from a contemporary perspective.
CO 3	To introduce students to different philosophical approaches and conceptual tools to analyse philosophical arguments.

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

CLO 1	assess and convey through written means key theories and issues within western epistemology.
CLO 2	identify, analyze and evaluate key positions and arguments in one or more areas in epistemology
CLO 3	to discern arguments in philosophical texts, to evaluate these arguments, and to present an argued position in a clear and concise manner.

**SYLLABUS: Western Philosophy**

<b>Unit 1</b>	<b>Cartesian Philosophy and its Critics</b>	<b>No of Lect. (15)</b>
<b>Topic 1</b>	Rene Descartes: quest for certainty: method of doubt leading to 'I think, therefore I am'.	<b>5</b>
<b>Topic 2</b>	C S Peirce: Doubt, belief and fallibilism. Fixation of belief.	<b>5</b>
<b>Topic 3</b>	Social epistemology: reductive and non-reductive approaches to knowledge.	<b>5</b>
<b>Unit 2</b>	<b>Modern Philosophy: Empiricism and Rationalism</b>	<b>No of Lect. (15)</b>
<b>Topic 1</b>	Innate knowledge: Locke-Leibniz debate.	<b>5</b>
<b>Topic 2</b>	Grounding knowledge: the empiricist approach.	<b>5</b>
<b>Topic 3</b>	Realism versus idealism.	<b>5</b>
<b>Unit 3</b>	<b>Enlightenment Philosophy</b>	<b>No of Lect. (15)</b>
<b>Topic 1</b>	David Hume's empiricism as a critique of enlightenment.	<b>5</b>
<b>Topic 2</b>	Immanuel Kant: Copernican revolution	<b>5</b>

<b>Topic 3</b>	Immanuel Kant: What is Enlightenment?	<b>5</b>
<b>Unit 4</b>	<b>Counter Enlightenment Philosophy</b>	<b>No of Lect. (15)</b>
<b>Topic 1</b>	Revolt against Reason: Kierkegaard: spheres of existence, subjectivity and truth.	<b>5</b>
<b>Topic 2</b>	Friederich Nietzsche: Thus Spake Zarathustra: Summary of ideas. Meaning of 'God is dead'	<b>5</b>
<b>Topic 3</b>	Continental Philosophy in a nutshell: phenomenology, hermeneutics and postmodernism.	<b>5</b>

## REFERENCES

### Unit 1 Cartesian Philosophy and its Critics

Norman Melchert and David Morrow, *The Great Conversation*, chapter 17 (Descartes)

Derek Johnston, *A Brief History of Philosophy*, chapter 5 (Descartes)

The Rebus Community, *Introduction to Philosophy: Epistemology*, chapter 7 (Social epistemology).

Duncan Pritchard, *What is this thing called Epistemology?* Chapter 8 (Social epistemology)

Norman Melchert and David Morrow, *The Great Conversation*, chapter 25 (C. S. Peirce)

Joseph Shieber, *Theories of Knowledge: How to Think about what you Know* (Lecture 17: Testimony)

### Unit 2 Modern Philosophy: Empiricism and Rationalism

Norman Melchert and David Morrow, *The Great Conversation*, chapter 18 (Locke and Berkeley)

Patricia Sheridan, *Locke: A Guide for the Perplexed*, chapter 1

G J Warnock, *Berkeley*, chapter 5

Stephen Evans, *A History of Western Philosophy*, chapter 14 (Locke and Berkeley)

### Unit 3 Enlightenment Philosophy

Norman Melchert and David Morrow, *The Great Conversation*, chapter 19 (Kant) and chapter 20 (Kant)

Justus Hartnack, *Kant's Theory of Knowledge*

Derek Johnston, *A Brief History of Philosophy*, chapter 8 (Hume) and chapter 9 (Kant)

Stephen Evans, *A History of Western Philosophy*, chapter 18

### Unit 4 Counter Enlightenment Philosophy

Norman Melchert and David Morrow, *The Great Conversation*, chapters 22 (Kierkegaard) and 24 (Nietzsche)

Stephen Evans, *A History of Western Philosophy*, chapters 21 (Kierkegaard) and 23 (Nietzsche)

Derek Johnston, *A Brief History of Philosophy*, chapter 11

Simon Critchley, *Continental Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction*

David West, *An Introduction to Continental Philosophy*.

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<b>Paper Title</b>	<b>Indian Philosophy</b>
<b>Code</b>	<b>APHI244MN</b>
<b>Year of introduction</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
<b>Class</b>	<b>SYBA</b>
<b>Semester</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>External Assessment</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Internal Assessment</b>	<b>50</b>

**Course Objectives: The course aims**

1	To acquaint students with the beginnings of systems of Indian Philosophy, its features, themes and enhance ability to critically reflect, analyse and evaluate varied views emerging from Indian systems.
2	To acquire a basic understanding of various principles and perspectives in Indian ethics.
3	To acquire a basic understanding of diverse philosophical ideas and questions arising in the field of knowledge.
3	To acquire a basic understanding of diverse philosophical ideas and questions arising in the field of Indian metaphysics.

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

1	Understand and respond analytically and critically to major concerns of Indian systems of thought and Demonstrate knowledge of the context from which particular philosophical viewpoints arose in India.
2	Understand ethical perspectives of Indian Darsanas and situate their value systems and learn to critique and creatively accord moral principles in life.
3	Relate and discuss epistemological concepts and theories of Indian Philosophy and evaluate critically the debates between major systems in respective areas of concern.
4	Recall, analyse, and examine the main perspectives in Indian metaphysics.

**SYLLABUS: INDIAN PHILOSOPHY**

<b>Unit 1</b>	<b>Introduction to Indian Philosophy</b>	<b>No of Lect. (15)</b>
<b>Topic 1</b>	General features and themes of the Indian <i>Darsanas</i> .	<b>5</b>
<b>Topic 2</b>	Basic Concepts: Karma, rebirth and Moksha	<b>5</b>
<b>Topic 3</b>	Basic Concepts: The <i>Purusharthas</i>	<b>5</b>
<b>Unit 2</b>	<b>Indian Ethics</b>	<b>No of Lect. (15)</b>
<b>Topic 1</b>	Dharma: Varna Dharma, Ashrama Dharma, Sadharana Dharma and Vishesha dharma.	<b>5</b>

<b>Topic 2</b>	Buddhist ethics: Prajna, Sila, and Samadhi and the <i>Brahmaviharas</i> : <i>maïtri</i> (loving kindness), <i>karuna</i> (compassion), <i>mudita</i> (appreciative joy) and <i>upeksha</i> (equanimity)	<b>5</b>
<b>Topic 3</b>	Jain ethics: the <i>ratnatraya</i> and <i>mahavratas</i>	<b>5</b>
<b>Unit 3</b>	<b>Indian Epistemology (<i>Pramanasastra</i>)</b>	<b>No of Lect. (15)</b>
<b>Topic 1</b>	Basic concepts: <i>Pramana</i> , <i>Prameya</i> , <i>Pramiti</i> (definition, meaning and types)	<b>5</b>
<b>Topic 2</b>	The Nyaya - Buddhist Debate on Perception.	<b>5</b>
<b>Topic 3</b>	Carvaka view on Pramanas: Perception alone is knowledge ( <i>Pratyaksham Pramanam</i> ).	<b>5</b>
<b>Unit 4</b>	<b>Indian Metaphysics</b>	<b>No of Lect. (15)</b>
<b>Topic 1</b>	Vaisesika pluralistic realism (the theories of atomism and categories)	<b>5</b>
<b>Topic 2</b>	Samkhya Dualism: The Principles of Purusha, Prakriti and the theory of evolution	<b>5</b>
<b>Topic 3</b>	Non-dualist Vedanta of Sankara: Mayavada and Vivartavada	<b>5</b>

### References/Reading List

- Bishop, Donald (ed.) *Indian Thought: An Introduction* (New Delhi: Wiley Eastern Private Ltd., 1975)
- Paul Deussen, *Sixty Upanishads of the Veda*, Volume 1, Motilal Banarsidass, New Delhi.
- “Puranic Cosmogony”, in *A Dictionary of Asian Mythology*, Oxford University Press, Online Version, 2002.
- Roy W. Perrett, *Introduction to Indian Philosophy*, Cambridge University, 2016, chapter 2, pp. 48-58, 91-137
- Roy W. Perrett, *Hindu Ethics*, chapter 1, Hawaii University Press, Hawaii, 2010.
- T.C. Roy, *A Companion Guide to Indian Philosophy*, R.K Publications, Mumbai, 2018.
- Purushottama Billimoria, ed., *History of Indian Philosophy*, Routledge, New York, 2018, chapter 1.
- Hiriyanna, M. *Outlines of Indian Philosophy* (Delhi: Motilal Banarasidas, 1993)
- J.N. Mohanty, *Classical Indian Philosophy*, Rowman & Littlefield, Oxford, 2000. Chapters 2, 4 & 7.
- Chakravarthi Ram-Prasad, *Knowledge and Liberation in Classical Indian Thought*, Department of Religious Studies, Lancaster University, Palgrave, 2001, pp.162-214.
- Stephen J. Laumakis, *An Introduction to Buddhist Philosophy*, Cambridge University Press, 2008, chapter 8.
- Glaserapp, Helmuth Von. *Jainism: An Indian Religion of Salvation* (Delhi: Motilal Banarasidas Publishers, 1998)

- Sangharakshita. *Essential Teachings of the Buddha* (New Delhi: New Age Books, 2006)
- Mahadevan, TMP. *Invitation to Indian Philosophy*. New Delhi, Arnold-Heinemann, 1974.
- Padhi B. & Padhi M. *Indian Philosophy and Religion: A Reader's Guide*, New Delhi, D.K. Printworld Ltd., 1990.
- Raju, P. T. *The Philosophical Traditions of India*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1972.
- Rao Nagaraja P, *Fundamentals of Indian Philosophy*, New Delhi, Indian Book Company, Year of Publication (not found).
- Sharma, Chandradhar, *A Critical Survey of Indian Philosophy*. Delhi. Motilal Banarsidass; 14 edition. 2016.
- Sinha, Jadunath. *A History of Indian Philosophy*, Vol- I and II, (JatindranathSen, Central Book Agency, Calcutta, 1952

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