

**University of Mumbai**  
**Sophia College for Women (Autonomous)**  
**Syllabus for SYBA PHILOSOPHY - PAPER 2**  
**w.e.f. June 2022-23**

**SEMESTER 3**

**Paper title: Political Philosophy**

**Course code: SBAPHI301**

**External Assessment: 50 marks**

**Internal Assessment: 50 marks**

**Credits: 03**

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- 1) To explore the relevance of political ideologies in contemporary society
- 2) To critically examine the significance of political concepts such as liberty, equality and justice in liberal democratic societies
- 3) To state and support in clear, logical and concise writing analysis on issues in social and political philosophy

**COURSE OUTCOMES: After learning Political Philosophy, the student should be able to:**

- 1) State what and how different political ideologies like liberalism, conservatism and socialism view social, political and economic issues
- 2) Describe and apply the concepts of negative and positive liberty with the aid of examples from everyday life as well as examples from the relevant work of J S Mill and J J Rousseau.
- 3) State, defend and critique in her own words the idea of justice as presented by political philosophers John Rawls and Robert Nozick
- 4) Identify the various concepts of equalities in different ideologies and explain their relevance, strengths and weakness in contemporary times.

**Unit 1: Political Ideologies (Internal Assessment)**

Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism and Nationalism (including Fascism)

**References: Political Ideologies**

Andrew Heywood, *Political Ideologies: An Introduction 6<sup>th</sup> edition*. Chapter 2 (liberalism), chapter 3 (conservatism), chapter 6 (Nationalism) and chapter 7 (Fascism)

Terrence Ball, Richard Dagger and Daniel O'Neill, *Political Ideologies and the Democratic Ideal*. Chapter 3 (liberalism), chapter 4 (conservatism) and chapter 7 (Fascism)

**Unit 2: Liberty (Internal Assessment)**

Isaiah Berlin's Two Concepts of Liberty; dangers of positive liberty. Negative Liberty: J. S. Mill: freedom from non-interference - the Harm Principle. Positive Liberty: J.J. Rousseau: natural, civil and moral freedom.

**References: Liberty**

Isaiah Berlin, "Two Concepts of Liberty"

Jonathan Wolf, *Introduction to Political Philosophy*, chapter 4 (Mill)

Dudley Knowles, *Political Philosophy*, chapter 3 (Berlin's view, pp. 74-81)  
Mathew Simpson, *Rousseau's Theory of Freedom*

### **Unit 3: Distributive Justice**

Distributive justice: John Rawls: justice as fairness – original position, veil of ignorance, principles of justice. Robert Nozick: entitlement theory of justice – self-ownership argument; taxation is forced labour. Critical assessment of Rawls' and Nozick's view.

#### **References: Distributive Justice**

Adam Swift, *Political Philosophy: An Introduction for Beginners*, Part 1, pp.25-39 (Rawls and Nozick)

J. Hoffman and Paul Graham, *Introduction to Political Concepts*, Chapter 4 (Rawls and Nozick)

Collin Farrelly, *An Introduction to Contemporary Political Theory*, Chapter 1 (Rawls) and 2 (Nozick)

### **Unit 4: Concepts of Equality**

Formal equality and its limitations. Liberal versus Socialist conception of equality - equality of opportunity or equality of outcome. Equality of resources: Ronald Dworkin. Luck egalitarianism

#### **References: Concepts of Equality**

Adam Swift, *Political Philosophy: An Introduction for Beginners*, Part 3. (Equality of opportunity and Outcome)

Andrew Heywood, *Political Theory: An Introduction*, chapter 10

## **SEMESTER 4**

**Paper title: Social Philosophy**

**Course code: SBAPHI401**

**External Assessment: 50 marks**

**Internal Assessment: 50 marks**

**Credits: 03**

**COURSE OUTCOMES: After learning Social Philosophy, the student should be able to:**

- 1) Characterise various notions of citizenship and state its application in the context of the Indian Citizenship Act.
- 2) List the strengths and weaknesses of a policy of minority cultural rights within a liberal democratic society.
- 3) Identify and critically analyse the justification of acts of civil disobedience in the Indian and global context.
- 4) Identify the moral principles governing international war, both before and during war through case studies.

### **Unit 1: Citizenship**

Who should be granted citizenship: Open-border versus closed border immigration;  
Responsible citizenship: political participation (Republican citizenship); liberal concept of

citizenship (T H Marshall) and its limitations; ethno-nationalist view of citizenship; philosophical implications of Indian Citizenship Act.

**References: Citizenship**

Bart Van Steenberghe, *Condition of Citizenship*. Chapter 1, 3 and 4

Blakley and Bryson, *Contemporary Political Concepts*. Chapter 4

Derek Heater, *What is Citizenship?* Chapter 1 and 2

**Unit 2: Engaging Diversity**

The problem stated: cultural rights versus individual freedom. Defending cultural rights –

Charles Taylor and Will Kymlicka. Egalitarian critique of multiculturalism – Brian Barry.

**References: Engaging Diversity**

Colin Farelly, *An Introduction to Contemporary Political Theory*, chapter 6 (Will Kymlicka and Brian Barry)

Brian Barry, “Liberalism and Multiculturalism” in *Ethics*

Peri Roberts and Peter Sutch, *An Introduction to Political Thought*, chapter 8 (Will Kymlicka)

Katherine Smits, *Applied Political Theory*. Chapter 3

**Unit 3: Civil disobedience (Internal Assessment)**

Concept of disobedience vis-à-vis protest, revolution and criminality. Do we have an obligation to obey the law? John Rawls’ analysis of civil disobedience.

Case study: Duty to Obey – Plato’s Crito. Case study: Right to disobey – M K Gandhi and Martin Luther King

**References: Civil disobedience**

Alex Tuckness and Clark Wolf, *This is Political Philosophy*, chapter 6

Katherine Smits, *Applying Political Theory*, chapter 10

Paul Smith, *Moral and Political Philosophy*, chapter 3

John Hoffman and Paul Graham, *Introduction to Political Concepts*, chapter 9

**Unit 4: Philosophy of War (Internal Assessment)**

Principles of Just War. Jus ad bellum (justice of war) jus in bello (justice in war)

**References: Philosophy of War**

Nicholas Fotion, *Ethics and War*, chapters 1-3

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**Syllabus for SYBA PHILOSOPHY - PAPER 3**  
**w.e.f. June 2022-23**

**SEMESTER 3**

**Paper title: Greek Philosophy I**

**Course code: SBAPHI302**

**External Assessment: 50 marks**

**Internal Assessment: 50 marks**

**Credits: 03**

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- 1) To show students how the ideas of the first philosophers of Greece influenced western civilization, science and philosophy
- 2) To understand the systematic nature of Greek philosophical enquiry in pre-Socratic and post Socratic philosophy.
- 3) To discuss the beginnings of ethics, epistemology and metaphysics in Greek philosophical thought from 5<sup>th</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC

**COURSE OUTCOMES: After completion of the course, students should be able to**

- 1) Explain in a concise way how pre-socratic thought marks a decisive turn away from mythological account towards rational explanations of the cosmos
- 2) Describe the contribution and debate between the sophists and Socrates on the nature of morality
- 3) State the problem of akrasia and critically evaluate Plato and Aristotle's response to the problem.
- 4) Analyse the philosophical significance of the trial and death of Socrates as found in the dialogues 'Apology' and 'Crito'.

**Unit 1: Pre-Socratic Greek Philosophy**

Myth and philosophy. Cosmogogenesis: natural philosophers. Problem of change: Parmenides-Heraclites debate. (Reference to Zeno's paradox). Democritus' response to the problem of change: atomism

**References: Pre-Socratic Greek Philosophy**

Karsten Friis Johansen, *A History of Ancient Philosophy: From the Beginnings to Augustine*, pp. 11-19 (Myth and philosophy); pp. 21-29 (Natural philosophers)

G S Kirk and J E Raven, *The Presocratic Philosophers*, chapter 1 (Myth and philosophy)

James Warren, *Presocratics*, chapter 2 (Natural philosophers) chapter 5 and 6 (Heraclites and Parmenides)

T C Roy, *A Companion Guide to Western Philosophy: From the Greeks to the Scholastics*, pp.11-30

## **Unit 2: Sophists and Socrates**

Nature (*physis*) versus Convention (*nomos*) debate. Sophists: morality is a matter of convention – Protagoras; Socrates: morality is absolute (Socratic *elenchus*); The Socrates – Protagoras debate in *Protagoras*: Can virtue be taught? Unity of virtues and the argument that all wrong doing is the result of ignorance.

### **References: Sophists and Socrates**

Richard McKirahan, *Philosophy Before Socrates*, chapter 20 (nature -convention debate)

Christopher Shields, *Classical Philosophy* pp. 29-44 (Socratic *elenchus* and *akrasia*)

George Klosko, *History of Political Theory* Volume 1 (Socratic *elenchus*)

T. H. Irwin, *Plato's Ethics*, chapter 2 "Socrates' Method"

Pamela Huby, *Greek Ethics*, chapter 3 (Socrates)

T C Roy, *A Companion Guide to Western Philosophy: From the Greeks to the Scholastics*, pp.30-37.

## **Unit 3: Classical Greek Ethics**

The problem of *akrasia* (weakness of the will): Socratic denial of the possibility of *akrasia*; Plato and Aristotle's response to the problem of *akrasia*. Plato's theory of justice (in *Republic*) and Aristotle's concept of *Eudaimonia* and *arête* (happiness through virtue) and his view (in *Nicomachean ethics*) on ethics of character.

### **References: Classical Greek Ethics**

Christopher Bobonich, Pierre Destree (ed) *Akrasia in Greek Philosophy* chapter 1 (Socrates), chapter 3 (Plato) and chapter 8 (Aristotle)

## **Unit 4: Socrates' trial and death**

The trial of Socrates as presented by Plato in the dialogue, *Apology*: Socrates Defence of Philosophy; why unexamined life is not worth living?

Death of Socrates as presented in *Crito*: Socratic argument that there are no circumstances where doing bad is honourable.

### **References: Socrates' trial and death**

Selected excerpts from the dialogues *Apology* and *Crito* with relevant commentary

<http://www2.hawaii.edu/~freeman/courses/phil100/04.%20Apology.pdf>

Brickhouse, Thomas C.; Smith, Nicholas D. (1990). *Socrates on Trial*. Clarendon Press.

Benjamin Jowett( trans.,) *The Dialogues of Plato*(428/27 - 348/47 BCE) (pp 49-57 on *Apology*; 211-22

## **SEMESTER 4**

**Paper title: Greek Philosophy II**

**Course code: SBAPHI402**

**External Assessment: 50 marks**

**Internal Assessment: 50 marks**

**Credits: 03**

**COURSE OUTCOMES: After completion of the course, students should be able to**

- 1) State clearly Plato's arguments for the existence of forms and Aristotle's reasons for rejecting Platonic forms
- 2) Compare and contrast Plato's account of human psyche to Aristotle's and its implications for imitative art.
- 3) Describe the salient contributions of major Hellenistic philosophers on reality and the meaning of life
- 4) Critically analyse Plato and Aristotle's conceptualization of love and friendship

**Unit 1 Epistemology and Metaphysics**

Plato's approach to the problem of change: episteme (knowledge) and doxa (belief): justified true belief; universal and particulars, theory of Forms via allegory of Cave and Simile of divided line (Republic VI-VII) and Forms as causes (Republic V). Aristotle's account of change (natural and artificial): causation; form and matter, actuality and potentiality

**References: Epistemology and Metaphysics**

Christopher Shields, Classical Philosophy pp. 59-68 (Plato's approach to the problem); pp. 71-76 (knowledge-belief, theory of forms); pp.99-110 (Aristotle's categories, four causes, matter and form)

John Shand, Philosophy and Philosophers chapter 2 "Greek Philosophy: Plato and Aristotle"

Mortimer Adler, Aristotle for Everybody, (Aristotle's account of change and causation)

T C Roy, A Companion Guide to Western Philosophy: From the Greeks to the Scholastics, pp.42-64(Plato) and pp.65-74 (Aristotle)

**Unit 2: Human Psychology and Art**

Plato's tripartite analysis of psyche; Aristotle's theory of soul as the form of the body and substance (De Anima I & II); Plato: censorship of poetic literature (Book 2-3 of Republic); critique of art (Book 10 of Republic); Aristotle's critique of Platonic mimesis (imitation). The cathartic function of mimesis in Aristotle (include the concept of *techne*.)

**References: Human Psychology and Art**

Gerasimos Santas, Understanding Plato's Republic chapter 5 (section 2 and 3)

A E Denham, Plato on Art and Beauty, chapters 1-3 (especially 3)

Georgios Anagnostopoulos (ed) Companion to Aristotle (Blackwell) chapter 39

Hasan Baktir, "The Concept of Imitation in Plato and Aristotle"

T C Roy, A Companion Guide to Western Philosophy: From the Greeks to the Scholastics, pp. 59-64 (Plato's tripartite analysis of soul) and pp.75-85 (Aristotle theory of soul)

**Unit 3: Hellenistic Philosophy**

What is reality and meaning of life? : Stoicism and Epictetus; Epicurus and Epicureanism; and, Sceptics: Aenesidemus' 10 tropes in defense of Skepticism and Sextus Empiricus: suspension of judgement

**References: Hellenistic Philosophy**

Thomas Blackson, Ancient Greek Philosophy: From the Presocratics to Hellenistic Philosophers.

A. S. Bogomolov, History of Ancient Philosophy, Part 3, chapter 2 "Stoicism"  
R. W. Sharples, Stoics, Epicureans and Sceptics: An Introduction to Hellenistic Philosophy.  
T C Roy, A Companion Guide to Western Philosophy: From the Greeks to the Scholastics,  
pp.89-105 (Epicureanism, Stoicism and Scepticism)

#### **Unit 4 Love and Friendship**

Symposium: Platonic Perspective on love and beauty

Nicomachean Ethics, Book 8 Ch 1-3: Aristotle's account of love and friendship

#### **References: Love and Friendship**

Pamela Huby, *Greek Ethics*, chapter 4 (Plato) and Chapter 5 (Aristotle)

A W Price, "Loving Persons Platonically", *Phronesis* (1981) pp. 25-34

A Walker, "Aristotle's Account of Friendship in Nicomachean ethics" *Phronesis* (1979)  
pp.180-196.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2m4L7aXUPgw> (Aristotle-three types of friendship)

Slote, J. Warren, "The Concept of Love By Plato in the Symposium Compared with the  
Concept of Love By John in the Holy Scriptures" (1940). Master's Theses. 370:

[https://ecommons.luc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1369&context=luc\\_theses](https://ecommons.luc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1369&context=luc_theses), pp. 4-51

Ed Whalen. "Plato's Symposium: Love and Philosophy",

<https://classicalwisdom.com/symposium/platos-symposium-love-and-philosophy/>

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