

SEMESTER I

Full Marks =300, Credit=22

PHPCOR01T

Indian Ethics

Ethics as solely a theoretical pontification into conflicting criteria of morality is incomplete till fleshed out in terms of the needs and demands of modern society. The present course aims to unfold the true essence of Indian Ethics as lying not only in the attainment of *moksa* or liberation but rather in its universal prescriptions and *sadhanas* that need to be deployed in warding off social evils and achieving a harmonious development of individual and society in the modern context. The *SrimadBhagavatGita* being an ideal moral guide for human life has acquired an iconic status in modern time as a set of reflections on ethics, war, justice, freedom and action. The teachings of the *SrimadBhagavatGita* can be used to help men by enriching their spirituality, letting them to lead a quality life through the practice of *jnanayoga* and *karmayoga*.

The second part of the course takes up the ethical dilemmas that form the intellectual and moral core of Indian Epics and are as relevant for our times as they were then.

Course Outcome:

Both the texts included in this course will enable the students to identify and analyze an ethical issue in general, how to tackle the multiple ethical interests at stake (ethical dilemmas) in a real-world situation, practice, assess their own ethical values and the problems from social contexts and most importantly integrate, synthesize, and apply knowledge of ethical dilemmas in resolving the issues arising even in non-classroom areas such as service-learning, internships, and field work and society at large.

The second part deals with moral Dilemma, different views, its existence in different Indian epics, problems regarding acceptance of genuine dilemma, ethical relativism and realism, resolution of dilemma, Bankim Chandra and Rabindra Nath Tagore's view in this respect and moral luck.

Hindu Ethics

1. *Śrīmadbhagavadgītā*: Chapters II (*Sankhyayoga*)&III (*Karmayoga*)
2. Analysis of volition (*pravrtti*),
3. Analysis of *vidhivakya*, *nishedhavakya* and *arthavadavakya*
4. *Mahabharat-Santiparva* - *Sam, Dana, Bheda&Dandaniti*
5. *Tamil Tirukkural* or *shortly the Kural*, Thiruvalluvar [It is a classic Tamil Text consisting of 1,330 couplets or *Kurals*, dealing with the everyday virtues of an individual.]Selected

Suggested Readings:

The Bhagavatgita with Sankara –Bhasya tr. in English by Swami Gambhirananda& tr. in Bengali with explanation by Swami Basudevananda
Srimadbhagavatgita, Atul Chandra Sen, HarafPrakasani, Kolkata-7

Bhagabadgita (Bengali version), MadhusudhanSaraswati
Arthasaṁgraha, LaugaskiBhaskara.
SrimadBhagabadgita, GitashastriJagadish Chandra Ghosh (Sampadita)
Purva-MimamsaDarsana, Sri Sukhyamay Bhattacharya ShastriSaptatirtha,
PaschimbangaRajyaPustakParsad
MahabharaterSamaj, Sukhyamay Bhattacharya ShastriSaptatirtha,
ViswabharatiGabesanaPrakasanSamiti, Santiniketan
Mahabharat, Tr. in Bengali by KaliprasannaSingha
Manusanhita, *Saptamadhyay*(*Rajdharmah*) ed. By Sri Ashok Kumar Mukhopadhyay, Sanskrit
PustakBhander
Dandaniti –PracinBharatiyaRajshastra, NrisinghaprasadBhaduri, SahityaSamsad, 2007
Tirukkural, Englishtr.with Commentary by Rev.G.U. Pope, Rev. W.H. Drew, Rev. John Lazarus,
and Mr. F.W.Ellis, Published by W.H.Allen& CO., 1886, Reprinted by The South India
ShaivaSiddhanta Works Publishing Society, 1962, 1982.

References:

The Ethics of the Hindus: S.K. Maitra
Ethical Philosophies of India: I.C.Sharma
Development of Moral Philosophy in India: SuramaDasgupta
AmitaChatterjee (ed.), *BharatiyaDharmaniti*, Jadavpur University Pub. 2013
Karma, Causation and Retributive Morality: Rajendra Prasad:
Visvanātha, *Bhaṣāpariccheda*with*Sidhantamuktavali*,ed. By Pt. PanchananShastri, Sanskrit
PustakBhandar
*Prasastapadabhasyay*with *Nyaya Kandaliṭika*:Prasasthapadacarya (tr. in Bengali by Pandit Dina
nathTripathi)
RatnaDutta Sharma and IndraniSanyal,*Dharmaniti o Sruti*, Mahabodhi Book Agency with
Jadavpur University, 2009
Swami Bharagananda (Tr.) (Beng.)*Arthasaṁgraha of LaugakiBhāṣkara*, Sanskrit Pustak
Bhandar, 2004

Epics and Ethics

Prescribed Text:

Epics and Ethics – Bimal Kr. Motilal

Suggested Readings:

Dilemmas in Mahabharata– (Ed.) by BimalKishna.Motilal
Debate Concerning Krishna Character, BharatiPatrika
Niti, Yukti o Dharma, B.K.Motilal

Further Readings:

Morality: An Introduction to Ethics – Bernard Williams
Moral Thinking: Its Levels Methods and Points – R. M. Hare
Development of Moral Philosophy in India - SuramaDasgupta

PHIPCOR02T

Western Ethics

Theoretical polemics about different criteria of morality reaches its most interesting depth and richness with respect to Mill and Kant – Mill, seeking to derive goodness from utilitarian motives and results, while Kant seeking to purify ethics of all empirical and hypothetical content. This course is a text-based study of these two classical standpoints.

Course Outcome:

Students will have an over-view of the different theories of western ethics (what makes an action right or wrong), whether they should ever act only in line with self-interest or take an altruistic attitude. Apart from this, the course will enable the students about how philosophical work in ethics can inform decisions that we regularly make in our lives.

Utilitarianism

Utilitarianism – its different kinds and interrelations, Negative utilitarianism, Problems of the theory-negative responsibility, Bernard Williams' view.

Suggested Readings:

Utilitarianism :J.S.Mill

Utilitarianism For & Against – J.J.C. Smart & Bernard Williams

Ethics – William Frankena

Utilitarianism and Beyond – Ed. by AmartyaSen& Bernard Williams

Further Readings:

The Open Society and its enemies – Karl Popper, Volume-I & II.

Kantian Ethics

Need for pure ethics, Aim of the *Groundwork*, Good will, Formal principle of duty, Reverence for the law, Categorical and Hypothetical imperatives, How are imperatives possible, Formula of the universal law, Formula of the end in itself, Formula of the autonomy.

Prescribed Text:

Groundwork of the Metaphysic of Morals - Immanuel Kant (Translated by H.J. Paton)

Suggested Readings:

Kant's Ethical Thought – Allen Wood

The Categorical Imperative: A Study in Kant's Moral Philosophy – H. J. Paton

An Introduction to Kant's Ethics- R. Sullivan
Kant's Moral Philosophy - H. B. Acton

Further Readings:

Critique of Practical Reason –Immanuel Kant, Tr: L.W.Beck
Critique of Judgment – Immanuel Kant, Tr: Werner. S. Pluher

PHIPCOR03T

Indian Epistemology

This course surveys two major schools of Indian philosophy – the *Nyaya* and the *Bhatta Mimamsakas* – their respective views on the nature, sources (*pramanas*) and validity of cognition (*pramanya*.) It also includes theories of the validity of cognition (*pramanyavada*) considering two main theories *svatahpramanyavada* and *paratahpramanyavada* and also a brief account on *Khyativada*, specially *Anyathakhyativada*, *Akhyativada* and *Anirvacaniya*.

Course Outcome

The course will enable critical appreciation of the richness of the classical Indian philosophical tradition, understanding of the main arguments and counter-arguments of the valid means of knowing or *pramana-s* as well as theories of false knowledge or *khyativada-s* and its significance to the contemporary philosophy.

Nyaya Epistemology:

Brief introduction of some basic concepts of Nyaya epistemology:

Jnana/buddhi, samvit, niscaya, samsaya, samvadibhrama, aharjajnana

The Debate regarding *pramanasamplava* and *pramanavyavastha*

The Debate concerning the nature (*svarupa*), origin (*utpatti*) and ascertainment (*jnapti*) of cognition (*pramana*): *svatahpramanyavada* and *paratahpramanyavada*

Theories concerning invalid perceptual cognition (*Khyativada*): Brief Introduction of the *Viparitkhyati, Atmakhyati, Asatkhyati, Satkhyati, Sadasatkhyati*.

Detail discussion on *Anyathakhyati, Akhyati* and *Anirvacaniyakhyati*.

Prescribed Text:

Nyaya Sutra with *Vatsyayana Bhasya* , 1st part (selected portions), TR. by Phanibhusan Tarkavagis, Pratham Adhyay

Visvanātha ,*Bhāṣā Pariccheda–Sidhantāntamuktavali*, ed. By Pt. Panchanan Shastri, Sanskrit Pustak Bhandar

Vedanta Darsana, tr. & illustrated by Swami Viswarupananda, 1st part [*Jijnasadhikaranam*-selected portions].

Suggested Readings:

PracinaNyaya O MimamsasammataPramanyavicar by MahamahopadhyayJogendranathBagchi
Vivarana-PrameyaSamgraha—Vidyaranyamuni

Tarkasamgraha: Annambhatta, Bengali commentary by Shree Narayan Chandra Goswami, Sanskrit
PustakBhandar.

Tarkabhasa ,KesbaMisra, 1st part, Tr. into Bengali by Sri
GangadharKarNyayacharya*PrathamaKhanda*, Centre for Advanced Studies in Philosophy , Jadavpur
University, with Mahabodhi Book Agency, Kolkata
BharatiyaDarsaneBhramajnanaPrasanga, SabitaSamanta , Published by ‘EbangMushayera’, 2022
Six ways of Knowing, D.M. Dutta
Basic Ways of Knowing, Govardhan P. Bhatt
Perception, B.K.Motilal
Gangesa’s Theory of Truth, J.N.Mohanty

Mimamsa Epistemology

Text Mānomeyodaya: NārāyanaBhatta, *Pratyakṣapramāṇa&Pramāṇaparichheda*

1. Definition of *pramana* and classification of *pramanas* as enumerated by *Mimamsa* School.
2. *Upamanapramana*: Definitionas given in *Manameyodaya*, Difference between Naiyayikas and *Mimansakas* considering the nature of *Upamana*.
3. *ArthapattiPramana*
4. *Abhava-pramana* or *Anupalabdhi*
5. *Arthapatti* and *Anupalabdhi*as distinct *pramana*

Prescribed Text:

Manomeyodaya– NarayanaBhatta(Tr: by Pdt.DinanathTripathi)
Mula-1-14 (Topic 1)
*Upamanapramanam*54/33/1-55/34/2 (Topic 2)
*Arthapattipramanam*56/35/1-59/38/4 (Topic 3)
Abhavapramanam 60/39/562/41/7 (Topic 4 & 5)

Suggested Readings:

Slokavārttika, KumarilaBhatta, ParthasarathiMisra.
Six Ways of Knowing- D.M.Dutta
Purva-MimansaDarsana—SukhamayaBhattacarya.

PHIPCOR04T

Western Epistemology

This course begins with the revolution brought by Kant in the field of Epistemology - the various technical aspects of his Metaphysics of experience as set forth in The Critique Of Pure Reason. From

there it moves down to some modern epistemological queries, particularly those challenging the traditional definition of knowledge and E.L. Gettier's arguments against it. It also incorporates some contemporary theories of justification linking it up with certain aspects of virtue epistemology.

Course Outcome

The course will enable the students to critically reason and thus be able to become worthy citizens of the twenty-first century epistemological community within philosophical circle. It will also deepen their understanding about the complexity and dynamics of the basic epistemological issues, the different theories of justification and knowledge.

Kant

Pure and Empirical Knowledge, Analytic-Synthetic distinction, General problems of Pure Reason, Metaphysics as science and its objects, Possibility of Metaphysics, Metaphysics of nature, Claims of Metaphysics, Scepticism, Transcendental Aesthetics- Space and time, Transcendental Logic: logic in general, the division of general logic into analytic and dialectic, the division of Transcendental logic into Transcendental analytic and dialectic, Transcendental analytic- the logical employment of understanding in general, the pure concepts of understanding or categories.

Suggested Readings:

Critique of Pure Reason – Immanuel Kant (Tr by N. K. Smith)
A Short Commentary on Kant's Critique of Pure Reason – A. C. Ewing
A Commentary on Kant's Critique of Pure Reason – N. K. Smith
Kant's Theory of Knowledge – Ed. by L. W. Beck
A Handbook on Kant's Critique of Pure Reason – Rasvihari Das
Kant : An Introduction – C. D. Broad
Kant's Critique Of Pure Reason – T.E. Wilkerson
BishuddhaPragyaBichar – MrinalKantiBhadra
KanterDarshan – Rashvihari Das

Contemporary Epistemological Thoughts

Definition of Knowledge, Possibility of knowledge- different skeptical views, Theories of Justification, Gettier's Problem and responses to Gettier, Foundationalism, Coherentism.

Suggested Readings:

Introduction to Contemporary Epistemology – Jonathan Dancy (Sections 1, 2, 4, 8, 9)
Justification: Concepts and Theories – Sandhya Basu
Knowledge, Truth & Justification – Tushar Sarkar
Nature of Knowledge – Sujata Choudhury
Doubt, Belief and Knowledge – S. Bhattacharyya
Epistemology: An Anthology – Ernest Sosa
Epistemology – A Contemporary Introduction to the Theory of Knowledge – Robert Audi

Theory of Knowledge - Keith Lehrer

Knowledge, Belief and Character – Readings in Virtue Epistemology – Laurence Bonjour

Contemporary Theories of Knowledge - J.L.Pollock

PHIPCOR05T

Aesthetics: Indian and Western

This course aims at providing students with an introduction to aesthetics and the philosophy of art in general. The first part of the course starts with the wide-ranging discussion of philosophical aesthetics and philosophy of art and their meaning and relation. In the second part the students are introduced to the discussion of Aesthetics from ancient Indian perspective under the coinage of *Rasa* theory pioneered by Abhinava Gupta on one hand while Marxian thesis on Aesthetics on the other. In the last part of the course students are introduced to neuro-aesthetics, an emerging sub-field of study in aesthetics where students are clarified as to how modern brain research may provide insight into creative mechanisms at play in human-beings.

Course Outcome

The student will be encouraged to see connections between the different parts of the modules and to understand how contemporary debates can be traced back to or even helpfully illuminated by ancient philosophical debates. Students will learn the relation between philosophy and aesthetics and art and its value from societal point of view. They will also develop a basic understanding of how aesthetic stimuli activate specific anatomical structures in the brain and how cognitive and affective factors interact in aesthetic perception is also.

Aesthetics: General Introduction

Abhinava Gupta: Nature of Indian Aesthetics (brief introduction), Meaning and types of *Rasa*

Marxist view on Aesthetics

Philosophical Aesthetics and Cognitive-science: Future Directions

Suggested Readings:

Pollock, Sheldon, *Aesthetics*

Sheppard, Anne, *An Introduction to Philosophy of Art*

‘Marx and Engels on Aesthetics’, From Bottomore, Tom [ed.] *A Dictionary of Marxist Thought*, Blackwell Reference.

SuhasChattopadhyay [ed.] *Marxbad O Nandantattva* [Marxism and Aesthetics], West Bengal State Book Board, Kolkata. [Selected essays]

Umar, Baddruddin. *MarxioDarshan and Sanskriti* [Marxist Philosophy and Culture]

Philosophical aesthetics and cognitive-science Aaron Meskin, Jon Robson Anna Ichino, Kris Goffinet *al*

Aesthetics and Cognitive Science, Dustin Stokes

Neuroaesthetics: The Cognitive Neuroscience of Aesthetic Experience, Marcus T. Pearce *et al*

Acarya Anandabardhan, *Dvanyalok*, (Acarya Abhinaba Gupta krita Locanatika Sahitaha) Aknada, Dr. Bimalkanti Mukhopadhyay Sankalita, anudita, Vhyakhyata.

Rupa, Rasa O Sundara, Debiprasad Chottopadhyay

Nandan Tattva, Sudhir Kumar Nandi

Bageswari Shilpo Prabandhaboli, Abanindranath Thakur.

PHIPAEC01M

Contemporary Indian Thinkers on Humanism and Social Change

Humanism as a philosophy focusing prime importance on human-being, is getting more and more relevant in contemporary world. It provides a common spiritual shelter for the entire mass irrespective of class, caste, race and religion.

COURSE OUTCOME

The course provides the students with the opportunity to be enlightened with the various colours of humanism. Students will be enriched (self-learning process) by reading the life and thought of these distinguished thinkers, gradually develop personal intellectual intimacy which will culminate in forming their power of critical assessment in life.

Students must give a seminar presentation in any one of the prescribed readings along with a written term paper.

D.D. Upadhyay – Integral Humanism: An Analysis of Some Basic Humanism

Maulana Azad - Dr. Ravindra Kumar [ed.] Selected works of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

DR. P. N. Chopra [ed.] Maulana Azad: Selected Speeches and Statement, 1940-47

M.N.Roy - New Humanism: A Manifesto

Rabindranath Tagore – Religion of Man, Gitanjali

Sri Aurobindo – The Ideal of Human Unity, Bharatiya Sanskritir Bhatti.

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay – Dharmatattva and Krishnacharitra from Bankim Rancjanabali

Begum Rokeya – Rokeya Rachanavali (Selected Portions)

Sakhawat Hossain

Acharya Brajendranath Sil, Amita Chatterjee, Acarya Brajendranath Sil, Sahitya Academi

Nirmalyanarayan Chakraborty [ed.] *Smarane Manane Brajendranath Seal*,

Alochanachakra, Kolkata.

Prema Nandakumar, *S. Radhakrishnan-Makers of Indian Literature*, Sahitya Academi.

J. Krishnamurti, *On Education*, Krishnamurti Foundation, Amer

J. Krishnamurti, *Education and the Significance of Life*

Krishna Chandra Bhattacharya, *Swaraj in Ideas*,

Krishna Chandra Bhattacharya, Mananer Swaraj [Bengali translation] Sutradhar Publisher

Suggested Readings:

Integral Humanism: An Analysis of Some Basic Elements, D.D. Upadhyay

India after Gandhi, Ramchandra Guha

Gandhi -Uttar Bharatvarsa [Bengali Translation], Ananda ,Kolkata

Suggested Readings:

Bankimchandra, : *Dharmatattva* and *Krishnacharitra* from *Bankim Rachanabali*

Rabindranath: *Religion of Man*, *Gitanjali*.

Begum Rokeya: Selected portion from *Rokeya Rachanavali* [complete works of Begum Rokeya]
Publisher: Bangla Academy.

M.N.Roy: *New Humanism: A Manifesto*

D.D.Upadhyay : *Integral Humanism: An Analysis of Some Basic Elements*,

Sri Aurobindo: *The Ideal of Human Unity*

Ramchandra Guha: *India after Gandhi*, *Gandhi -Uttar Bharatvarsa* [Bengali Translation], Ananda ,Kolkata.