

Indic Philosophy: Foundational Principles

Programme(s) in which it is offered: M.A Sanskrit

Course Category: Foundation	Schedule of Offering: Even
Course Credit Structure: 4	Course Code: PS501
Total Number of Hours: 4	Contact Hours Per Week: 4
Lecture: 3	Tutorial: 1
Practical: 0	Medium of Instruction: English
Date of Revision: 23/01/2021	Skill Focus: Employability/Life Skills
Short Name of the Course: IPFP	Course Stream (Only for Minor Courses):
Grading Method: Regular	Repeatable: Credit
Course Level: Intermediate	

Course Description

This is a foundation course for all students of MA Sanskrit Program. It is part of the students' training in philosophical literature in Sanskrit (the other course being Philosophy of Life) as part of their degree. In this course, the students will be exposed to the major concepts and theories based on Indian Philosophical systems to bring out the holistic view of the Ātmā and its relation to the Universe.

Course Introduction

Philosophy in India has a rich and diverse journey stretching back to the very beginnings of civilization in this part of the world. The aim of this course is to give the student an advanced introduction to Indian Philosophy: its most salient features and theories. We will not adopt the usual "six-systems"/"school" approach to Indian Philosophy. Instead, we will take up a thematic or conceptual treatment of Indian Philosophy. The former method not only gives a limited understanding of Indian Philosophy but also fails to highlight the dynamic nature of India's intellectual environment, one in which various traditions grew together by arguments and counter-arguments. Thus we will be taking up broad areas of philosophy like Metaphysics, Epistemology, Philosophy of Language and see how Indian thinkers have contributed to these areas.

Wherever possible we will also try to acquire a "feel" for the original text rather than depending exclusively on secondary sources. In this attempt, we are cautioned by the words of the famous 20th century Indian Philosopher M.Hiriyanna, who said that such new attempts should seek a "modernism in expression, not modernism in spirit which would be not merely unhistorical but also unphilosophical." Thus, we will stick to the essence of Indian thought and also aim to find its proper place in the global map of philosophical inquiry.

Course Objective

- To understand the foundational principles of Indian Philosophy: its presuppositions, its methods, its purposes, and its theories.
- To introduce the student to key debates centered around certain significant philosophical issues.
- To take the student to the actual text and introduce them to the style of Indian philosophical writing.
- To help the students to develop the required skill for studying courses in Darśnas of a higher level.

Course Outcome

- The students will get a good level of understanding of the fundamental theories and concepts of different Darśanas.
- The students will have a good knowledge of the pramāṇas which forms the fulcrum for any discussions or debates in the Darśanas.
- The students will be familiar with the basic jargon and equipped with argumentative skills to comprehend the intermediate texts of Darśanas.
- With the knowledge of the application of the theories discussed in this course, the students will be able to carry out further research in the field of Darśanas and allied areas.
- The students will have an idea about the nature of Ātmā, Mokṣa etc. which will support them to achieve the spiritual aspirations.

PO-CO Mapping

PO-CO Mapping Matrix

CO/PO Mapping	PO1	PO2	PO3	PO4	PO5	PO6	PO7	PO8
CO1	✓	✓					✓	
CO2				✓			✓	
CO3			✓	✓				
CO4					✓		✓	
CO5		✓						✓

Prerequisites and other constraints

This course requires some working knowledge of sanskrit and moderate-to-high level of comfort in Devanāgarī script. Since, this is a postgraduate course, the student is expected to have some introduction to Indian Philosophy (an awareness of some frequently used terms, basic tenets/objective of various schools). Knowledge of sanskrit is not necessary but will be helpful as also some familiarity with the Devanāgarī script.

Pedagogy

This course will have lectures based on the reading material. Students are expected to go through the reading material before coming to the class so that they may contribute constructively in discussions. The assignments and term paper will enhance the analytical skills of the students. Quizzes will be conducted on regular basis to develop better understanding of the concepts

Suggested Reading:

- Roy Perrett's An Introduction to Indian Philosophy (Cambridge University Press 2016) will be used as a background textbook for this course.
- For historical information we can refer to Karl Potter's Encyclopedia of Indian Philosophies (Motilal Banarsidass, Delhi), or S.N.Dasgupta's History of Indian Philosophy (Cambridge University Press, 1922-55).
- Annambhatta, Tarkasaṃgraha (with Dīpika), Swami Virupaksananda (Tr.), Sri Ramakrishna math, Madras, 1994. Hereafter TS.
- Narayana, Mānamayodaya, C.Kunhan Raja and S.S.Surayanarayana Sastri (edited and translated), The Adyar Library and Research Centre, 2nd Edition, 1975. Hereafter MM.

Evaluation Pattern

Evaluation Matrix

	Component Type	Weightage Percentage	Total Marks	Tentative Dates	Course Outcome Mapping
Continuous Internal Assessment (CIA) Components*	Assignments	20%	60	At the end of every module	1,2,4,5
	Mid-term Exam	25%	50	As per University schedule	1,2,4
	Term Paper	20%	20	Due on last day of the classes	1,2,3,4,5
	CIA Marks	65%	130		
	ESE	35%	100	As per University schedule	1,2,5

Module Sessions

Module 1: Introduction

(9 Hours)

This module sets the tone for the course. We will discuss the general features of Indian Philosophy, some methodological issues and trace its historical development through several centuries. The topics to be covered are - what is Indic in “Indic Philosophy?”, what is Philosophy in “Indic Philosophy”?, some misconceptions about Indian philosophy (both in India and outside), some common aspects of Indian thought, the historical development of Indian philosophy.

Reading:

- Roy Perrett’s An Introduction to Indian Philosophy (Cambridge University Press 2016)
- Daya Krishna, Indian Philosophy: A Counter perspective, OUP, 1991 (Chapters 1,2)
- Matilal, B.K., On the concept of Philosophy in India, in The Collected essays of Matilal Vol. 1, Jonardon Ganeri (ed), OUP, 2015, pp. 358-369

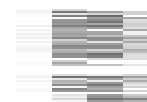
Module 2: Metaphysics

(15 Hours)

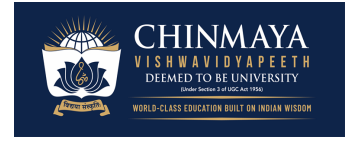
This module is devoted to Metaphysics, one of the core areas of philosophy. The central question of Metaphysics is “what is the nature of the world?” We will be studying responses to this question, and some related questions, given from Indian thinkers. The topics included are - the creation of World, nature of Reality: The Nyāya Realism and Vedāntic Idealism, Ontology, Causation, Non-existence (abhāva).

Reading:

- Chapter 5: “World,” Perrett, 2016



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- TS kārikā 2-9, 37-41, 80 along with dīpika
- Jadunath Sinha, Indian Realism, Motilal Banarsidass, 1972 (Chapters VII and VIII)

Module 3: Epistemology

(15 Hours)

If metaphysics is the study of the World, epistemology deals with our knowledge about the World. The following topics will be taken up - the theory of Knowledge (pramā), sources of Knowledge: Perception, Inference, Testimony, Analogy, Presumption, the theory of truth, Error (khyāti).

Reading:

- Chapter 2: "Knowledge," Perrett, 2016.
- TS kārikā 34-36, 42-57 along with dīpika.
- MM on Upamāna and Arthāpatti, pp. 110-133
- Mohanty, J.N. Some general features of the Indian Theories of Knowledge, Appendix Two, Classical Indian Philosophy, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2000.
- Stephen Phillips, Epistemology in Classical Indian, Routledge, 2012, Chapter 1, 2 and 7
- Karl Potter, Does Indian Epistemology concern justified true belief?, in Roy Perrett (ed), Indian Philosophy: A collection of readings, Vol.1 (Epistemology), Garland, 2000

Module 4: Philosophy of Language

(12 Hours)

Several thinkers feel that Language is what makes us human. Yet, we never stop to think about its nuances. Indian Philosophers have made outstanding contribution to global philosophy in the field of Language. In this module we shall look at some philosophical questions concerning Language, namely - Word: Its definition and its meaning, Sentence: Its definition and its meaning, Language and interpretation: Some mīmāṃsā principles, Bhartrhari: Language as Reality or Sphoṭā theory.

Reading:

- Chapter 4: "Word," Perrett, 2016
- Coward H and K K Raja, The Philosophy of the grammarians, Encyclopedia of Indian Philosophies, Volume 5, Princeton University Press, 1990, pp. 5-12.
- TS Kārikā 59-63 with dīpika
- MM on anvītābhidānavāda and abhihitānvayavāda, pp. 95-100
- Frits Staal, Sanskrit Philosophy of Language, in Roy Perrett (ed) Indian Philosophy: A collection of Readings, Vol. 2., Garland, 2001
- Kunjuni Raja, Indian Theories of Meaning (Chapter 1,2,4 and 5), The Adyar Library and Research Centre, 2000 (reprint).

Module 5: Philosophy of Religion

(9 Hours)

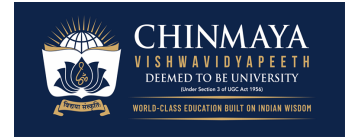
That philosophy and religion go hand in hand in the Indian context is an often made observation. In this module we examine this issue and focus on some specific topics which would fall under what is today classified as "religion" and see what Indian Philosophers have to say. We will discuss the following topics - the question of self (ātman), the question of Brahman, relation between Ātman and Brahman, theory of Liberation (Mokṣa).

Reading:

Chapter 6: "Self" and Chapter 7: "Ultimates", Perrett, 2016
Pt. Sukhlaji, Lecture 5: The Element God, in Indian Philosophy, Translated by K. K. Dixit.



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L.D.Institute of Indology, Ahmedabad, L.D.Series 58, 1977
Kalidas Bhattacharyya, The Concept of God in Indian Philosophy, in Philosophy, Logic and Language, Allied Publishers, 1965
Daya Krishna, Indian Philosophy and Mokṣa, in Indian Philosophy: A counter perspective.

