

MA (Sanskrit - Applied Indic Knowledge Traditions)

Fundamentals of Nyāya Philosophy

2018-2019

Course Category: Elective (PG)

Schedule of Offering: Odd Semester

Course Credit Structure: 4 Credits

- **Lecture: 4 Hours per week**
- **Tutorial: None**
- **Practical: None**

Contact Hours per week: 4 Hours

Course Instructor : Dr. K.E. Gopala Desikan

1. Introduction

As the famous saying “काणादं पाणिनीयञ्च सर्वशास्त्रोपकारकम्” demonstrates that Nyāyaśāstraṃ and Vyākaraṇaśāstraṃ were considered the most important and useful in understanding the concepts of other Indian Śāstras. The Nyāya philosophy was founded by the great sage Gautama who was also known as Akṣapāda. Accordingly, the Nyāya is also known as the Akṣapāda system. This philosophy is primarily concerned with the conditions of correct thinking and the means of acquiring a true knowledge of reality. It is very useful in developing the powers of logical thinking and rigorous criticism in its students.

In this course the fundamental concepts of Nyāyaśāstraṃ from the prakaraṇa granthas would be introduced to the students.

2. Course Objectives

- To introduce fundamental concepts of Nyāya philosophy to the students.
- To encourage a deeper understanding of metaphysical and epistemological concepts of Navya Nyāya school through arguments and counter arguments.

3. Course Outcome

- Students will get a sufficient overview on metaphysics and epistemology of Nyaya Philosophy.
- Students will get a limited exposure to the navya nyaya way of

argumentation which has been used widely in other Sastric texts.

4. Pre-requisites

To take this course the students must have either good understanding of Tarkasaṁgrahadīpikā or completed at least a foundation course in Indian Philosophy. As this course is based on a Sanskrit text, a good level of Sanskrit proficiency is appreciated.

5. Readings

- *Nyāyasiddhāntamuktāvalī* with *Dinakarī*, by Viśvanāthapañchānana Bhattācārya, commentary by Dinakarabhata, ed. by Pandit Harirāma Śukla Śāstrī, Chaukhamba Sanskrit Sansthan, Varanasi, 1989 pp 1 - 237
- *Nyāyasiddhāntamuktāvalī* with *Kiranāvalī*, by Viśvanāthapañchānana Bhattācārya, commented by Pt. Śrī Kṛṣṇavallabhācārya, ed. by Sri Nārāyaṇa Śāstrī and Śrī Śvetavaikunṭha Śāstrī, Chaukhamba Sanskrit Sansthan, Varanasi, 1995.
- *Bhāṣa Pariccheda* with *Siddhānta Muktāvalī*, translated by Swami Mādhavānanda, Advaita Ashrama, Kolkata, 2004

6. Module-wise topics

Module 1 : *Padārthanirūpaṇam* - (10 sessions)

- Introduction of the text
- Maṅgalavāda
- Īśvarānumanaṁ
- Classification of Padārthas
- Jātibādhakasaṁgrahaḥ
- Samavāyanirūpaṇam
- Discussions on Abhāva

Module 2 : *Sādharmyanirūpaṇam* (8 sessions)

- Sādharmyam among Padārthas
- Discussions on Pārimāṇḍalyam
- Kāraṇam and its types
- Discussions on Anyathāsiddhiḥ
- Sādharmyam of Ākāśa and Ātmā

Module 3 : *Bhūtanam Nirūpaṇam* (12 sessions)

- Definition of pṛthvi
- Avayavasiddhiḥ and Paramāṇusādhanaṁ

- ŚarTrendriyanirŪpaṇam
- JalanirŪpaṇam
- TejonirŪpaṇam
- VāyunirŪpaṇam

Module 4 : Ātmaprakaraṇam (12 sessions)

- Ākāśanumānam
- Definitions: Kāla, Dik and Ātmā
- Discussions on Ātmā
- ŚarTrātmavādakhaṇḍanam
- Kṣaṇikajñānātmavādakhaṇḍanam
- Nityajñānātmavādakhaṇḍanam
- Sāṅkhyamatakhaṇḍanam

Module 5 : PratyakṣanirŪpaṇam (10 sessions)

- Pratyakṣalakṣaṇam
- Pratyakṣaprayojakāni
- Jñānasāmānyakāraṇatvavicāraḥ
- Nirvikalpakavicāraḥ
- Yogyānupalabdhiḥ
- Alaukikasannikarṣaḥ

Module 6 : Other Pramāṇas (10 sessions)

- Kārikās of Anumānaprakaraṇam
- Kārikās of Upamānaprakaraṇam
- Kārikās of Śabdaprakaraṇam

6. Pedagogy

This course will mostly consist of lectures based on the reading material. Some multimedia components are also included. The student is expected to participate actively in class.

7. Evaluation Pattern

Given below is the evaluation pattern.

- End-Sem exam - 40%
- Mid-Sem exam - 25%
- Module Assignment - 20%
- Class Participation - 15%
- Total - 100 %

Module assignments will be given in class by the teacher at the end of each module.