



CURRICULUM FOR THE FOUR-YEAR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME UNDER THE NEW EDUCATION POLICY

SEMESTER-I

PHIDSM101T

EPISTEMOLOGY AND METAPHYSICS (INDIAN)

Contact Hours: 45

Full Marks = 100 [ESE (70)/CCA (30)]

Course objectives: The paper explores the fundamental concepts and theories of Epistemology and Metaphysics within the context of Indian Philosophy. The core objectives of this course/paper are:

- i. To introduce students to significant philosophical thought, regarding knowledge and the nature of reality. Students will explore concepts, such as, perception, inference, testimony, consciousness, existence, etc., as understood in Indian epistemology and metaphysics.
- ii. To engage with prominent Indian Philosophical Schools, such as, Cārvāka, Buddha, Jaina, Nyāya-Vaiśeṣika, Sāṅkhya-Yoga, Mīmāṃsā-Vedānta, etc., and critically evaluate their epistemological and metaphysical positions as well as the logical arguments supporting them.
- iii. To cultivate an appreciation for diverse philosophical perspectives. This course will encourage students to develop an open-minded and inclusive attitude towards philosophical inquiry.
- iv. To enhance critical thinking and analytical skills. Students will learn to critically assess philosophical theories, identify logical fallacies, and construct well-reasoned arguments in response to complex philosophical questions.

Unit- I

General ideas about the Schools of Indian Philosophy

Concept of Rta, Law of Karma, Upanisadic concept of Atman/Self

Unit- II

Carvaka- Epistemology, Metaphysics

Jainism- Syadvada, Anekantavada

Unit-III

Buddhism- Four Noble Truths, Pratityasamutpada, Nairatmyavada, Ksanikatvavada

Unit- IV

Nyaya- Prama & Amprama; Pramana, Pratyaksa, Anumana and its kinds

Vaisesika- Padarthas- Samanya, Visesa, Samavaya and Abhava, Paramanuvada (Atomism)



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Unit- V

Samkhya- Prakrti, Purusa, Theory of Evolution

Advaita Vedanta- Concept of Brahman and Maya

Visistadvaita- Ramanuja's Criticism of Sankara's Concept of Maya, Brahman

Course Outcome:

This course will thus help students to identify the basic structure and origin of schools/systems of Indian philosophy with an understanding of the Upanisadic world-view of Self and the universe, as well as the backgrounds of critical thinking in Indian Philosophical tradition. Along with this, on the completion of the course, learners will be acquainted with various epistemological and metaphysical questions that exist in the realm of philosophical enquiry to define and justify the scope and grounds of knowledge themselves. They will also be acquainted with the various approaches to those queries offered by different schools of the Indian philosophical systems which are proving their relevance even today. It will teach students to cope with problems concerning practical life with the goal of self-realization.

Suggested Readings:

1. Sinha, J.N., Outlines of Indian Philosophy, New Central Book Agency Pvt. Ltd.
2. Dutta, D.M. and Chatterjee, S.C. An Introduction to Indian Philosophy, CUP
3. Hiriyanna, M, Outlines of Indian Philosophy, MLBD
4. Sharma, C.D., A Critical Survey of Indian Philosophy, MLBD
5. Radhakrishnan, S., Indian Philosophy, Vol. I and II, OUP
6. Dasgupta, S., History of Indian Philosophy, MLBD
7. Dutta, D.M., Six Ways of Knowing, Calcutta University Press.
8. Mohanty, J.N., Essays on Indian Philosophy, Oxford Pub
9. Nalini Bhushan and Garfield, Jay (ed) Indian Philosophy in English, Oxford Publication
10. B.K. Motilal, Perception, Oxford Publication
11. Gupta, Bina, Explorations in Indian Philosophy, Vol. I (ed), OUP
12. Kuppaswami Shastri, A Primer of Indian Logic
13. Balasubramanian, R, The Tradition of Advaita, Munsiram Manoharlal Publishers
14. Srinivas Rao, Advaita – A Modern Critique, OUP