B.A. PHILOSOPHY
(Choice Based Credit System)

Syllabus

2017-18 onwards
SCHEME FOR CHOICE BASED CREDIT SYSTEM (CBCS) IN B.A. (PHILOSOPHY) PROGRAMME
To be implemented from 2017–2018 onwards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Philosophy of Sri Aurobindo</td>
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<td>Human Rights from an Ethical Perspective</td>
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<td>Philosophy of Mahakavi C. Subramanya Bharathi</td>
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<td>Philosophy of Education</td>
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<td>Introduction to Indian Epistemology</td>
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<td>PHIL 367</td>
<td>Feminist Philosophy</td>
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Total Number of Credits 120
*Any three papers can be selected from the pool of papers (PHIL 352, PHIL 353, PHIL 354, PHIL 355 and PHIL 356) for DSE-1A, 2A, and 3A in the fifth semester and any three papers can be selected from the pool of papers (PHIL 362, PHIL 363, PHIL 364, PHIL 365 and PHIL 366) for DSE-1B, 2B and 3B in the sixth semester, respectively.
# Distribution of Credits

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<th>Courses</th>
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<td>DSC Discipline Specific Core Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>DSE Discipline Specific Elective Course</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEC Skill Enhancement Course (Open to students of all Departments)</td>
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<td>GE Generic Elective Course (Open to students of all Departments)</td>
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<tr>
<td>AECC Ability Enhancement Compulsory Course</td>
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<td><strong>30</strong></td>
<td><strong>120</strong></td>
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# Semester-wise distribution of Courses / Papers and Credits

| Distribution of Courses / Papers and their Credits in the CBCS pattern for B.A. Philosophy |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Sem.                  | MIL  | ENGLISH | DSC  | DSE  | SEC  | GE   | AECC | TOTAL |
|                      | Cors | Crdt    | Cors | Crdt | Cors | Crdt | Cors | Crdt | Cors | Crdt | Cors | Crdt | Cors | Crdt |
| I                    | 01   | 03      | 01   | 03   | 02   | 12   | --   | --   | --   | --   | --   | --   | 01   | 02   | 05   | 20   |
| II                   | 01   | 03      | 01   | 03   | 02   | 12   | --   | --   | --   | --   | --   | --   | 01   | 02   | 05   | 20   |
| III                  | 01   | 03      | 01   | 03   | 02   | 12   | --   | --   | 01   | 02   | --   | --   | --   | --   | 05   | 20   |
| IV                   | 01   | 03      | 01   | 03   | 02   | 12   | --   | --   | 01   | 02   | --   | --   | --   | --   | 05   | 20   |
| V                    | --   | --      | --   | --   | --   | --   | 03   | 15   | 01   | 02   | 01   | 03   | --   | --   | 05   | 20   |
| VI                   | --   | --      | --   | --   | --   | --   | 03   | 15   | 01   | 02   | 01   | 03   | --   | --   | 05   | 20   |
|                      | 04   | 12      | 04   | 12   | 08   | 48   | 06   | 30   | 04   | 08   | 02   | 06   | 02   | 04   | 30   | 120  |
| **Total No. of Courses / Papers** | **30** | **Total Credits** | **120** |
UNIT 1

**Characteristics of Indian philosophy:** Vedas based – Combination of religion and philosophy – Stages and duties of life – Yoga based – *Karma* theory based – *Moksha* oriented – *Purusartha* – Initially pessimistic but ultimately optimistic.

**Vedas:** Four Vedas and the sections – Monism – Monotheism – Pantheism – Panentheism – Transtheism.

UNIT 2

**Upanishads:** *Brahman, Jiva* and *Jagat* and their nature, function and inter-relation.

**Bhagavad Gita:** *Karma* theory – *Nishkama Karma* – *Moksha Sadhanas*.

UNIT 3

**Carvaka:** *Pratyaksha* as the only *pramana* – Metaphysics: Denial of God and Soul – Ethics: ‘Pleasure’ as the principle of life.

**Jainism:** Classification of *jiva* and *ajiva* – *Anekantavada* – *Saptabhanginayavada* – Concept of liberation.

UNIT 4

**Buddhism:** Four Noble Truths – *Pratityasamutpadavada* – *Kshanikavada* – Concept of *Nirvana*.

UNIT 5

**Nyaya:** Four *pramanas* – *Padartha* theory – Proofs for the existence of God.

**Vaiseshka:** Seven categories – Atomic Theory – *Arambhavada*.

**Books for Study**

Books for Reference


UNIT 1

Pre-Socratic: A brief introduction to the philosophy of Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes, Pythagoras, Heraclitus, Empedocles, Anaxagoras, Democritus and the Sophists.

UNIT 2

Socrates: Know Thy Self – Concept of Self – Knowledge is Virtue.


UNIT 3


UNIT 4


St. Anselm: Ontological Proof


UNIT 5


Spinoza: The Doctrine of Substance, Attributes and Modes – Psycho–Physical Parallelism – Pantheism.

Gottfried Wilhelm Leibnitz: Monads – Pre-established Harmony – Proofs for the Existence of God.

Books for Study

Books for Reference

UNIT 1

Sankhya: Satkaryavada – Dualism – Prakrti parinamavada.

Yoga: Citta-vrtti – Ashtanga yoga.

UNIT 2


UNIT 3


UNIT 4


UNIT 5

Saiva Siddhantha: Pati, Pasu and Pasa and the paths of liberation.

Books for Study

Books for Reference

UNIT 1


UNIT 2


UNIT 3


UNIT 4


UNIT 5


Books for Study


Books for Reference

UNIT 1


**Swami Vivekananda:** Practical Vedanta – *Maya* – Ways of Self-realization – Universal Religion.

UNIT 2

**Rabindranath Tagore:** *Jivan-Devata* – Humanism – Aesthetic mysticism – Surplus Man.

UNIT 3


UNIT 4

**Sri Aurobindo:** Concept of Absolute – Involution and Evolution – Integral Yoga – Gnostic Being

UNIT 5

**Dr. B.R. Ambedkar:** Anihilation of Caste – Critique of *Varnasrama dharma* – Social Justice – Views on Buddhism.

**Books for Study**


**Books for Reference**

SEMESTER – III
PHIL 232: CONTEMPORARY WESTERN PHILOSOPHY

UNIT 1
Bertrand Russell: Naming theory of Meaning – Sense Contents – Logical Atomism.

UNIT 2

UNIT 3

UNIT 4

UNIT 5

Books for Study

Books for Reference
SEMESTER – III
PHIL 233: YOGA AND PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE

UNIT 1

**Introduction:** Meaning of Yoga – Origin and the development of yoga – Place of yoga in Indian philosophy – Yoga school of Indian philosophy.

UNIT 2

**Nature of Man:** Macrocosm (\textit{Maha-brahmanda}) and microcosm (\textit{Ksudra-brahmanda}) – \textit{Panchakosha} – Four states of Consciousness – \textit{Trigunas} – \textit{Yoga Nadis} – \textit{Chakras}.

UNIT 3


UNIT 4

**Yoga Siddhis:** Eight major \textit{siddhis} (\textit{Ashtamasiddhi}) – Minor \textit{siddhis}.

UNIT 5

**Yoga of Tamil Siddhas:** Tradition of 18 \textit{siddhas} (\textit{Pathinen Siddharkal}) – Ninety-six \textit{tattwas}.

**Books for Study**


**Books for Reference**

UNIT 1


UNIT 2

Free Will versus Determinism: Free Will – Determinism: Meaning and types of Determinism.

UNIT 3

Teleological Theories: Psychological hedonism – Ethical hedonism – Ethical intuitionism.

UNIT 4

Utilitarianism of J.S. Mill
Deontic Ethics of Immanuel Kant

UNIT 5

Purusarthas: Artha, Kama, Dharma and Moksha

Books for Study


Books for Reference

SEMESTER – IV
PHIL 242: POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

UNIT 1


Aristotle: Different forms of Government.

UNIT 2


UNIT 3


UNIT 4


UNIT 5

Communism of Karl Marx.

Books for study

Books for reference
UNIT 1

Introduction to logic and propositions: Definition and scope of logic – Logic as formal and normative science – Its relation to other sciences – Reduction of sentences to propositions – Categorical propositions – Distribution of Terms and the Euler’s Circle – Hypothetical propositions – Disjunctive propositions.

UNIT 2


UNIT 3


UNIT 4

Symbolic Logic: Modern classification of propositions – Constants and Variables – Symbolizing simple and compound propositions – Well-formed formula (wff) and Ill-formed formula (iff) – Propositional forms and Argument forms – Truth functions and the Basic Truth-tables.

UNIT 5


Books for Study


Books for Reference

UNIT 1
Introduction – Claims – Concealed claims – Arguments.

UNIT 2
Evaluating premises – Experiments – The conclusion follows.

UNIT 3
Repairing arguments – Compound claims – Counter arguments – General claims – Analogies.

UNIT 4
Models – Numbers – Generalizing – Cause and effect – Cause in populations.

UNIT 5

Books for study

Books for reference
SEMESTER – V
PHIL352: PHILOSOPHY OF SRI AUROBINDO

UNIT 1


UNIT 2

Involution and Evolution: The world process as involution and evolution – Role of lila and maya in the world process – Nature of ignorance and the seven-fold ignorance – The two hemispheres in the realm of reality – The intermediary levels from Mind to Supermind.

UNIT 3


UNIT 4

Integral (Poorna) Yoga: Meaning and aim of Yoga – Integral approach to yoga.

UNIT 5

Integral Education: Meaning and aim of integral education – Perfecting the physical, the vital, the psychic, the mental and the spiritual aspects of human.

Books for Study


Books for Reference

SEMESTER – V
PHIL 353: PHILOSOPHY OF MAHATMA GANDHI

UNIT 1

Background of Gandhi’s Philosophy: Early life of Gandhi – Influences that shaped his thought.

UNIT 2


UNIT 3

Ahimsa and Satyagraha: Gandhian understanding of ahimsa – Satyagraha as the technique of ahimsa – Satyagrahi – Forms of Satyagraha – “Means justify the End”.

UNIT 4


UNIT 5


Books for Study

3. Basant Kumar Lal, Contemporary Indian Philosophy, Motilal Banarsidass, New Delhi, 1989. (Chapter on Gandhi only)

Books for Reference

UNIT 1

Introduction: About the author – About the book – About the commentaries and the commentators – Thirukkural as a universal book of code of conduct – Place of Thirukkural in the realm of philosophy.

UNIT 2

Epistemological views in Thirukkural

UNIT 3

Metaphysical views in Thirukkural

UNIT 4

Ethical views and Personality Development in Thirukkural

UNIT 5

Political philosophy in Thirukkural

Books for study

1. Thiruvalluvar, Thirukkural (with any standard commentary).
4. R. Thirumavalavan, The Epistemological Thoughts of Ancient Tamils (in Tamizh), Meiyappan Publishers, Chidambaram, 2005. (Relevant portions only)
5. K. Narayanan, The Tamil’s Theory of Knowledge – An Introduction (in Thamizh), Thamizh Puthakalayam, Chennai, 1985. (Relevant portions only)
UNIT 1

**Philosophical problems of religion:** Proofs for the existence of Soul – Proofs for the existence of God – God and the world relation – Problem of evil – Bondage and freedom of the Soul.

UNIT 2


UNIT 3

**Jainism:** *Anekantavada* – *Saptabanghinayavada* – *Triratnas* (the three jewels) – *Kevalin* – Scheism – Worship.

UNIT 4


UNIT 5


Books for study

SEMESTER – V
PHIL 356: HUMAN RIGHTS FROM AN ETHICAL PERSPECTIVE

UNIT 1
Pre-requisites, problems and accounts of Human Rights.

UNIT 2
Conflicts within human rights – Conflicts between a human right and other kinds of moral consideration – Step beyond intuition.

UNIT 3

UNIT 4
Two models of value judgement – Human interest and the natural world – The test of the best explanation – The metaphysics of human rights.

UNIT 5
Ethical relativity and the relativity of human rights – Problem of ethnocentricity and – Tolerance.

Books for study
1. James Griffin, On Human Rights, Oxford University Press, New York, 2008. (From pages 1 to 145 only. Question paper must be set only from this book.)
UNIT 1


UNIT 2


UNIT 3

Hindu Temples: Philosophy behind Hindu agamic temple plan – Hindu temple architectural styles.

UNIT 4

Tamil culture: Agam and Puram – Five divisions of land and life.

UNIT 5

Unity among diversity

Diversities: Geographical, racial, linguistic, religious and cultural – Unity in Diversity – National Integration.

Books for study


Books for reference

1. A.L. Basham (Edr), A Cultural History of India, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 1984.
UNIT 1
Humanitarian ethics and its basic principles – Life values: Goodness, Justice or Fairness, Truth-telling and Individual freedom.

UNIT 2

UNIT 3

UNIT 4
Female foeticide and infanticide – Dowry – Subjugation of women – Increasing Old Age Homes – Caste and communalism – Corruption in public life – ‘Turn a blind eye’ towards social evils attitude.

UNIT 5
Theories of Punishment: Retributive, Deterrent and Reformative.

Books for Study

Books for Reference
SEMESTER – VI
PHIL 362: PHILOSOPHY OF RABINDRANATH TAGORE

UNIT 1
Life and works of Rabindranath Tagore – Philosophical stand of Tagore.

UNIT 2
Reality and God – Proofs for the existence of God – Creation – Doctrine of Maya – Nature of man

UNIT 3
Nature of Man – The finite and the infinite aspects of man’s nature.

UNIT 4

UNIT 5
Aesthetic Mysticism

Books for study

Books for reference
SEMESTER – VI
PHIL 363: INTRODUCTION TO THINKERS OF SOCIAL REFORM

UNIT 1

UNIT 2

UNIT 3

UNIT 4

UNIT 5

Books for study
1. D.S. Sarma, Studies in the Renaissance of Hinduism, Benares Hindu University, 1944. (Relevant Chapter only)

Articles for reference
1. Dilip Kumar, Ambedkar’s Critique of the Caste System. (snphilosophers2005.tripod.com/dilip.pdf)
SEMESTER – VI
PHIL 364: PHILOSOPHY OF MAHAKAVI C. SUBRAMANYA BHARATHI

UNIT 1

Introduction: Life and works – Multifaceted personality of Bharathi: poet, writer, journalist, translator, journalist, political activist feminist and social reformer.

UNIT 2

Philosophical foundations

UNIT 3

Political foundations

UNIT 4

Socialism

UNIT 5

Feminism

Suggested readings

1. Bharathiyar Kavithaikal (Tamil), Pazhaniyappa Brothers, Chennai.
5. Sakunthala Bharathi, En Thanthai Bharathi (Tamil), Pazhaniyappa Brothers, Chennai, 2012.
SEMESTER – V
PHIL 365: PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

UNIT 1

Introduction: Philosophy and education – Philosophy of education.

UNIT 2

Western philosophical perspectives on education (part 1): Idealism – Realism – Naturalism.

UNIT 3

Western philosophical perspectives on education (part 2): Pragmatism – Existentialism – Communism – Secularism.

UNIT 4


UNIT 5


Books for study

5. S.P. Chaube & Akhilesh Chaube, Philosophical and Sociological Foundations of Education.
SEMESTER – VI
PHIL 366: INTRODUCTION TO INDIAN EPISTEMOLOGY

UNIT 1

Introduction: Tripartite knowledge – Sources of Knowledge and the Schools of Indian philosophy.

UNIT 2


UNIT 3

Inference: Inference – Inference for one’s own sake and Inference for the sake of others.

UNIT 4

Theories of Truth: The Self-evidence Theory – The Correspondence Theory

UNIT 5


Books for Study

Books for Reference
UNIT 1

Introduction: Meaning of feminism – Need for feminism – The diversity of feminist thinking.

UNIT 2

Liberal and Radical feminism

UNIT 3

Marxist and Social feminism

UNIT 4

Psychoanalytic and Care-focused feminism

UNIT 5

Post-colonial feminism, Eco-feminism, Postmodern and Third-Wave feminism

Books for study