

# PONDICHERRY UNIVERSITY PUDUCHERRY



## Department of Philosophy

M.A. PHILOSOPHY

(2022-23 ONWARDS)

Department of Philosophy

M.A. PHILOSOPHY

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

**Master's Degree in Philosophy with a minimum of 55% of Marks.**

## Semester - 1

### PHIL. 411: CLASSICAL INDIAN PHILOSOPHY (Revised)

#### HARD CORE - 4 CREDITS

1. Nature & Objects of Perception (*pratyakṣa*) – distinction between determinate and indeterminate perception – ordinary and extra-ordinary perception – theories of perceptual error (*khyāti-vādas*).
2. Nature of Inference (*anumāna*) – grounds of inference – different methods of ascertaining *vyāpti*.
3. Comparison (*upamāna*) – Nyāya & Advaita views.
4. Verbal-Testimony (*śabda*) – distinction between *laukika* and *vaidika-śabda*. Sentence and its meaning – primary and secondary meanings – nature and authority of *śruti* - Advaita view
5. Postulation (*arthāpatti*) – why *arthapatti* cannot be reduced to inference.
6. Non-Cognition (*anupalabdhi*) – Prābhakara and Bhāṭṭa views. Kinds of *abhāva*.
7. Nature & Status of the World. The doctrine of *māyā* & the objections thereto. Theories of Causation. Distinction between *Nirguṇa*-Brahman & *Saguṇa*-Brahman, Nature & Destiny of the *Jīva*, Brahman-*jīva-jagat* relation - Advaita view.
8. Liberation (*mokṣa*) & its Pre-requisites. Nature of liberation & a liberated soul. *Jīvanmukti* & *Videhamukti* in Advaita.

#### Books for Study

1. M. Hiriyanna, *Outlines of Indian Philosophy*, New Delhi: Blackie & Son (India)Ltd., 1979.
2. S. Radhakrishnan, *Indian Philosophy* - Volumes I & II, London: George Allen & Unwin, 1962.
3. D.M. Datta, *Six Ways of Knowing*, Calcutta: Calcutta University Press, 1960.

**Phil. 412: PROBLEMS IN METAPHYSICS (Revised)**  
**(Hard-core)**  
**4 Credits**

**I. Appearance and reality**

Appearance, reality and idealism – transcendental idealism – absolute idealism – realism.

**1. Ontology**

What there is – being-qua-being – ontological relativity of philosophical ontologies – formal concepts.

**2. Substance**

The traditional conception of substance – must there be substances? – the individuation of substances – essentialism – primary and secondary qualities.

**3. Particular and general**

The distinction – everything that exists is particular – theories of universals the primacy of the particular.

**4. Simple substances: monism and pluralism**

Must substance be simple? - monism and pluralism – absolute idealism and logical atomism.

**5. Space and time**

What are space and time?--time and human existence – are space & time essentially one?

**6. Minds**

The concept of the mental – body-mind theories – Cartesian dualism – the criteria of the mental – Can dualism be defended?

**Book for study**

D.W. Hamlyn, *Metaphysics* (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1984).

**PHIL. 413: PROBLEMS IN EPISTEMOLOGY (Revised)**

**(Hard-core)**

**4 Credits**

- 1. Why a theory of knowledge?**  
(a) The questions asked (b) Skepticism, knowledge and the search for certainty  
(c) Is philosophical skepticism possible? (d) Sources of knowledge
- 2. Traditional Answers to Skepticism**  
(a) Rationalism (b) Empiricism (c) Commonsense and ordinary language (d)  
Dialectical argument and proof
- 3. Knowledge and Belief**  
(a) Does knowledge involve belief? (b) What is belief? (c) What is knowledge  
(d) Types of knowledge.
- 4. Truth**  
(a) What are the problems about truth? (b) Classical theories of truth  
(c) Recent accounts of truth (d) Can correspondence theory be defended?  
(e) Facts and objectivity
- 5. Perception**  
(a) The argument from illusion (b) The “given” (c) Sense data and  
appearances (d) Traditional theories of perception (e) Perception and the  
world (f) Perception, knowledge and belief
- 6. Memory**  
(a) Skepticism about memory (b) The concept of the past (c) Types of memory  
(d) Is memory a source of knowledge?
- 7. Knowledge of Oneself and Others**  
(a) Privacy and solipsism (b) Knowledge of one’s own states of mind (c)  
Knowledge of other people’s states of mind (d) Self-knowledge and knowledge  
of other persons
- 8. A priori Knowledge**  
(a) What is a priori knowledge? (b) The analytic and the synthetic (c)  
Synthetic *a priori* truth (d) Conceptual truths (e) The a priori in mathematics  
and science

**Book for study**

D.W. Hamlyn, *The Theory of Knowledge* (London: Macmillan, 1971).

**Suggested readings**

A. J. Ayer, *Problems of Knowledge* (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1977).

Roderick M. Chisholm, *Theory of Knowledge* (New Delhi: Prentice hall of  
India Pvt. Ltd, 1977).

Keith Lehrer, *Knowledge* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1978).

A. D. Woozley, *Theory of Knowledge: An Introduction* (London: Hutchinson  
University Library, 1967).

Duncan Prichard, *What is this thing called knowledge?* (London & New York:  
Routledge, 2006).

**Phil. 511: CONTEMPORARY INDIAN PHILOSOPHY (Revised)**  
**(Hard-core)**  
**4 Credits**

**Book for Study**

V.S. Naravane, *Modern Indian Thought* (Hyderabad: Orient Longman Limited, 1978)

## **Semester - 2**

**Phil.421: STUDY OF AN INDIAN CLASSIC (Revised)**

**(SURESVARA'S *NAISKARMYASIDDHI*)**

**(Hard-core)**

**4 Credits**

### **Book for Study**

Suresvara, *The Naiskarmyasiddhi* (Text with English Translation and Annotation, Madras: University of Madras, 1988).

## PHIL. 423: PHILOSOPHICAL PERSPECTIVES OF WITTGENSTEIN

(Hard-core) (Revised)

4 Credits

### 1. Introduction to Logical Atomism

(a) Ideal Language (b) Propositions (c) Facts (c) Picture theory of meaning (d) Tautologies (e) Values

### 2. The Rejection of Logical Atomism

(a) The problem of interpretation (b) The motley of language (c) Critique of ostensive definition (d) Attack on analysis (e) Family resemblance (f) Some remarks on philosophy

### 3. Understanding

(a) Is understanding a mental process? (b) 'Now I can go on' (c) deriving (d) Experiencing

### 4. Sensations and Mental Acts

(a) Cartesianism (b) Behaviourism (c) Meaning as "I" that (d) sensations

### Skeptical Doubts and Skeptical Solutions to these Doubts

(a) The same gain (b) The machine as a symbol for itself (c) A paradox and its solution (d) Know-nothing approach

### 5. The Private Language Argument

(a) Its occurrence in the text (b) Privacy and certainty (c) Fixing meaning in private language (d) Concluding remarks

### 6. Philosophical Psychology

(a) Introduction (b) Treatment of psychological concepts (c) Expression (d) Seeing and seeing as Privacy and solipsism.

### Book for study

L. Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations*, G.E. M. Anscombe et al., trans. (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1953).

### Suggested readings

Avrum Stroll, *Wittgenstein* (London: Oneworld Publications, 2007, Reprint).

David Pears, *Wittgenstein* (Glasgow: Fontana-Collins, 1977, 5<sup>th</sup> Reprint).

P.M.S. Hacker, *Wittgenstein's Place in the Twentieth Century Analytic Philosophy* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1996).

Robert R. Fogelin, *Wittgenstein* (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1987).



**Phil. 512: RECENT WESTERN PHILOSOPHY (Revised)**  
**(Hard-core)**  
**4 Credits**

**1. Husserl**

Definition of phenomenology – psychologism – phenomenology as a  
Rigorous science – consciousness and intentionality – phenomenological  
Reduction – the structure of the transcendental

**2. Sartre**

Pre-reflective and reflective consciousness – the for – itself and the in-  
Itself – bad faith – freedom – the other.

**Book for study**

Herbert Spiegelberg, *The Phenomenological Movement* (The Hague:  
MartinusNijhoff Publishers, 1982).

**3. Russell**

Theory of descriptions (only) – Theory of types – logical atomism –  
Physical world.

**4. Ayer**

Elimination of metaphysics – principle of verification as a criterion of  
Meaningfulness – phenomenalism as a theory of perception – other  
Minds.

**Book for study**

1. D.M. Datta, *The Chief Currents of Contemporary Philosophy*  
(Calcutta : University of Calcutta, 1970, Third edition).
2. A.J. Ayer, *Language, Truth & Logic* (Hormondsworth: penguin  
Books, 1975, Second edition).

**5. James**

Pragmatic theory of truth – radical empiricism – the construction of the  
physical world – religious experience.

## **6. Dewey**

Mind as symbolic function – ideas as instruments of successful action – attitude towards metaphysics – the social basis of true ideas.

### **Books for study**

1. Fuller and McMurrin, *History of Western Philosophy* (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston I.C., 1955, Third edition, Revised)
2. W.T. Jones, *History of Philosophy, Vol. V. from Wittgenstein to Sartre* (New York : Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Inc., 1975, second edition, Revised).

## **7. Bergson**

Time and change – matter and mind – creative evolution – intellect and intuition – closed and open morality.

### **Book for study**

D.M. Datta, *The Chief Currents of Contemporary Philosophy* (Calcutta: University of Calcutta, 1970, Third edition, Chapter 5, Section 1-7.

## **8. Whitehead**

Epistemology – reality – world and God.

### **Book for Study**

D.M. Datta, *The Chief Currents of Contemporary Philosophy* (Calcutta: University of Calcutta, 1970, Third edition). Chapter 9, Section 1-5.

**Phil.521: PHILOSOPHY OF SRI AUROBINDO (Revised)**  
**(Hard-Core)**  
**(4 Credits)**

**1. Introduction**

- (a) Life and works of Sri Aurobindo (b) Philosophical Orientation  
© The Integral Philosophy (d) Evolution and Involution

**2. The Life Divine- I**

- (a) The Human Aspiration (b) The Materialist Denial (c) The Denial of Ascetic  
(d) Reality Omnipresent

**3. The Life Divine – II**

- (a) The Destiny of Individual (b) The Supreme Consciousness'  
© The Ego and the Dualities (d) The Methods of Vedantic Knowledge

**4. The life-Divine – III**

- (a) The Pure Existent (b) The Conscious Force (c) Delight of Existence  
(d) The Divine Maya

**5. The Synthesis of Yoga – I**

- (a) The Four Aids (b) Self-consecration (c) The Supreme Will (d) The Super mind

**6. The Synthesis Yoga – II**

- (a) The Object of Knowledge (b) The Status of Knowledge  
© The Purified Understanding (d) The Realization of the Cosmic Self

**7. The Human Cycle**

- (a) The Imperfection of the Past Aggregates (b) The Group and the Individual  
© The Inadequacy of the State Idea (d) Nation and Empire

**Books for Study**

- Sri Aurobindo, The life Divine (Pondicherry: Sri Aurobindo Ashram, 2005)  
Sri Aurobindo, The Synthesis of Yoga (Pondicherry : Sri Aurobindo Ashram, 1995)  
Sri Aurobindo, The Human Cycle (Pondicherry: Sri Aurobindo Ashram, 2005)  
HaridasChoudhari, Sri aurobindo : The Prophet of Life Divine (Pondicherry: Sri  
Aurobindo Ashram, 1951)

## **SEMESTER - 3**

**Phil. 426: FOUNDATION OF INDIAN CULTURE (Revised)**  
**(Hard-core)**  
**4 Credits**

### **Books for Study**

1. C.C. Pande, *Foundations of Indian Culture* (MotilalBanarsidass, Delhi, 1990), Vol. I all chapters, Vol. II chapters 1, 8,9,10, & 11.
2. S. Chatterjee & D.M. Datta, *An Introduction to Indian Philosophy*, Calcutta: University of Calcutta, 1984.

**PHIL.513: MODERN LOGIC (Revised)**  
**(Hard-core)**  
**4 Credits**

**1. Introduction**

(a) Origin and development of logic (b) Laws of thought (c) Premises and conclusions (d) Forms of inference (e) Truth and validity

**2. The Uses of Language**

(a) Three basic functions of language (b) The forms of discourse (c) Emotive words (d) Kinds of agreement and disagreement

**3. The Nature of Symbolic Logic**

(a) The fundamental assumptions of symbolic logic (b) Symbolic dictionary (d) Argument and argument form (e) Truth-tables

**4. Propositional Calculus**

(a) Truth-function and truth functional connectives (b) Propositional variables and Constants (c) Direct truth-table method (d) Case analysis as a decision procedure (e) Tautologies, contradictions and contingencies (f) indirect truth-table method (g) Natural deduction and conditional proof (h) RAA proof (i) CNF as a decision procedure (j) Truth-tree technique

**5. Predicate Calculus**

(a) The inadequacy of propositional calculus (b) Symbolic notations of predicate calculus (c) Propositions, functions and propositions in predicate calculus (d) Quantifiers and their use (e) The inadequacy of traditional square of opposition (f) The use of generalization and Instantiation

**6. Axiom System**

(a) What is axiom system? (b) Axiomatization of propositional calculus (c) Axioms and Theorems (d) The three properties of an axiom system: consistency, independence and completeness

**7. Set Theory**

(a) Fundamental notions about set theory (b) The syllogism and the algebra of sets (c) Sets and relationships between them

**Books for study**

1. Irving M. Copi, *Symbolic Logic* (New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., 1977, Fifth edn.).
2. Basson and O'Connor, *Introduction to Symbolic Logic* (London: University Tutorial Press, 1970).
3. P. Balasubramanian, *Symbolic Logic and Its Decision Procedures* ( Madras: University of Madras Philosophical Series 30, 1990).

**Phil. 531: PHILOSOPHICAL APPROACH TO GANDHIAN  
THOUGHT (Revised)  
(Hard-core)  
4 Credits**

1. INTRODUCTION
2. PHILOSOPHICAL IDEAS OF GANDHI
3. MORAL FOUNDATIONS OF GOOD LIFE AND GOOD SOCIETY
4. SWARAJ, SATYAGRAHA AND AHIMSA
5. SARVODAYA
- 6 .GANDH'S CONCEPTION OF RELIGION
8. CRITICAL ASSESMENT OF GANDHISM

**Suggested Readings:**

1. BhikhuPaekh, *Gandhi's Political Philosophy*
2. T.S. Devadass, *Sarvodaya and problems of political sovereignty*
3. D.M. Datta, *The Philosophy of Gandhi*
4. Glyn Richards, *The Philosophy of Gandhi*
5. S. N. Sinha, *Gandhian Philosophy of Survodaya*
6. RaghavanIyer, *The moral and political writings of Gandhi (Vols)*

**Phil. 535: VAISNAVISM**  
**(Soft-core)**  
**3 Credits**

A. VISISTADVAITA

1. Epistemology  
Sources and Means of Knowledge
2. Metaphysics  
God, World, and Soul: Nature and Inter-relation
3. Ethics  
Means to Liberation: Bondage and Liberation: Causes and Nature

B. DVAITA

1. Epistemology  
Sources and Means of Knowledge
2. Metaphysics  
God, World, and Soul: Nature and inter-relation
3. Ethics  
Means to Liberation: Bondage and Liberation: Causes and Nature

**References**

1. Srinivasachari: *Yattindramatadipuka*, Chennai: Ramakrishna Math
2. S.M. Srinivasachari: *Vaisnavism: Its Philosophy, Theology and Religious Discipline*
3. Sharma, B.N.K. *History of the Dvaita School of Vedanta and its Literature*
4. Ramachandran, T.P: *Dvaita Vedanta*, New Delhi: Arnold Hememana Publishers (India) Pvt., Ltd., 1976.

## **SEMESTER - 4**

### **PHIL. 416: ECO-PHILOSOPHY**

**(Soft-core)**  
**3 Credits**

**1. Eco-cosmology**

(a) One or many cosmologies (b) Why do we need a new cosmology? (c) Eco-cosmology: Anthropocentric principle, evolution and participatory mind (d) Eco-ethics

**2. Eco-philosophy vis-à-vis Contemporary Philosophy**

(a) The debacle of contemporary philosophy (b) Life orientation (c) Commitment, spirituality (d) social responsibility and tolerance of trans-physical

**3. Knowledge and Values**

(a) Historical background (b) Eclipse of values in 19<sup>th</sup> century (c) Information, knowledge and wisdom (d) Ecological values and sustainable development

**4. Humanism and Ecological Consciousness**

(a) Ethics and cosmology (b) The scientific cosmology (c) Kant, Marx and Schweitzer (d) The Promethean heritage (e) Deep and shallow ecologies

**5. The Ecological Person**

(a) Western philosophies of man and their shortcomings (b) Ecological person and the celebration of life (c) Wisdom, technology and human destiny (d) Summary

**6. Power: Myth and Reality**

(a) The myth of power (b) The Faustian life (c) Marx and Lenin on mythologizing economic power (d) Power as authority: Gandhi, Khomeini and Walesa (e) Towards a new paradigm of power

**7. Space, Life and Modern Architecture**

(a) The human as a spiritual animal (b) The quest for quality (c) Beyond the magic of machine (d) From shell to temple



### **Books for study**

Henry Skolimowski, *Dancing Shiva in the Ecological Age* (New York: Clarion Books, 1991).

-----, *Living Philosophy: Eco-Philosophy as a Tree of Life* (London: Arkana, 1992).

Peter Singer, *Practical Ethics* (London: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

### **Phil. 426: FOUNDATION OF INDIAN CULTURE (Revised) (Hard-core) 4 Credits**

#### **Books for Study**

1. C.C. Pande, *Foundations of Indian Culture* (Motilal Banarsidass, Delhi, 1990), Vol. I all chapters, Vol. II chapters 1, 8,9,10, & 11.
2. S. Chatterjee & D.M. Datta, *An Introduction to Indian Philosophy*, Calcutta: University of Calcutta, 1984

**Phil. 434: APPLIED ETHICS**  
**(Soft-core)**  
**3 Credits**

**1. Introduction**

- (a) Meaning-nature-scope of ethics
- (b) Evaluation of human actions (moral, immoral and amoral)
- (c) Ethical standards

**2. Applied Ethics and Human Resource Development**

- (a) Life values
- (b) Goodness
- (c) Justice
- (d) Truth telling

**3. Professional Ethics: Ethical Codes of Conduct in Various Professions**

- (a) Fundamentals of medical ethics
- (b) Business ethics
- (c) Eco-ethics
- (d) Situational ethics

**4. Morality and Contemporary Social Issues**

- (a) Feminism
- (b) Information revolution
- (c) Animal liberation
- (d) Hate speech

**5. Morality, Law and Society**

- (a) Use of drugs
- (b) Death penalty
- (c) Suicide and Euthanasia
- (d) Individual Freedom

**6. Morality, Sex and Reproduction**

- (a) Homosexuality
- (b) Pornography
- (c) Abortion
- (d) Surrogate motherhood

**7. Morality and International Scene**

- (a) Human rights
- (b) Rich and poor nations
- (c) Hunger and welfare
- (d) Right to eat and duty to work

### **Book for study**

1. Harold R. Titus, *Ethics for Today* (Indiana: Prentice Hall, 2006), 9<sup>th</sup> Edn.
2. Jadunath Sinha, *Manual of Ethics* (Kolkatta: New Central Book Agency, 2006), Revised Edn.
3. Thiroux P. Jacques, *Ethics: Theory and Practice* (New York: Van Nostrand, 1973).
4. W.K. Frankena, *Ethics* (Indiana: Prentice Hall, 1988).
5. Winkelr E.R. & Coombs J.R., *Applied Ethics: A Reader*, New Jersey: Wiley-Blackwell, 1993).

**Phil. 516: PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY**  
**(Soft-core)**  
**3 Credits**

**Book for study**

William Dray, *Philosophy of History* (New Delhi: Prentice – Hall of India, 1971)

**Phil.525: INDIVIDUAL PROJECT (Revised)**  
**(Hard-Core)**  
**4 Credits**