Open Elective Courses offered

by

Department of Philosophy

S. No.	Course Code	Course Title	Credits	Course Type
1.	PHI-001	Foundations of Philosophy	02	OE
2.	PHI-002	Introduction to Political Philosophy	02	OE
3.	PHI-003	Philosophical Foundations of Research	02	OE
4.	PHI-004	Introduction to Indian Philosophy	02	OE
5.	PHI-005	Introduction to Islamic Philosophy	02	OE
6.	PHI-006	Ethics in the Public Domain	02	OE
7.	PHI-007	Society and Public Sphere	02	OE
8.	PHI-008	Facets of Philosophy	02	OE

Syllabus: Open Elective Courses, Averroes Centre for Philosophical Studies

PHI-001: Foundations of Philosophy

Course Objectives:

The course is designed as an open elective that will cater to students with no background in Philosophy as well as those who are acquainted with philosophical discourse. The course comprises of general, essential and foundational concepts/themes/issues that are a prerequisite to any competent philosophic understanding.

The course is divided into two units, each focussing on developing a comprehensive and foundational understanding of Philosophy. Unit I explores the way Philosophy is defined/understood and why there is a need to do Philosophy even now, the evolution of Philosophy and the various philosophical schools. Unit II is aimed at exploring central branches of philosophy like Metaphysics, Epistemology, and Ethics etc. The main objectives of the paper are:

- To introduce the student to a fundamental Philosophic knowledge.
- To acquaint the student with basic philosophical concepts, themes and schools.
- To equip the student with basic tools and vocabulary to engage in a philosophic discourse.

Course Outcomes:

- To gain the basic Philosophic vocabulary and an acquaintance with various philosophic concepts and the debates surrounding them.
- To provide a critical distinction between various philosophic systems and summarize their main tenets with a proper vocabulary.
- To use various philosophic paradigms for the interpretation of a text.

UNIT I: Introducing Philosophy

1. Philosophy

- Meaning: Why do Philosophy?
- Definition: What does Philosophy mean?

1

2. Evolution of Philosophy

- A general history of philosophy from the Greeks to the Moderns

3. Schools of Philosophy

- Idealism, Rationalism, Empiricism, Scepticism, Dialectics, Hermeneutics, Marxism

UNIT II: Branches of Philosophy

1. Metaphysics: What does it mean to be?

2. Epistemology: How do you know that you know?

3. Ethics: What should you do?

PHI-002: Introduction to Political Philosophy

Course Objectives:

This course paper is designed as a general introduction to a sub-discipline of Philosophy called Political Philosophy. It is a common course in the Departments of Philosophy and Political Science, with difference in focus owing to the disciplinary distinctions. It will serve a guide to the major concepts encountered in day-to-day politics, citizenry and political life of the people as collective. It will make students familiar with the *key concepts* of Political Philosophy with a purpose that they recognize their relevance of to their lives and are able to demonstrate the interrelationship of these theoretical concepts and practical politics around these issues to the visions of public citizenship in constitutional democracies.

Course Outcomes

a) To provide an introduction to, and critical appraisal of, *basic concepts* of Political Philosophy.
b) To grow familiar with the historical evolution and refinements in the debates of liberty, equality, community, social justice and democracy.
c) To critically analyze the response of political philosophers/ thinkers to the questions of principles of collective life.
d) To understand the functioning of the *State* and locate the scope of social justice within the framework of secured liberty-equality-fraternity.

Unit I: Key Concepts I

- Liberty

2

- Equality
- Fraternity

Unit II: Key Concepts II

- State
- Democracy
- Justice

PHI-003: Philosophical Foundations of Research (Sem 3,5,7)

Course Objectives:

The elective course will introduce the students to philosophical assumptions and paradigms related to design and conduct of research. It will also deliberate on key ethical considerations during conduct of research and production of knowledge. The overall purpose of the course is to introduce research as an activity in philosophy and practice, and ethics in research and knowledge production.

Course Outcomes:

- To gain an understanding of philosophical paradigms for the conduct of research, and design conceptual and methodological frameworks for research

Unit I: Key Concepts

- Ontology and Epistemology
- Logic: Deductive and Inductive
- Research Paradigms, Research Design

Unit II: Ethics and Research

- Validity and Reliability
- Positionality
- Privacy and Plagiarism

3

PHI-004: Introduction to Indian Philosophy

Course Objectives:

The objective is to introduce students to the basic concepts of Indian philosophical thought and Indian religious philosophies. The purpose is to provide learners an overview of the transition of Indian Philosophy from its classical to contemporary times.

Course Outcomes:

- To cultivate an in-depth knowledge of the origin and development of Indian Philosophy and the views and positions of the prominent figures in contemporary Indian philosophy.

Unit I: Origin and Development

- Basic Features
- Indian Religious Philosophies: Jainism, Buddhism, Hinduism
- Esoteric Traditions and Sufism

Unit II: Contemporary Indian Thought

- Maharishi Raman
- Shri Aurobindo
- Swami Vivekananda
- Mahatma Gandhi
- Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

PHI-005: Introduction to Islamic Philosophy (Sem 3, 5, 7)

Course Objectives:

The objective of the course is to introduce students to the emergence and development of Islamic Philosophy from its earliest stages to the present day and the issues around which the major schools have built their intellectual edifice.

Course Outcomes:

- To gain a comprehensive understanding of the major concepts and schools of Indian Philosophy.

Unit I: Islamic Philosophy: Origin and Development

4

- Kalaam and Philosophy
- Muslim Scholastics (Mutazalites, Asharites, Maturidians)
- Arabic Translations of Philosophical Discourse

Unit II: Later Development of Islamic Philosophy

- Western Influences on Islamic Philosophy and Vice Versa
- Key Philosophers I: Al-Kindi, Al-Farabi, Ibn-Sena
- Key Philosophers II: Gazali, Ibn-Rushd

Course Code: PHI-006   **Course Title: Ethics in the Public Domain**

Credits: 02   **Course Type: Open Elective**

Course Objectives:

The students will be exposed to a multifaceted introduction of ethics and morality and its need and distinction within public life. Further, the course apart from exploring the moral life of traditional social institutions such as marriage, caste etc. will explore the moral needs and predicaments that contemporary societies face in wake of massified technocratization and digitalization of societies.

Course Outcomes:

At the end of this course learners will be in a better position to understand their moral role with respect to the public domain and can make morally informed choices while navigating the problems, dilemmas and predicaments of public life. The students will be better prepared to shoulder the responsibilities of their public roles, going forward. Further a moral reading of social institutions and digital space will enable them to interrogate and evaluate these institutions to further the ideals of a good society.

Unit-I: The Public & Ethics Interface
Why be moral? The fundamental questions of Ethics, The Ring of Gyges, The Trolley Problem, The public-private distinction, The dichotomy of Private & Public morality.

Unit-II Ethics and Public Spaces
The public relevance of Consequentialism, Free speech/hate speech and public morality,
 'Truth' and the online world, Post-truth society, Data points and privacy.
The students will watch following documentary to understand the moral predicaments of digital/virtual space: *The Social Dilemma* by Jeff Orlowski-Yang

Suggested Readings:

1. Ambedkar, B.R. "Castes in India." In *Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Writings and Speeches, Vol. 1* (ed. Vasant Moon) pp. 03-22. Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, 2014.
2. Archard, David. "Privacy, the public interest and a prurient public." In *Media ethics*, pp. 82-96. Routledge, 2002.
3. Ess, Charles. *Digital Media Ethics*. Polity Press, 2013.
4. Finnis, John. *Fundamentals of Ethics*. Georgetown University Press, 1983.
5. Fortner, Robert S. *Ethics in the Digital Domain*. Rowman & Littlefield, 2020.
6. Ginbar, Yuval, 'Is there a 'Public Morality' that is Distinct from 'Private Morality'?', *Why Not Torture Terrorists? Moral, Practical, and Legal Aspects of the "Ticking Bomb" Justification for Torture*, Oxford Monographs in International Law (Oxford, 2008; online edn, Oxford Academic, 1 Jan. 2009), https://doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199540914.003.0008
7. Nagel, Thomas. "Personal rights and public space." *Philosophy & Public Affairs* (1995): 83-107.
8. Russell, Bertrand. *Marriage and Morals*. Routledge, 2017.
9. Sen, Amartya. *Inequality Reexamined*. Harvard university press, 1995.
10. Tittle, Peg. *What if...: Collected Thought Experiments in Philosophy*. Routledge, 2016.

11. Zamir, Eyal, and Barak Medina, "Private and Public Morality," *Law, Economics, and Morality* (New York, 2010; online edn, Oxford Academic, 1 May 2010), https://doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195372168.003.03

Course Code: PHI-007   **Course Title: Society and Public Sphere**

Credits: 02   **Course Type: Open Elective**

Course Objectives: To introduce the normative and theoretical aspects of the concept of public sphere. The conceptual schema of public sphere from western as well as non-western perspectives will be studied so that the students get a nuanced picture of contextual and conceptual distinctions between various perspectives of public sphere.)

Course Outcomes: The students will be in a position to define and contrast important theoretical lineages of public sphere. More importantly the theoretical familiarization with important thinkers of public sphere will help the students in the application of the studied models to various arms of the hyper-mediatized society such as social media, electronic media, print media etc.

Unit I: Inventing the Public Sphere
   a. Public-private distinction
   b. public reason, public opinion, public interest
   c. public sphere and non-public opinion

Unit II: Society and Public Sphere
   a. Religion and public sphere in Indian and Western context
   b. Media, mass society and refeudalization of public sphere
   c. Publicity, private interests, hyper-mediatization and distorted communication

Suggested Reading:
   1. Gripsrud, Jostein, et al. eds. *The Idea of the Public Sphere: A Reader.* Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2010. (relevant sections)
   2. McKee, A. *The Public Sphere: An Introduction.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (2004).
   3. Butler, Judith, ed. *The Power of Religion in the Public Sphere*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2011.
   4. de Sousa Santos, Boaventura. "Public Sphere and Epistemologies of the South." *Africa Development* 37, no. 1 (2013): 43–67.
   5. Dwivedi, Divya, and Viswanathan Sanil, eds. *The Public Sphere from Outside the West*. Bloomsbury Publishing, 2015.
   6. Fisher, Elaine M. *Hindu Pluralism: Religion and the Public Sphere in Early Modern South India*. Oakland, CA: University of California Press, 2017.
   7. Harindranath, Ramaswami. "The Indian Public Sphere: Histories, Contradictions and Challenges." *Media International Australia* 152, no. 1 (2014): 168–75.
   8. Pandian, M. S. S. "One Step Outside Modernity: Caste, Identity Politics and Public Sphere." *Economic and Political Weekly* 37, no. 18 (2002): 1735–41.

Course Code: PHI-008   **Course Title: Facets of Philosophy**

Credits: 02   **Course Type: DCE**

Course Objectives:

- To understand the meaning, purpose and essence of philosophy through the conceptual prisms of various philosophers.
- To acquaint the students with multiple layers of doing and studying philosophy through the interdisciplinary/multidiscplinary medium of films, literature and thought experiments.

Course Outcomes:

- The students are able to comprehend philosophical issues through the significant lenses of philosophers, films, literature and epics.
- A public engagement of philosophy helps the students to demystify philosophical thinking and make it relevant to concrete life situations.

Unit-I:

a. Meaning, Nature and Problems of Philosophy (Russell, Deleuze)
b. Philosophy for everyday life, Public Philosophy
c. Philosophy and Literature, Narration and Argumentation

Unit-II:

a. Thought Experiments as a philosophical tool, Popper's Taxonomy
b. The Imaginary language of film
c. Epics and their philosophical significance

Suggested Readings:

1. Bronstein, Daniel J. *Basic problems of Philosophy*. Prentice Hall, 1964.
2. Carroll, Noël, and Jinhee Choi, eds. *Philosophy of Film and Motion Pictures: an anthology*. John Wiley & Sons, 2009.
3. Deleuze, Gilles, and Félix Guattari. *What is Philosophy?* Columbia University Press, 1994.
4. Eileen, John and Dominic McIver Lopes, eds. *Philosophy of Literature: Contemporary and Classical Readings.* Oxford: Blackwell, 2004.
5. Frappier, Mélanie, Letitia Meynell, and James Robert Brown, eds. *Thought Experiments in Philosophy, Science, and the Arts*. Routledge, 2013.
6. Badrinath, Chaturvedi. *The Mahabharata: An inquiry in the human condition*. Hyderabad: Orient Longman, 2007.
7. Russell, Bertrand. *The Problems of Philosophy.* OUP Oxford, 2001.
8. Khatib, Lina, ed. *Storytelling in World Cinemas: Contexts*. Wallflower Press London & New York Press, 2013.
9. Dissanayake, Wimal, and K. M. Gokulsing. *Routledge handbook of Indian cinemas*. Routledge, 2013.
10. Kumar, Akshaya. "Re-Visioning Caste in Indian Cinema." *Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal* 104, no. 4 (2021): 362-391.