

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

BA (HONS.) PHILOSOPHY

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC CORE COURSE -7 (DSC-7) – Western Philosophy: Descartes to Kant

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

Course title& Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Western Philosophy: Descartes to Kant DSC 7	4	3	1	0	12 th Pass	Sem 1 and II, UG, BA Hons, Philosophy

Learning Objectives

The Learning Objectives of this course are as follows:

- The paper introduces the seminal ideas of the western philosophers from the time of Descartes (1592-1650) onwards till David Hume (1711-1776)
- The readings will enhance the study of six philosophers grouped under two traditions of thought: Rationalism and Empiricism
- The course will aim at analysing the main arguments surrounding the reasons for accepting rationalism vs empiricism
- The course will increase an understanding of the genesis of modern debates in philosophy and allied disciplines like cognitive science, artificial intelligence.

Learning outcomes

The Learning Outcomes of this course are as follows:

- It will enable students to understand the debates between rationalism and empiricism through the reading of original texts
- Students will be able to critically analyse the arguments on each side of the rationalist-empiricist debate
- Students will be able to evaluate the modern significance of the historical debates that are still reverberating in contemporary research

UNIT 1: Introduction

(9 hours)

1. Rationalism
2. Empiricism
3. The main aspects of the debate

Essential Readings

Rationalism vs. Empiricism- Markie, Peter, *The Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy*, 2017 ed. Zalta.N. Edward.

UNIT 2: Rationalism

(12 hours)

1. Descartes: Method of Doubt
2. Spinoza : Concept of God
3. Leibniz : The concept of Monads

Essential Readings

Rene Descartes- Meditations on First Philosophy, London: Penguin Classics, 1998.(Ch. 1 and 2)

Spinoza- Ethics, London, Penguin Classics, 2005 (Book-1)

G W Leibniz- Refer to any secondary source for the concept of Monads.

UNIT 3: Empiricism

(12 hours)

1. Locke: Critique of Innate Ideas
2. Berkeley: Immaterialism(denial of matter)
3. Hume : Ideas and Impressions (brief description) and Causation

Essential Readings-

Locke, John: An Essay Concerning Human Understanding, London, Penguin Classics, 1997 (**Book-1**)

Berkeley, George- Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous, London, Penguin Classics, 1988. (**First Dialogue only**)

Hume, David : An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding, Oxford : Clarendon Press, 1975 (**Part 1- section 2 &3 and Part 2- section 7**)

UNIT 4: Critical Philosophy

(12 hours)

1. Classification of Propositions
2. Analytic, Synthetic,
3. Synthetic a priori

Essential Reading

Kant, Immanuel, Critique of Pure Reason, Cambridge Ed. of the works of Immanuel Kant, Guyer, Paul and Wood, Allen, 1999, (Introduction- pp-127-152)

Suggestive Readings

1. Copleston, F.J. History of Philosophy, USA, Image Books, 1993
2. Falkenberg, R. History of Modern Philosophy, USA, Jefferson Publications, 2015
3. Moore, Bruder, Philosophy: The Power of Ideas, New Delhi, Tata McGraw Hill, 2011
4. O'Connor, D.J. A Critical History of western Philosophy, USA, MacMillan, 1964
5. Steg Muller, W. Main Currents in Contemporary German, British and American Philosophy, Dordrecht; D. Riedel Publishing, 1969
6. Garrett, Thomson, An Introduction to Modern Philosophy, California: Wadsworth Publishing, 1993

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC CORE COURSE -8 (DSC-8) – Social and Political Philosophy

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Social and Political Philosophy DSC-8	4	3	1	Nil	12 th Pass	Sem I and Sem II UG Philosophy Hons

Course Objective

- This course aims at introducing the students to fundamental issues, and concepts in modern social and political philosophy.
- This course will enhance the understanding of social and political structures that govern our world, and understand the underlying theoretical frameworks.
- This course will discuss concept like liberty, justice, democracy, dignity, civilisation, and nationalism, inter alia.

Course Learning Outcomes

- The student will learn to analyze political concepts and understand their critical role in our intellectual and practical lives
- The course will enable to the student to reflect on the theoretical presuppositions of our social and political structures
- The student will understand the philosophical origin, and nature of some of the fundamental concepts used in contemporary political discourse.

UNIT-I: INTRODUCTION

(9 hours)

1. Understanding Political Philosophy.
2. Basic Concepts

Essential/Recommended Readings:

Strauss, L. (1957). What is Political Philosophy? *The Journal of Politics*, 19(3), 343–368.
<https://doi.org/10.2307/2126765>

UNIT-II: MODERN LIBERAL THOUGHT

(12 hours)

1. Fundamentals of Modern Western Liberal Thought.
2. Enlightenment, State of Nature, Slavery
3. The Beginning of Political Societies

Essential/Recommended Readings:

Kant, I. (2006). An Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment? In Kleingeld, P., & Colclasure, D. L. *Toward Perpetual Peace and Other Writings on Politics, Peace, and History (Rethinking the Western Tradition)*. (pp. 17–23). Yale University Press.

Locke, J. (1960). Of the State of Nature. In Laslett, P. *Two Treatises of Government*. (sections. 4-15) Cambridge University Press.

Locke, J. (1960). Of Slavery. In Laslett, P. *Two Treatises of Government*. (sections 22- 24) Cambridge University Press.

Locke, J. (1960). Of the Beginning of Political Societies. In Laslett, P. *Two Treatises of Government*. (sections 95-104) Cambridge University Press.

Rawls, J (2001). Fundamental Ideas. In Kelly, E. (Ed.). *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement*. (pp. 1-38). Harvard University Press.

UNIT- III: LIMITS OF MODERN WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT (12 hours)

- 1) Social structures
- 2) The Possibility of a classless society

Essential/Recommended Readings:

Arendt, H. (1976). A Classless Society. In *The Origins of Totalitarianism*. (pp. 305-340). Harvest Book.

UNIT-IV: INDIAN POLITICAL THOUGHT (12 hours)

- 1) Critique of Nationalism.
- 2) Critique of Modern Western Civilisation.
- 3) Democracy and Annihilation of Caste.
- 4) Radical Humanism.

Tagore, R. (2005). Nationalism in the West. In *Nationalism*. (Chapter 1) Rupa & Co. Gandhi, M. K. (1997). Hind Swaraj. In Parel, A. (Ed.). (Chapter 6-13). Cambridge University Press. Ambedkar, B.R. (2002). Caste, Class and Democracy. In Rodrigues, V. (Ed.). *The Essential Writings of B.R. Ambedkar*. (pp. 132-148). Oxford University Press.

Ambedkar, B.R. (2014). Annihilation of Caste. In Anand, S. (Ed.). *Annihilation of Caste: The Annotated Critical Edition*. (Sections 14.1-14.7). Verso.

Roy, M.N. (1981). A New Political Philosophy. In *A New Humanism: A Manifesto*. (Chapter 6, pp. 34-37). Ajanta Publications.

Suggestive Readings

Lof Der Zotheid Psychologenpraktijk. (2016). The Milgram Experiment 1962 Full Documentary [Video]. You Tube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rdrKCilEhC0I>

Berlin, I. (1969). Two Concepts of Liberty. In *Four Essays on Liberty*. (pp. 118-172) Oxford University Press.

Raphael, D D. *Problems of Political Philosophy*, New York : Palgrave, 2009.

Miller, D. *Political Philosophy - A Very Short Introduction*, New Delhi : Oxford University Press, 2006 .

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC CORE COURSE – 9 (DSC-9): Applied Ethics

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Applied Ethics DSC 9	4	3	1	Nil	12 th Pass	Sem I and II UG Philosophy Hons

Learning Objectives

- This course is about an evolving interdisciplinary domain dealing with ethical issues in diverse areas
- This incorporates social, political, normative, business, computer, medical, bioethics, and environmental ethics.
- The course will inculcate a sense of inquiry into new areas that students feel interested in but don't know how to inquire into systematically.

Course Learning Outcomes

- This course will develop skills of comprehension of real life ethical situations
- This course will equip students with the intellectual ability to deal with dilemmas and problems faced in actual situations of ethical import
- This course will enhance the student's capacity to handle complex situations involving many variables of decision making in an ethical manner
- This course will create a better understanding of the complex world of decision making faced in professional life

Unit 1 An Introduction to Applied Ethics

(9 hours)

1. Introduction
2. Basic concepts
3. Dilemmas and problems

Essential/Recommended Readings

Singer Peter, Applied Ethics, Oxford University Press, 1986

Unit 2 Value of Human Life

(12 hours)

1. Human Rights
2. Punishment

Essential/Recommended Readings:

Benn, S. I. (1958). An Approach to the Problems of Punishment. *Philosophy* 33 (127):325 - 341.

Ewing, Alfred C. (1929). *The Morality of Punishment : With Some Suggestions for a General Theory of Ethics*. Routledge.

Flew, Antony (1954). The Justification of Punishment. *Philosophy* 29 (111):291 - 307.

Unit 3 Environmental Ethics**(12 hours)**

1. Nature as Means or End.
2. Respect for animals and ecology.

Essential/Recommended Readings:

Singer, Peter (2009). *Animal Liberation: The Definitive Classic of the Animal Movement*. Ecco Book/Harper Perennial.

Vibha Chaturvedi, Pragati Sahni (2019, Understanding ethics, Motilal Banarsidass Publishers, Private Limited, Delhi.

Unit 4 Professional Ethics and Public Policy**(12 hours)**

1. Medical Ethics - Surrogacy, Euthanasia and Doctor-Patient Relationship
2. Privacy: The Public Interest and a Prurient Public in Media Ethics.

Essential/Recommended readings

Campbell, Alastair V. (2013). Clinical Ethics. In *Bioethics: The Basics*. New York: Routledge, pp. 79-114

Tong, R. (2005). Surrogate Motherhood. In *A Companion to Applied Ethics* (eds R.G. Frey and C. Heath Wellman). <https://doi.org/10.1002/9780470996621.ch27>

Archard, David (1998), Privacy, The Public Interest and a Prurient Public in Media Ethics, Ed. Kieran Mathew, Routledge, pp. 82-94

Suggestive Readings

Singer Peter, Applied Ethics, Oxford University Press, 1986

Pojman Louis, Pojman Paul, McShane Katie, Environmental Ethics: Readings in Theory and Application, Cengage Learning, 2017

Motilal Shashi (ed)(2010), Applied Ethics and Human Rights: Conceptual Analysis and Contextual Applications. London, Anthem Press

Cohen I. Cohen and Wellman Christopher Heath, Contemporary Debates in Applied Ethics, Wiley Blackwell, 2014
Patterson and Lee Wilkins, Media Ethics:Issues and Cases, Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 2018
Rachel James, The Elements of Moral Philosophy, Oxford University Press, 2011