

SEMESTER - VI
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Category I

(B.A. Honours in Philosophy in three years)

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC CORE COURSE -16 (DSC-16) – Philosophy of Religion

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		
Philosophy of Religion DSC 16	4	3	1	None	12th Passed	None

Learning Objective

- The course familiarizes the students with basic arguments regarding religion that philosophers have presented
- The course cover topics like the language of religion, cognitive and non-cognitivist theories, key proofs for the existence of God and the ethics of belief
- The course will give students a very important orientation regarding the manner of assessment of arguments and claims made by religion.

Learning Outcomes

- The students will be able to analyze arguments presented in religion
- The students will learn to pay attention to the nuances of the language of religion
- The students will comprehend the complications involved in choosing between faith and reason and will come to have a better appreciation of the religious life.

Unit 1 Introduction

(9 Hours, 3 Weeks)

1. Nature of Religion and its relation to Philosophy of Religion
2. Religious language.

Essential/Recommended Readings

John H. Hick, *Philosophy of Religion*, New Jersey Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, 1990.

Brody, Baruch A, *Readings in Philosophy of Religion*, Ed. Vol 1, New Jersey, PHI, 1974.

Nielson, Kai (2008). "The Problem of Religious Language", In *Routledge Companion to Philosophy of Religion* Edited By Chad Meister, Paul Copan, Chapter 39

Ambedkar, B R. *The Philosophy of Hinduism*, Critical Quest, New Delhi, pg. 3-22. ("Towards a Philosophy of Religion")

Unit 2 Existence of God

(12 Hours, 4 Weeks)

1. Proofs for the existence of God: Ontological Argument (with reference to St. Anselm,
2. Gaunilo's Criticism, Descartes version, Kant's and Bertrand Russell's critique)
3. Cosmological Argument (Thomas Aquinas' version).
4. Teleological Argument (William Paley: Classic version, David Hume's critique)
5. The idea of Divine in Indian Philosophy

Essential/Recommended Readings

Ramamurty, A. *Indian Philosophy of Religion*, Decent Books, New Delhi, 2002, pg. 15-41 ("Divine")

Baruch A Brody ed, *Reading in Philosophy of Religion*, New Jersey PHI Publication, 1974.

Meister Chad, (ed.), *Philosophy of Religion Reader*, New York, Routledge, 2008.

John H. Hick, *Philosophy of Religion*, New Jersey Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, 1990.

Unit 3 Challenges to Religion

(12 Hours, 4 Weeks)

1. Religious Pluralism.
2. Science and Religion

Recommended Readings

John H. Hick (2008) "Religious Pluralism", In *Routledge Companion to Philosophy of Religion* Edited by Chad Meister and Paul Copan, RKP, Chapter 20

Dawkins, R. "Science Discredits Religion" <http://www.stephenhicks.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/DawkinsR-Science-Discredits-Religion.pdf>

Unit 4: The tradition of religious experience**(12 Hours, 4 Weeks)**

1. Vedic and Upanishadic Tradition,
2. Yoga, Tantra and Bhakti

Essential/Recommended Readings

McDaniel, J. (2009), Religious Experience in Hindu Tradition. Religion Compass, 3: 99-115. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1749-8171.2008.00120.x>

Suggestive readings

- Ramamurty, A. *Indian Philosophy of Religion*, Decent Books, New Delhi, 2002
- Mahapatra, A R. *Philosophy of Religion*, Sterling Publishers, 1990
- Meister Chad, (ed.), *Philosophy of Religion Reader*, New York, Routledge, 2008.
- Russell, Bertrand, *Why am I not a Christian*, Routledge, Indian edition, 2004.
- William Lane Craig (ed.), *Philosophy of Religion : A Reader and Guide*, Edinburgh, Edinburgh University Press, 2002.
- Stump and Murray, ed. *Philosophy of Religion : The Big Questions*, Blackwell Publications, 1999
- Ramamurty, A. *Indian Philosophy of Religion*, Decent Books, New Delhi, 2002
- Narasu, Lakshmi. *Religion of the Modern Buddhist*, Wordsmiths, 2002.

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC CORE COURSE -17 (DSC-17) – Philosophy of Language**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		
Philosophy of Language DSC 17	4	3	1	NIL	12th Passed	None

Learning Objective

- This course is an introduction to the philosophy of Language. Philosophy of Language concerns quite a large no. of topics including meaning, truth, content, reference, the syntax and semantics of various linguistic constructions, etc.
- The objective of this course is to focus on some central topics which have far reaching consequences in other topics of philosophy of language in particular and other areas of philosophy in general.
- On the one hand, students will be exposed to some of the central theories of meaning proposed by a couple of philosophers of Language from the West, and on the other hand, to the epistemology of language understanding from a perspective of an Indian school of thought.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this course students will

1. Develop an understanding of classical philosophical theories of meaning and reference.
2. Acquire the ability to provide reasons for and against various positions in the philosophical debates over language and semantics.
3. Develop a rational insight into the intrinsic relation between language, language users and the world.

UNIT I: Theories of Meaning: Frege & Russell

(12 Hours, 4 Weeks)

1. Sinn und Bedeutung
2. Denotation
3. Descriptions and Names

Essential/Recommended Reading:

Frege, G., "On Sense and Reference", tr. by M. Black in *Translations from the Philosophical Writings of Gottlob Frege*, P. Geach and M. Black (eds. and trans.), Oxford, Blackwell, 3rd edition, 1980, pp. 1-11.

Russell, B., "On Denoting", *Mind*, 1905, pp. 479-493.

UNIT II: Critique of the Theories of Meaning: Strawson **weeks)**

(9 Hours, 3

1. Use
2. Presupposition and Entailment
3. Sentence, Statement, Utterance

Essential/Recommended Readings

Strawson, P. F., "On Referring", *Mind*, 1950, pp. 320-344.

**UNIT III: Language and the World: Indian Perspective
Weeks)**

(12 Hours, 4

1. Word and the world
2. The relation of language to reality

Essential/Recommended Readings:

Matilal, B.K. *The Word and the World: India's contribution to the Study of Language*. Delhi; Oxford University Press, 1990, pp. 3-7; 18-30, (Introduction, Words and their Meanings)

UNIT IV: Nature and causes of Word generated Knowledge (12 Hours, 4 Weeks)

1. Nyaya Philosophy of Language

Essential/Recommended Readings:

NyayasiddhantaMuktavali, Shabdakhandam, Karikavalli, Verse 81, 83, 84abc, 84cd (Sanskrit Text along with English Translation in John Vattanky SJ, *Nyaya Philosophy of Language*, [Sri Satguru Publications, Delhi, 1995] pp.113-115; 118-132; 458; 479-80; 496-97.

Suggestive Readings:

- Lycan, W. *Philosophy of Language: A Contemporary Introduction*, New York: Routledge, 2008.
- Jerrold, K. J. "The Philosophical Relevance of Linguistic theory" in *The Philosophy of Language*, (ed.) Searle, Oxford University Press, 1971.
- Russell, B. *The Philosophy of Logical Atomism*. London: Routledge, 2010.
- Morris, Michael. *An Introduction to the Philosophy of Language*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2007.
- Donnellan, K., "References and Definite Descriptions", *The Philosophical Review*, vol.-75, 1966, pp. 281-304.
- Jha, V. N. *Śabdakhaṇḍa of the Nyāyasiddhāntamuktāvalī*, Sambhāṣā, Vol. 13, 1992.
- Kunjuni Raja, K. *Indian Theories of Meaning*, Adyar Library, Madras, 1963.
- Shastri, D. N. *Critique of Indian Realism*, Agra: Agra University, 1964.
- Matilal, B.K. *The Word and the World: India's contribution to the Study of Language*. Delhi; Oxford University Press, 1990.
- Matilal, B. K. *Logic, Language, and Reality*, Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, Delhi, 1996.
- *NyayaSiddhantaMuktavali* of Visvanatha, English Translation: *Nyaya Philosophy of Language*, Tr. by John Vattanky, S. J., Sri Satguru Publications, Delhi, 1995.

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC CORE COURSE – 18 (DSC-18) Epistemology

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		
Epistemology DSC 18	4	3	1	NIL	12th Passed	None

Learning Objectives

- We all want knowledge, but do we know what knowledge is? This is a course in epistemology: the theory of knowledge which aims to acquaint students with the various aspects of knowledge and to instruct them on the biggest challenge it faces viz. skepticism.
- The course will cover various theories of knowledge and what definitions of knowledge have been offered.
- The course will acquaint students with whether knowledge is even possible and how to handle objections from skepticism.

Learning Outcomes

The learning outcomes aimed at are the following:

- The students will learn about the concerns that surround the notion of knowledge
- The students will appreciate the problems surrounding the definition of knowledge
- The students will be able to analyse and critically think about the sources of knowledge
- The student will understand the power of radical skepticism and how to respond in a measured and responsible way

UNIT 1: KNOWLEDGE AND ITS DEFINITION

(9 Hours, 3 Weeks)

1. Types of knowledge
2. Truth and Belief
3. Knowing Versus Merely Getting It Right
4. The Problem of the Criterion
5. Is Knowledge Justified True Belief?

Essential/Recommended Readings:

Topics 1 – 3, Pritchard, Duncan. What is this thing called Knowledge?, Fourth Edition. RKP, 2018, Chapter 1 and 3 (Part I) Title of Chapter 1: Some Preliminaries, pp.3 - 9
 Topic 5, Gettier, Edmund. Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?, Analysis 23 (6), pp. 121-123. 1963.
 Topics 4 – 6, Pritchard, Duncan. What is this thing called Knowledge?, Fourth Edition. RKP, 2018, Chapter 3 (Part I) Title of Chapter 3: Defining Knowledge pp. 19 - 29

UNIT 2: KNOWLEDGE AND JUSTIFICATION

(12 Hours, 4 Weeks)

1. The nature of Justification

2. Informatism
3. Coherentism
4. Foundationalism

Essential/Recommended Reading:

Topics 1 – 4, Pritchard, Duncan. What is this thing called knowledge?, Fourth Edition. RKP, 2018, Chapter 4 (Part I) Title of Chapter: The Structure of Knowledge, pp. 30 - 40

UNIT 3: SOURCES OF KNOWLEDGE

(12 Hours, 4 Weeks)

1. The Problem of Perceptual Knowledge
2. Indirect and Direct Realism
3. Idealism
4. A Priori and Empirical Knowledge and Their Interdependence
5. Introspective Knowledge
6. Deduction
7. Induction
8. Abduction

Recommended Readings:

Topics 1 – 3, Pritchard, Duncan. What is this thing called Knowledge?, Fourth Edition. RKP, 2018, Chapter 7 (Part II) Title of the Chapter: Perception, pp. 67 - 76

Topics 4 – 8, Pritchard, Duncan. What is this thing called Knowledge?, Fourth Edition. RKP, 2018, Chapter 9 (Part II) Title of the Chapter: A Priority and Inference, pp. 88 - 97

UNIT 4: SCEPTICISM

(12 Hours, 4 Weeks)

1. How do we have knowledge about other minds
2. Strategies and arguments regarding knowledge of other minds
3. Perceiving someone else's mind
4. Radical Scepticism and Closure
5. Mooreanism
6. Contextualism

Recommended Readings:

Topics 1 - 3, Pritchard, Duncan. What is this thing called Knowledge?, Fourth Edition. RKP, 2018, Chapter 18 (Part V) Title of Chapter: Scepticism about Other Minds, pp. 193 - 200

Topics 4 - 6, Pritchard, Duncan. What is this thing called Knowledge?, Fourth Edition. RKP, 2018, Chapter 19 (Part V) Title of Chapter: Radical Scepticism, pp. 201 - 213

Suggestive Readings

- Gettier, Edmund. Is Justified True Belief Knowledge? Analysis 23 (6), 121-123. 1963.
- Sosa, Ernest. Epistemology. Princeton University Press, 2017.
- Steup, Matthias & Ernest Sosa, ed. Contemporary Debates in Epistemology. Wiley Blackwell, 2005.
- Dancy, Jonathan, Ernest Sosa and Matthias Steup, ed. A Companion to Epistemology, Second Edition. Blackwell, 2010.
- Chisholm, R.M. Theory of Knowledge. U.S: Prentice Hall, 1966.
- Hamlyn, D. Theory of Knowledge. London: Macmillan, 1970.
- Lehrer, K. Knowledge. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1974.