

Philosophy Hons , Year 4,

Semester VII (To be effective from July 2025)

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/Practice		
Philosophical Methodology DSC 19	4	3	1	Nil	None	None

Course Objectives:

1. To acquaint students with various methods that philosophers have used to do philosophy over history
2. To make students appreciate the importance of both reason and experience in doing philosophy
3. To make students understand the role of history in the development of concepts that we use today
4. To enrich students' knowledge about the plurality of philosophical outlooks

Course Learning Outcomes

1. The student will get a clear grasp of the various methods philosophers employ.
2. The student will learn the pros and cons of such methods.
3. The students will understand the importance of method in the subject
4. The students will have a good platform for research in the subject.

UNIT 1: Dialectic and Rational Systematization 3 weeks, 9 hrs

1. Plato's thought
2. Dialectic
3. Rational systems

Essential/Recommended Readings

Benson, Hugh (2006). "Plato's Method of Dialectic," in *A Companion to Plato*, Ed. Hugh Benson, Wiley Blackwell, 85-99.

Rescher, N (2017). "Philosophy as Rational Systematization." In G. D'Oro and S. Overgaard (eds.), *The Cambridge Companion to Philosophical Methodology*. Cambridge University Press, pp. 32-43

UNIT 2: Phenomenological investigations 4 weeks, 12 hrs

1. The necessity of experience
2. Phenomenology and essence
3. Indian Philosophy and Phenomenology

Essential/Recommended Readings

Edmund Husserl (1936) "The Crisis of the European Sciences" (Part 1)
<https://archive.org/details/Husserls crisisOfTheEuropeanSciences/HusserlCrisis1/>

Maurice Merleau Ponty (1962) "Preface" to his *Phenomenology of Perception*, Routledge

Mohanty, J. N. (1988). Phenomenology and Indian Philosophy: The Concept of Rationality. *Journal of the British Society for Phenomenology*, 19(3), 269–281.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00071773.1988.11007873>

UNIT 3: Analytical Methods 4 weeks, 12 hrs

1. The analytic turn
2. Regressive and Decompositional Analysis
3. Analysis of propositions

Essential/Recommended readings

Beaney, Michael, 2000, 'Conceptions of Analysis in Early Analytic Philosophy', *Acta Analytica* 15, 97-115 (https://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/8967/1/Beaney_2000.pdf)

Optional reading: Beaney, Michael (2014) "Conceptions of Analysis in Analytic Philosophy" in *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/analysis/s6.html>

UNIT 4: Reflections on the past

4 weeks, 12 hrs

1. The role of history
2. Foucault on genealogy

Recommended Readings

Habermas, J. (1975). Towards a Reconstruction of Historical Materialism. *Theory and Society*, 2(3), 287–300. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/656775>

Foucault, M. (1971). *The Archaeology of Knowledge*, Pantheon Books, NY. (Introduction, pages 3-17)

Suggested Readings

Cappelen, Herman; Gendler, Tamar Szabó & Hawthorne, John (eds.) (2016). *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophical Methodology*. Oxford University Press.

Haug, Matthew C. (ed.) (2013). Philosophical Methodology: The Armchair or the Laboratory?. Routledge.

Husserl, Edmund (1964). *The Idea of Phenomenology*. The Hague: M. Nijhoff.

Marx, Karl ; Engels, Friedrich ; Chattopadhyaya, V. & Dutt, C. P. (1913). *The Poverty of Philosophy*. International Publishers.

Overgaard, Soren & D'Oro, Giuseppina (eds.) (2017). *The Cambridge Companion to Philosophical Methodology*. Cambridge University Press.

Rorty, Richard (ed.) (1967). *The Linguistic Turn: Essays in Philosophical Method*. Chicago, IL, USA: University of Chicago Press.

Keywords Dialectic, phenomenology, conceptual analysis, linguistic analysis, historical consciousness, disruptions.