VINOBA BHAVE UNIVERSITY,
HAZARIBAG
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF
PHILOSOPHY

CBCS SYLLABUS
FOR
MASTER OF ARTS IN PHILOSOPHY
INDIAN EPISTEMOLOGY
Semester – I Foundation Paper

(PHI-F-101)

Full Marks-70+30 Paper - I Credits: 5 Time- Three Hours

Students are required to answer five questions out of nine.

1. Cognition: Its definition and nature: Valid (Prama) and Invalid (Aprama); Validity (Pramanya): its nature and definitions; valid cognition (prama): classification;
2. Validity (Pramanya): its nature and definitions; svatahpramanyavada; paratahpramanyavada.
3. A brief study of pramanas: pratyaksa, anumana, upmana, shabda, arthapatti, anuplabdhi.
4. The theory about invalid perceptual cognitions (khyativada): akhyati, anyathakhyati, vipritkhyati, atmakhyaati, asatkhyaati, anirvachaniya khyati, satkhyaati, sadasatkhyati.
5. The debate concerning pramana vyavastha and pramana sampalava.
6. The special role of sabda-pramana.

Suggested Readings:

Dharmakirti: Nyayabindu.
Students are required to answer five questions out of nine.

1. Scepticism and the possibility of knowledge.
3. Gettier problem and responses to it.
4. Justification of knowledge-claims and epistemic decision, foundationalism, coherentism, causal theory, reliabilism.
5. Theories of perception.
7. Knowledge of other minds.
8. Theories of truth: self-evidence, correspondence, coherence, pragmatic and semantic.
9. \textit{A-priori} knowledge; analytic and synthetic; necessary and contingent; synthetic \textit{a-priori}.

\textbf{Suggested Readings:}

K. Lehrer: \textit{Knowledge}.
R. M. Chisholm: \textit{Theory of Knowledge}.
A. J. Ayer: \textit{The Problem of Knowledge}.
A. C. Danto: \textit{Analytical Philosophy of Knowledge}.
J. Hintikka: \textit{Knowledge and Belief}.
B. Russell: \textit{Human Knowledge: Its Scope and Limits}.
N. Rescher: \textit{Coherence Theory of Truth}.
S. Bhattacharya: \textit{Doubt, belief and knowledge}.
D. P. Chattopadhyaya: \textit{Induction, Probability, Scepticism}.
J. L. Pollock: \textit{Knowledge and Justification}.
A. Stroll (Ed.): Epistemology: \textit{New Essays in the Theory of Knowledge}.
L. Wittgenstein: \textit{On Certainty}.
1. Prameya: Padartha.
2. Man, God and the World as the basic general categories of Metaphysics.
3. Reality: Being and Becoming.
4. God: God of the people and God of the Philosophers; the role of God in the world-views of classical systems;
5. Man: Self as Atman; Nairatmavada; Atman and Jiva; The Jiva as karta, bhokta and jnata: different perspectives.
6. Physical World: World as karmabhum; nature and constitution of the physical world; the theories of the five elements (panchabhutas), gunas and panchikarna; vayvharika and parmarthika satta.
8. Universals: The debate amongst the different schools.
9. Causation: The different views and debates.

Suggested Readings:

Sadananda Bhaduri: *Nyaya Vaisesika Metaphysics*.
Jayarasi Bhatta: *Tattvopaplavasimha*.
M. Hiriyanna: *Outlines of Indian Philosophy*. Motilal Banarsidas.
WESTERN METAPHYSICS
Semester – I  Core Paper
(Phi-C-104)

Full Marks-70+30 Paper - IV Credits: 5 Time- Three Hours

Students are required to answer five questions out of nine.

1. Metaphysics: Possibility, Scope and concerns.
2. Appearance and Reality.
3. Being, becoming; essence and existence.
4. Substance: according to Aristotle, Rationalists and Empiricist.; process view of reality.
5. Causation: causation and regularity;
6. (a) Space: Nature and dimensions; theories: absolute and relational; appearance and reality.
   (b) Time: nature and direction; passage of time; theories: absolute and relational; appearance and reality.
7. Universals and Particulars: distinction; varieties; abstract entities; Nominalism: resemblance, classes; Realism:

Suggested Readings:

Richard Swinburne: Space and Time (Methuen).
H. M. Bhattacharya: Problems of Western Philosophy.
Y. Masih: Paschatya Darshan ki Saikshatmaka Vyakhya.
Blackwell: Companion to Contemporary Philosophy of Mind.
David Hales (Ed.): Metaphysics: Contemporary Readings.
H. N. Mishra: Samkalin Paschatya Darshan.
Students are required to answer five questions out of nine.

1. Introduction: nature of the relation between philosophy and science; philosophy of science as a branch of epistemology.

2. Theories and explanation: the nature and role of scientific theories; explanation and prediction; explanation vs. understanding.

3. Logical positivism and the method of science: verifiability and demarcation between science and non-science; difficulties with logical positivism; problem of induction, theory dependence of observation,

4. Falsificationism: falsifiability as Popper’s principle of demarcation; hypothetico-deductivism; Lakatos’ notion of research programme and sophisticated falsificationism.

5. Historical and sociological perspectives on science: Kuhnian perspective on science: notion of paradigm, the distinction between pre-science and normal science, anomaly and crisis, scientific revolution and the progress of science.

**Suggested Readings:**


The students are expected to acquaint themselves with the basic ideas relating to the topics in each section.

**Section I : Fact/ Value**

**Further Readings for Section I**:
- R. M. Hare: The Language of Morals, Oxford University Press, 1952.

**Section II : Moral Scepticism**

**Further Readings for Section II**:

**Section III : Kantianism**

**Further Readings for Section III**:

**Section IV : Utilitarianism**
Further Readings for Section IV:

Section V: Rights and Justice

Further Readings for Section V:

Section VI: Virtue Ethics

Further Readings for Section VI:

More Suggested Readings
Students are required to answer five questions out of nine.

1. The close relationship of logic, epistemology and metaphysics in the Indian tradition, primacy of logical reasoning in establishing one’s own system and refuting all rival systems; the method of Purvapaksa and Siddhanta;
   (a) Logic or anumana pramana as part of epistemology (pramana sastra)
   (b) Logic or anumana pramana as rooted in metaphysics (pramana sastra)
   (c) Logic or anumana pramana as Hetuvidya or Vadavidhi and Anviksiki
2. Definition of Anumana: Nyaya and Buddhist perspectives
3. Constituents of Anumana: Nyaya, Buddhist, Jaina and Advaitic perspectives
4. Types of Anumana: Nyaya, Buddhist, Jaina and Advaitic perspectives
5. Nyaya: paksta; paramarsa; definition of vyapti
6. Inductive elements in Indian logic: the concept of vyaptigrahopaya, samanya laksana pratyasatti,

Suggested Texts:
K. N. Tiwari: Bhartiya Tarkasastra
Visvanatha: Bhasaparichheda
Annambhatta: Tarkasangraha
Dinnaga: Nyayapravesa
Dharmakirti: Nyayabindu
Vadideva Suri: Pramanyatattvalokalankara
Hemchandra: Pramanamimansa
Uddyotakara: Nyayavarttika
Jagadisa: Taramarit.
Students are required to answer five questions out of nine.

4. Contemporary philosophy: the movement towards ecophilosophy; science and human values; the deep ecological movement.
5. Ecological problems: population, conservation, preservation, genetic engineering, nuclear hazards.

SUGGESTED READINGS:

Melbourne, Australia: Longman Chesire, 1991


Logical Reasoning and Data Interpretation

Semester – III Open Elective

(PHI-O-309)

Full Marks-70+30 Paper - IX Credits: 5 Time- Three Hours

Students are required to answer five questions out of nine.

Logical Reasoning

1. Understanding the structure of arguments.
2. Evaluating and distinguishing deductive and inductive reasoning;
3. Verbal analogies: Word analogy- Applied analogy;
4. Verbal classification
5. Reasoning Logical Diagrams: Simple diagrammatic relationship, multi-diagrammatic Relationship;
6. Venn diagram; Analytic Reasoning.

Data Interpretation

7. Source acquisition and interpretation of data.
8. Quantitative and qualitative data;
9. Graphical representation and mapping of data.

Suggested Texts:

PHENOMENOLOGY AND EXISTENTIALISM
Semester – III  Core Paper
(Phi-C-310)
Full Marks-70+30  Paper - X  Credits: 5  Time- Three Hours

Students are required to answer five questions out of nine.

Part - I
PHENOMENOLOGY

1. Phenomenology: a movement of thought; a radical method of investigation; a presupposition-less philosophy.
2. Edmund Husserl: the natural world thesis; essence and essential intuition; Noema and Noesis, Phenomenological reduction and its stages; pure consciousness and transcendental subjectivity; intentionality of consciousness.

Part - II
EXISTENTIALISM

1. Existentialism; its distinctive characteristics; varieties; common ground as well as diversity among existentialists.
2. Some recurring themes; existence preceding essence; man’s being-in-the-world; man’s being in-the body; man’s-being-with-others
3. Freedom; decision and choice.
4. The facticity of existence; death; temporality
5. Existence; authentic and non-authentic.

Suggested Readings:
Edmund Husserl: Ideas: A General Introduction to Pure Phenomenology, Tr. W. R.
Students are required to answer five questions out of nine.

1. G. E. Moore: Refutation of Idealism,
2. B. Russell: Knowledge by Acquaintance and Knowledge by Description, Logical atomism.
7. Quine: Two Dogmas of Empiricism.

Suggested Readings:

Russell: *The Problems of Philosophy*. Oxford University Press.
B. Russell & A. N. Whitehead: *Principia Mathematica* (Three Volumes)
L. Wittgenstein: *Philosophical Investigations*.
J. L. Austin: *How to Do Things with Words*.
Quine: ‘Word and Object’ and ‘Two Dogmas of Empiricism’.
Students are required to answer five questions out of nine.

1. The Method of Deduction: Formal Proof of Validity, the Rule of Replacement, Proving Invalidity, the Rule of Conditional Proof, the Rule of Indirect Proof, Proofs of Tautologies, the Strengthened Rule of Conditional Proof, Shorter Truth Table Technique- *Reductio ad Absurdum* Method.

2. Elementary notions and principles of truth–functional logic; technique of symbolization, proof construction.

3. Quantification theory: singular and general propositions; multiply-general propositions; techniques of symbolization; quantification rules; proof construction; logical truths involving quantifiers.

4. The logic of relations: symbolizing relations.

Suggested Readings:


A. N. Prior: *Formal Logic*.


Patrick Suppes: *Introduction to Logic*, Part II: Elementary Intuitive Set Theory

Singh & Goswami: *Fundamentals of Logic*. 
Students are required to answer five questions out of nine.

1. The first five sutras of Purva Mimansa Sutra of Jaimini
3. The law of karma: Ethical Implications
4. Sadharana dharma: Varnashrama-dharma
5. Selections from the Upanisadas, The Bhagavadgita, Dhammapada and Tatvartha Sutra, Yogasutra.

The concepts and doctrines to be taken up for study are:

(A) Rta and satya
(B) Rna and yajna
(C) Yoga and ksema
(D) Karmayoga, svadharma and loksangraha of the Bhagavadgita
(E) Upayakausal of Buddhism along with Brahmavihara
(F) Triratnas of Jainism
(G) Yama and Niyam of Yoga.

Suggested Readings

B. N. Singh: Nitisashtra, Student Friend & Company.
J. N. Sinha: Nitisashtra.
Umashankar Sharma: Mimansadarshanam, Choukhamba Prakashan, Varanasi.
Dada Dharmadhikari: Sarvodaya Darshan, Sarva-Seva-Sangha Prakashan, Varanasi.
Vedprakash Verma: Nitisashtra ke mul Siddhanta, Allied Publisher.
1. The problem of meaning: abhidha; classes of words; import of words: akritvada-vyaktivada; jativada-jatyakrtvyaktivada; jativisistavyaktivada; apohvada, shabdabodha.
2. Sphota: Patanjali, Bhartrhari and others; arguments against sphota.
3. Conditions for knowing sentence-meaning; ankaksa, yogyata, sannidhi, tatparyajnana; comprehension of sentence-meaning: anvitabhidhanavada and abhihitanvayavada.
4. Laksana: nature and classifications; vyanjana; the theory of dhvani.
5. The metaphysical basis of language: Bhartrhari’s theories of sabdabrahman.

**Suggested Readings:**

Nagesa Bhatta: *Sphotavada and Langhumanjusa* (selections).
Bhartrhari: *Vakyapadiyam* (selections).
Students are required to answer five questions out of nine.

2. Descriptions: Russell; objections: failure of uniqueness; failure of existence: attributive and referential; entity-invoking uses.
3. Existence.
4. Identity.
5. Necessity.
7. Meaning: the classical truth-conditional theory; conceptual role theories; the minimalist charges.

**Suggested Readings:**

The Works of Mill, Frege, Russell, Kripke, Quine and Davidson.

Michael Dummett: *Frege: The Philosophy of Language*.

For recent works, see the bibliography appended to the chapter on Philosophy of Language in A. C. Greyling (Ed): *Philosophy 2*, Oxford, 1998.
In this paper the student shall have to prepare a dissertation and submit it to the Head of the Department for evaluation before the University examination of Fourth Semester.

The topics of Dissertation for each of the student of the Department will be announced in the beginning of the Fourth Semester by the Head of the Department.

The written component of the dissertation will be of 70 marks. Pass marks in this portion is 28. There will also be viva voce examination in this paper in which the pass marks is 12.
PART-1

Students are required to answer five questions out of nine.

1. The three kinds of dukha, pramanas: their nature and objects; prakrti and vikrti; mulapakrti and its subtle nature; proofs for the existence of mulapakrti; satkaryavada.
2. The distinction between vyakta, avyakta and purusa; gunas: sattva, rajas, tamas and their distinctive characteristics, mutual opposition and complementarity.
3. Purusa: nature, proof for existence as well as plurality; the twin reasons for the evolution of prakrti; systematic evolution of twenty three tattvas from prakrti.
4. Bondage and liberation.
5. The general structure of the Sankhya system as explanatory of the absence of the concept of God in that system; the close ties between Sankhya and Yoga system

PART-II

1. Cittavrtti: yoga as cittavrttinirodha: vrttis pramana, viparyaya, vikalpa, nidra, smrti: their control through abhyasa and vairagya.
2. Two types of Samadhi (samprajnata and asamprajnata) nature of Isvara; cittaviksepas and the manner of overcoming them; sabija and nirbija Samadhi.
3. Five klesas and their nature; the eight-fold path leading to kaivalya: yama, niyama, asana, pranayama, pratyahara, dhyana, dharana, Samadhi.
4. Eight siddhis resulting from control over citta: kaivalya as resulting only when the siddhis are transcended.Dharmameghasamadhi: nature of kaivalya.
Suggested Readings:

Ganganatha Jha (Tr.): *Patanjali’s Yogasutra with Vyasa’s Bhasya*, Vijnar; labhiksti’s Yogavarttika and notes from Vacaspati Misra’s *Tattvanaisaradi*, Bombay, 1907.
Sri Aurobindo: *The Synthesis of Yoga*.
Har Dutt Sarma (Ed. Tr.): *Sankhyakarika with Gaudapada’s Bhasya*, Poona, 1933.
Janardana Sastri Pandeya (Ed.): *Sankhyadarsanam*, Delhi, 1981.
G. L. Larson: *Classical Sankhya*
PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION
Semester-IV  Elective Theory: Group-B

Full Marks-70+30  Paper- XIV  Time- Three Hours

Students are required to answer five questions out of nine.

1. Chief characteristics of living religions of the world in brief:
   Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikkhism, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

2. God-man relationship in various religions, World-views in different religions, Problem of Evil.


4. Concept of soul, immortality, salvation, and human destiny in religions.

5. Inter-religious dialogues and understanding. Possibility of Universal religion.


Suggested Texts:

Masih,Yakub-  Samkalin Dharmadarshan.
Masih,Yakub-  Samanya Dharmadarshan.
Masih,Yakub-  Tulnatmak Dharmadarshan.
Hick, John     An Interpretation of Religion
ETHICS AND SOCIETY
Semester – IV  Elective Theory
(�H-I-E-415) Group-B
Full Marks-70+30  Paper - XV  Credits: 5  Time- Three Hours

Students are required to answer five questions out of nine.

PART-I
1. Individual and Social morality.

PART-II
1. Sexual morality: for and against.
2. Abortion: for and against.
3. Euthanasia: for and against.
5. Animal rights: for and against.

Suggested Readings:
Jeffrey Olen & Vincent Barry (Eds): Applying Ethics.
Rajendra Prasad: Karma, Causation and Retributive Morality.
In this paper the student shall have to prepare a dissertation and submit it to the Head of the Department for evaluation before the University examination of Fourth Semester.

The topics of Dissertation for each of the student of the Department will be announced in the beginning of the Fourth Semester by the Head of the Department.

The written component of the dissertation will be of 70 marks. Pass marks in this portion is 28. There will also be viva voce examination in this paper in which the pass marks is 12.