

Syllabus for the Ph.D Programme in Philosophy

Department of Philosophy

University of Hyderabad

Courses and Syllabi

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PH 801: Topics in Metaphysics

Semester I

Credits: 4

Outline: In this course we will survey some of the central issues in contemporary western and classical Indian Metaphysics. These issues include the problem of Universals and Nominalism, the Nature of Substance, the Nature of Causality, Identity and Existence,(in both contemporary western and Indian classical contexts wherever possible). We also will try to improve our analytical writing skills.

Grading

You will write one term paper, and present the same before submitting. The presentation will count **ten percent** and the paper will count **ten percent** towards the semester long evaluation. You are encouraged to submit a rough draft of the term paper, and then revise in light of the comments. I highly encourage you to discuss your ideas with me at any stage of writing. Presentation and submission of the term paper is necessary to pass this course. **Please submit one typed manuscript and send a copy to my e-mail address.** Additionally, you will write one page about the reading in reply to a question or two which I will hand out through the semester. (This is also a chance for you to set down any question or comment you have about the reading.) **Again, you will submit a hard copy and send a copy of the assignment to my e-mail address.** There will be at least twelve such assignments. Ten best will be taken into account towards **twenty percent** of the total. You are strongly encouraged to lead discussion during the semester. There will be an in-class midterm examination. The examination will count towards **twenty percent** of the total. The final examination is worth sixty percent of the total. Ample time for class discussion will be available; your active participation is expected.

Policies

Late papers will be accepted but penalized 10 percent of the total marks per day. There is one exception to this policy: medical emergency.

No co-authored papers: You are encouraged to discuss the issues with your friends and classmates. There is nothing more fun and rewarding than figuring some things out together! It is also very helpful to have friends read your papers to see where you could try to be clearer, or where you could improve your reasoning. However, the work you submit should be written by you alone and not some one else's. Avoid cut and paste from any source. Plagiarism is not tolerated: The usual standards of academic honesty apply. Please talk to me if you are unsure what this means.

Do not plagiarize. It is not worth it.

The points below are taken from a source I cannot remember. It talks about how to characterise plagiarism. I think these capture very broadly the issues of plagiarism. I want you to read these and avoid plagiarising in your work.

Plagiarism means representing someone else's ideas or words as your own: it can take the form of straightforward copying, paraphrasing, using another's ideas or structure of argument without attribution, sloppy citing or footnoting, and so on. Just to give a few examples:

It is plagiarism if you copy something word-for-word — a friend's assignment; or an essay a tutor has written for you; or a discussion from the reader or a book or the web — without clearly indicating that these are someone else's words and citing the source.

It is plagiarism if you paraphrase someone else's writing — rearranging or changing their words, but keeping some of the structure and ideas — without clearly indicating that these are someone else's ideas and citing the source.

It is probably plagiarism if the details of the ideas you express in an assignment aren't yours and you don't say whose they are.

Texts:

Gale, R. M., (ed.) *The Blackwell Guide to Metaphysics* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2002)

Garrett, B., *What is This Thing Called Metaphysics?*, (London: Routledge, 2006)

Kim, J. And Sosa, E. (eds.) *Metaphysics: An Anthology* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1999)

Loux, M. J., *Metaphysics: A Contemporary Introduction*, 3rd edn., (London: Routledge, 2006)

Macdonald, C. *Varieties of Things* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2005)

Phillips. S. H. *Classical Indian Metaphysics* (Delhi: Motilal Banarasidass, 1997)

Van Inwagen, P. and Zimmerman, D. W., (eds.) *Metaphysics: The Big Question* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1998)

PH 802: Topics In Epistemology

Semester I, Ph.D.

Credits: 4

Outline: In this course we will survey some of the central issues in contemporary western and classical Indian theory of knowledge. The issues include the problem of skepticism regarding knowledge in general and knowledge of the external world in particular (especially in the western context), what is knowledge, what is belief, how are knowledge claims or beliefs justified, and the varieties of knowledge (in both contemporary western and Indian classical contexts). We also will try to improve our analytical writing skills.

Cartesian Skepticism; What is knowledge?

Skepticism

What is knowledge?

Foundationalism and Coherentism

Naturalized Epistemology

Methodological Naturalism

Contemporary Epistemic Evaluations

Contextualism

Varieties of Knowledge

Social Epistemology

Procedural Epistemology

Indian Epistemology - Nyāya

Text Books:

Descartes, R. *Meditations*

Feldman, R. *Epistemology* N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 2003.

Greco, J. and E. Sosa (eds.) *The Blackwell Guide to Epistemology* Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 1999.

Sosa, E. and J. Kim (eds) *Epistemology, An Anthology*, Blackwell, 2000.

Phillips, S. *Epistemology in Classical India*, Routledge, 2012.

Details of Reading

S. N o	Topics	Readings
1	Cartesian Skepticism; What is knowledge?	Descartes' Meditation I, Gettier, E. L. "Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?" <i>Analysis</i> 23 (1963): 121-3. Feldman, R. Epistemology , pp. 1-5, and 111-129.
2	Skepticism	Stroud, B. "The Problem of the External World", in E. Sosa, and J. Kim (eds) Epistemology, An Anthology, (E A) Blackwell, 2000, pp.6 – 23. Williams, M. "Skepticism", in J. Greco and E. Sosa (eds.) The Blackwell Guide to Epistemology (BGE) Feldman, R. Epistemology , pp. 108 – 156.
3	Skepticism; What is knowledge?	Zagzebski, L. "What is Knowledge?", in BGE .
4	What is knowledge? Foundationalism and Coherentism	Zagzebski, L. "What is Knowledge?", in BGE . Bon Jour, L. "Dialectics of Foundationalism and Coherentism:", in BGE . Feldman, R. Epistemology , pp.39 – 80.
5	Naturalized Epistemology	Kornblith, H. "In Defense of a Naturalized Epistemology", in BGE . Feldman, R. Epistemology , pp. 81 – 107.
6	Methodological Naturalism	Feldman, R. "Methodological naturalism in Epistemology", in BGE .
7	Contemporary Epistemic Evaluations	Sosa, E. "Skepticism and the Internal External Divide", in BGE . Goldman, A.
8	Contextualism	DeRose, K. "Contextualism: An Exploration and Defense", in BGE .
9	Varieties of Knowledge	Alston, W. "Perceptual Knowledge", in BGE .
10	Varieties of Knowledge	Alston, W. "Perceptual Knowledge", in BGE . Bealer, G. "The A Priori", in BGE .
11	Verities of Knowledge Social Epistemology	Bealer, G. "The A Priori", in BGE . Schmitts, F. "Social Epistemology", (BGE), pp. 354 – 382.

12	Social Epistemology	Schmitts, F. “Social Epistemology”, (BGE), pp. 354 – 382.
13	Procedural Epistemology	Pollock, J. “Procedural Epistemology: At the Interface of Philosophy and AI”, in BGE .
14	Indian Epistemology - Nyāya	Matilal, B. K. Perception , Chapter 4.
		Matilal, B. K. Perception , Chapter 5.
		Matilal, B. K. Perception , Chapter 6.

PH 803 Research Methodology

Sem: I

Credits: 4

Objective

The aim of the course is to give research students of M.Phil. programme an understanding of the Concepts and Categories germane to the texture of philosophical reasoning. This will be of help in making their research undertaking methodologically sensitive to the various modes of philosophizing. The course deals primarily with metaphilosophical problems and issues.

Course Content:

- I. The Nature of Philosophical Reasoning
- II. Asking Right questions in Philosophy
- III. Philosophy and its History
- IV. Transcendental Arguments in Philosophy
- V. Thought Experiments in Philosophy
- VI. Interpreting Philosophical Texts
- VII. Task of Philosophy: Explanation or Systematization?
- VIII. Analytical/Continental Philosophy: Methodological Issues.

Readings:

1. Rescher, Nicholas
Philosophical Reasoning: A Study in the Methodology of Philosophical Reasoning
Blackwell, Oxford 2001.
2. Passmore, John Philosophical Reasoning Duckworth, 1970
3. Rescher, Nicholas What if? Thought Experiments in Philosophy Transaction Publishers, London, 2005.
4. Taylor, Charles 'Philosophy and Its History' Philosophy in History: Essays on the Historiography of Philosophy.
Edited by Richard Rorty, J W Schneewind and Quinton Skinner, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1984.
5. Taylor, Charles Philosophical Arguments Harvard University Press, Cambridge Massachusetts 1995.
6. Emmet E.R
Learning to Philosophize, Penguin 1964
7. Rorty, Richard 'Introduction' Linguistic Turn: Recent Essays in Philosophical Method.
Edited by Richard Rorty, The University of Chicago Press, Chicago 1967.

PH 851: Topics in Ethics

Sem II

Credits: 4

The Course will be exclusively devoted to the discussion of Rawl's theory of justice. The course will have two parts. The first part will be concerned with Rawl's method that he proposed for to talk about the basic structure of a just society. The second part will be concerned with the application of the method for to delineate the basic principles of justice. The themes to be covered in these two parts may be presented in the following format:

The First Part:

The discussion of Rawl's idea of original position, i.e., we can find out what a just society would be like by discovering what kind of society people in the original position would opt for. The idea of original position will be discussed with reference to Kant's idea of contractualism.

The Second Part:

The discussion will be mainly concerned with the two principles to which Rawls' arrived at through the application of his method, namely, the principle of liberty i.e., certain basic liberties must be protected and the principle of equality i.e., no difference in wealth is to be tolerated unless the difference works for the benefit of the worst off group in the society.

The Concluding Part:

The last part of the course will be concerned with the critique raised against Rawls' model of justice on the ground that it is a historical and counter intuitive.

The List of books to be consulted:

1. John Rawls : A Theory of Justice
2. John Rawls : Political Liberalism
3. R. Nozick : Anarchy, State and Utopia
4. A.K. Sen : The Idea of Justice
5. J. Habermas : Between Facts and Norms: Contributions to a Discourse Theory of Law and Democracy
6. Ethics : 1989, 99 (4) – Symposium on Rawlsian Theory of Justice: Recent Developments
