

# COOCH BEHAR PANCHANAN BARMA UNIVERSITY



## SYLLABUS FOR M.A. IN PHILOSOPHY CBCS

Effective from Academic Session 2020-2021

**Total Credit: 80**

**Credit per Semester: 20**

**TOTAL MARKS: 1600 (for four Semester)**

**THEORETICAL PAPERS: 1200**

**CONTINUOUS EVALUATION: 320 +ATTENDANCE:80**

**COOCH BEHAR PANCHANAN BARMA UNIVERSITY  
VIVEKANANDA STREET, COOCH BEHAR, WEST BENGAL**

**INDIA**

## **SEMESTER EXAMINATION**

### **First Semester**

Course Code	Name of Course	ESE	Marks			Credit
			CE	A	Total	
CC-I	Indian Ethics & Philosophy of Religion	75	20 (Tutorial)	5	100	5
CC-II	Western Ethics	75	20 (Tutorial)	5	100	5
CC-III	Logic	75	20 (Tutorial)	5	100	5
CC-IV	Epistemology	75	20 (Tutorial)	5	100	5

ESE: End of Semester Examination; CE: Continuing Evaluation; A: Attendance

**FIRST SEMESTER  
CC-I  
INDIAN ETHICS & PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION  
Group-A  
INDIAN ETHICS  
Part-I**

The aim of this paper is to highlight the cosmo-centric, community-centred and duty-oriented nature of ethical thinking in India. The paper is text-based and issue-oriented.

**Unit-I**

- The first five sutras of Pūrva Mimāṃsā Sūtras of jaimini with Sabara's Bhāṣya.

**Unit-II**

- Arthasaṃgrahaḥ of Laugākṣi Bhāskaraha:  
The concepts and doctrines to be taken up for study are follows:
  - a) Śabda (Veda Prāmāṇya)
  - b) Apauruṣeyatva
  - c) Puruṣa
  - d) Dharma
  - e) Apūrva
  - f) Bhāvanā
  - g) Sādhya-sādhana-itikartavyatā
  - h) Iṣṭasāadhanatā
  - i) Vidhi, Niṣedha, Arthavāda
  - j) Rules of textual interpretation

**Unit-III**

- The law of karma: ethical implications
- Sādhāraṇa Dharma

**Part-II**

Selections from the Upanisads, the Bhagavadgītā, Dharmapada, Tattvārtha Sūtra, Sāntiparva of Mahāvaratā (selections) and Arthasastra of Kautilya (selections). The Selections for the Upanisads, the Bhagavadgītā, Tattvartha Sūtra, Tirukkural's concepts and doctrines to be taken up for study are:

**Unit-I**

- Ṛta and satya
- Ṛṇa and satya
- Yoga and yajña

**Unit-II**

- Karmayoga, svadharma and lokasangraha of the Bhagavadgītā
- Upāyakaśāla of Buddhism along with Brahmavihāras
- Triratnas of Jainism

- Yama and Niyama of Yoga

### **Suggested Readings:**

1. Maitra S.K. *The Ethics of the Hindus*. Macmillan and Co., London. 1963.
2. Prasad R. *Causation and Retributive Morality* (Conceptual Essays in Ethics and Metaethics). Indian Council of Philosophical Research Association with Munshiram Manoharlal Publication. 2004.
3. Prasad R. *Varnadharmā, Nṣkāma Karma and Practical Morality: A Critical Essay on Applied Ethics*. D.K. Print World Ltd: India. 1998.
4. Barma N.K. *Philosophy of the Hindu Sādhanā*. PHI Learning. 2008.
5. Aurobindo. *Essays on the Gita*. Aurobindo Ashram Press: Pondicherry. 1915.
6. Tilak B.G. *Srimadbhagavadgītā Rahasya*. Vijay Goel Books: India. 2010.
7. Hiriyanā M. *The Indian Conception of Values*. Prekshaa Pratishtana: India.
8. Sharma I.C. *Ethical Philosophies of India*. George Allen & Unwin Ltd.: London. 1965.
9. Dasgupta, Surama. *Development of Moral Philosophy in India*. Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers. 1994.
10. Jhingran Saral. *Aspects of Hindu Morality*. Motilal Banarsidass: Delhi. 1989.
11. Swami Bhargananda (trs into Bengali): *Arthasamgraha*, Bengali Translation and elucidation, Sanskrit Pustak Bhandar, Kolkata.
12. *Mīmāṃsā-darśana*, Bengali translation and elucidation by Sri Sukhamay Bhattacharya, Visvabharati.
13. Verma Pratibha, *Social Philosophy of the Mahābhārata and the Manusmṛiti*, Classical Publishing, New Delhi, 1988
14. Bhattacharya, Sukhamai. *Mahābhāratera Samāja* (in Bengali), Visvabharati, Santiniketan.

## **Group-B PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION**

The present course presupposes the knowledge of the Under Graduate Syllabus of Philosophy of Religion.

### **Unit-I**

- Origin and nature of Religion
- Origin and evolution of the idea of the God
- The concept of Avatāra-classical (Bhagavadgītā, Śrīmadbhagavata, Mahābhārata etc.) and contemporary (Gandhi, Aurobindo, Tagore).  
The concept of Prayer-Classical (Advaita Vedanta, Bhagavadgītā etc) and contemporary (Gandhi, Vivekananda, Aurobindo).

The concept of Bhakti in Ramanuja, Narada, Vivekananda and Sri Chaitanya, Is Bhakti an end or means: the controversy.

## Unit-II

- Theological discourse (The “elimination”, “Familiar” functions, “improper” functions, and “Unique” functions of theological discourse).
- Comparative religion: Nature, necessity and Possibility of comparative religion. Candidates are expected to be familiar with the main tenets and practices of the following religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Confucianism, Taoism Shintoism, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Tribal religion.

## Suggested Readings:

### Unit-I

For 1, 2: Smart. N, The Religious Experience of Mankind, J. Hick: *An Interpretation of Religion*.

For 3: Jagadiswarananda, Swami. *Śrīmadbhagavadgītā*. Udbodhan Karjalaya: Kolkata. 2019

4. *Srimad-bhagavatam*. Gita Press: Gorakhsapur. Uttar Pradesh
5. *Adiparva and Shantiparva of Mahābhārata*. Gita Press: Gorakhsapur. Uttar Pradesh
6. Radhakrisnan S. *The Bhagavadgītā*. Harper Collins Publishers: India. 2010
7. Sri Aurobindo. *Essays on the Gītā*. Sri Aurobindu Ashram: Pondicherry. 2018
8. Vivekananda Swami. *The Complete Works of Swami Vivekananda*. Vol. III
9. M.K. Gandhi. *Hindu Dharma*. Orient Paperbacks: New Delhi. 2005
10. Bose N.K. *Selections from Gandhi*. Navajivan Mudranalaya: Ahmedabad. 1960
11. Bhaktisutra of Narada; Mani Ratnam
12. Chetty K. *Gandhiji's Conception of Avatāra*.
13. Naravane V.S. *Rabindranath Tagore, A Philosophical Study*. Allahabad Central Book Depot. 1947

### Unit-II

For 1: Fredrick Ferre: Language Logic and God; J.L.M. Haire and I. Henderson: the Knowledge of God and the Service of God (Holder and Stoughton).

For 2: Eric J. Sharpe: Comparative Religion (Duckworth); A. C. Bouquet: Comparative Religion (Penguin), S. Radhakrisnan: Eastern Religions and Western Thought (OUP); W.C. Smith: Towards a World Theology. Nesbitt: Sikhism (Oxford).

## CC-II WESTERN ETHICS

This course is meant to introduce the student to some of the important developments and debates that have shaped moral philosophy in the last sixty years or so. The emergence of logical positivism and subsequently the increased attention towards language forced the moral philosophers to focus upon semantical, epistemological and ontological aspects of moral concepts and categories. Though the meta-ethical phase had its way for more than a decade, the dissatisfaction with these philosophers began to date and refine classical theories like Kantianism and Utilitarianism, others brought about a revival of the ethical theories of Plato and Aristotle under the name of virtue Ethics. Besides a critical survey of these developments, the course, therefore, presuppose an acquaintance with classical and modern Western Ethics.

The reading material listed in each section may not be treated as prescribed text. The students are expected to acquaint themselves with the basic ideas relating to the topics in each section.

The articles included in the following list are available either of the two anthologies mentioned below, except for 5 in unit-V.

Louis Pojman (Ed): *Ethical Theory: Classical and Contemporary Readings*, Belmont: Wadsworth, 1998. This anthology is thereafter cited as [p].

Steven M. Cahn & Peter Markie (Eds): *Ethics: History, Theory and Contemporary Issues*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1998. This anthology is hereafter cited as [CM].

### **Unit-I: Fact/Value**

1. Ayer, A.J: 'Emotivism', from *Language Truth and Logic*, Dover, 1946, [P].
2. Stevenson, C.L.: 'The Emotive Meaning of Ethical Terms', from *mind*, 46,1937, [P] and [CM].
3. Hare, R.M. 'Prescriptivism: The Structure of Ethics and Morals', from R.M. Hare, *Essays in Ethical Theory*, Oxford University Press, 1989, [P].
4. Philippa Foot. 'Moral Beliefs', from the *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society*,59, 1958-59, [P].
5. Geoffrey Warnock: 'The Object of Morality,' from G. Warnock, *The Object of Morality*, London, Methuen & Co., 1971, [P]

### **Suggested Readings for Unit-I**

1. Warnock, Mary, *Ethics Since 1900*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1960.
2. Hudson, W.D, *Modern Moral Philosophy*, Machillan,1983.
3. Hare, R.M, *The Language of Morals*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1952.
4. Hare, R.M, *Freedom and Reason*, Oxford University Press, Oxford,1961.
5. Hare, R.M, *Moral Thinking*, Oxford University Press, 1981.

6. Foot, Philippa, *Virtue and Vice*, Blackwell, Oxford, 1978
7. Stevenson, C.L., *Ethics Language*, Yale University Press, New Haven, 1994.
8. Hancock, Roger, *Twentieth Century Ethics*, Columbia University Press, New York, 1974.
9. Goodpaster, K.E., *Perspective on Morality: Essays by William Frankena*, University of North Dame Press, 1976.

### **Unit-II: Moral Skepticism: For and against**

1. J.L Mackie: 'The Subjectivity of Values,' Excerpted from J.L. Mackie, *Ethics: Inventing Right and Wrong*, Harmondsworth: Penguins 1977. [P].
2. David Brink: 'Moral Realism and Sceptical Arguments from Disagreement and Queerness,' from *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, 62 1984, [p].
3. Gilbert Herman: 'Moral Nihilism,' Excerpted from Gilbert Herman, *The Nature of Morality*, Oxford University Press, 1977, [p].
4. Nicholas Sturgeon: 'Moral Explanations,' Excerpted from *Morality, Reason and Truth* ed. By D. Copp and D. Zimmerman, Rowan and Allanheld, 1984, [p].
5. Thomas Nagel: 'Value: The view from Nowher,' from the *Tanner Lectures in Human Values*, University of Utah Press, 1980, [p].
6. Bernard Williams: 'Ethics and the Limits of Philosophy,' from Bernard Williams, *Ethics and the Limits of Philosophy*, Harvard University Press, 1985, [p].
7. James Rachel: 'The Challenge of Cultural Relativism,' from James Rachel, *Elements of Moral Philosophy*, New York: McGraw-hill, 1978, [CM].

### **Suggested Readings for Unit-II**

1. Gillespie Norman (ed), "Moral Realism", *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, 24, Supplement, 1986
2. Copp David, "Moral Scepticism", *Philosophical studies*, 62, 1991.
3. Railton Peter, "Moral Realism", *Philosophical Review*, 95, 1986.
4. Sayre-McCord Geoffrey (ED), *Essays in Moral Realism*, Ithaca: Cornell University press, 1988
5. Sinnott-Annstrong Walter & Timmons Mark (Eds): *Moral Knowledge: New Reading in Moral Epistemology*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1996
6. Harman Gilbert & Thomson Jarvis Judith, *Moral Relativism and moral Objectivity*, Oxford: Blackwell, 1996

### **Unit-III: Kantianism: For and Against**

1. Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysic of Morals (Select Portions)*
2. Fred Feldman: "Kantian Ethics", from Fred Feldman, *Introduction Ethics*, Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1978, (P).
3. Onara O'Neill: 'Kant's Formula of the End-In-Itself', from "Ending World Hunger" in *Matters of Life and Death*, (Ed): Tom Regan, New York: McGraw-Hill, 1993, (P).

4. Philippa Foot: "Morality as a System of Hypothetical Imperatives", Reprint from *philosophical Review*, 84, 1972, [P].
5. Thomas Nagel: "Moral Luck", from Thomas Nagel, *Mortal Questions*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1979, [P].

### **Suggested Reading for Unit-III**

1. Neill Onara, *Acting on Principle: An Essay on Kantian Ethics*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1975
2. Donagan Alan, *The theory of Morality*. Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1977
3. Feldman Fred, *Introductory Ethics*, Prentice-Hall, 1978
4. Harris C.E, *Applied Moral Theories*, Wadsworth, 1986
5. MacIntyre, A. *Ethics and the Limits of Philosophy*, London: Fontana, 1985
6. Paton H.J. (Trs.), *The Moral law: Kant's ground-work of the Metaphysics of Morals*, B1 Publication, Calcutta 1979.

### **Unit- IV: Utilitarianism: For and Against**

1. J. J. C. Smart: "extreme and Restricted Utilitarianism", Reprinted from *The Philosophical Quarterly*, VI:25, 1956, [p]
2. Bernard Williams: "Against Utilitarianism", from Bernard Williams & J.J.C. Smart, *Utilitarianism: For and Against*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1973, [p]
3. Peter Railton: "Alienation, Consequentialism and the Demands of Morality", Reprinted from *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, 13, 1984, [p]
4. Robert Nozick: "The Experience Machine", from Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State and Utopia*, London: Basic Book, 1974, [p]
5. Robert Nozick: "Side Constraints", from Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State and Utopia*, London: Basic Book, 1974 [p]
6. Philippa Foot: "Utilitarianism and Virtue", Reprinted from *Mind*, 94, 1985, [p]
7. Samuel Scheffler: "Agent-centered Restrictions, Rationality and the Virtues", Reprinted from *Mind*, 94, 1985, [p]
8. Diana Jeske & Richard Fumerton: "Relatives and Relativities: A Critique of Consequentialism", Reprinted from *Philosophical Studies*, 1977, [p]

### **Suggested Readings for Unit-IV**

1. Richard Brandt: 'In search of a Credible Form of Rule Utilitarianism', in *Morality and Language of Conduct* (Eds): H.N. Castaneda and George Nakhnikian, Wayne State University Press, 1953
2. R. M. Hare. *Moral Thinking*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1981
3. David Layons. *The Forms and Limits of Utilitarianism*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1965
4. Harlan B. Miller & B. Williams (Eds). *The Limits of Utilitarianism*, University of Minnesota Press, 1982
5. Derek Parfit. *Reason and Person*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1984



6. Samuel Scaffler (Ed). *Consequentialism and its Critics*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988
7. Sen & B. Williams (Eds): *Utilitarianism and Beyond*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1982
8. J. J. C Smart & B. Williams. *Utilitarianism: For and Against*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1973

### **Unit-V: Rights and Justice**

1. Joyel Feinberg: “The Nature and Value of Rights”, Reprinted from *Journal of Value Inquiry*, 4, 1970, [p]
2. Alan Gewirth: “Epistemology of Human Rights”, from Ellen Paul, Fred Miller & Jeffery Paul (Eds): *Human Rights*, Oxford: Blackwell, 1984, [p]
3. A. MacIntyre: “A Critique of Gewirth and the Notion of rights”, from A. MacIntyre, *After Virtue*, Indiana: University of North Dame Press, 1981, [p]
4. John Rawls: “A Liberal Theory of Justice”, from John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1971, [p]
5. Robert Nozick: “Distributive Justice”, from Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State and Utopia*, Chapter 7, Basic Books 1974.
6. Wallace Matson: “Justice: A Funeral Oration”, from *Social Philosophy and Policy*, I, 1983, [p]

### **Suggested Readings for Unit-V**

1. Dworkin, Ronald. *Taking Rights Seriously*, Cambridge, Mass, Harvard University Press, 1977
2. Gewirth, Alan. *Human Rights*, Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1982
3. Waldron, J (Ed). *Theories of Rights*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1984
4. Lomasky, Loren. *Persons, Rights and Moral Community*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1987
5. Sumner, L.W. *Moral Foundations of Rights*, Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1987
6. Daniels, Norman (Ed). *Reading Rawls*, New York, Basic Books, 1975
7. Sterba, James. *Justice: Alternative Political Perspectives*, Belmont Wadsworth, 1980.

### **Unit-VI: Virtue Ethics**

1. Bernard Mayo, “Virtue and the Moral Life”, from Bernard Mayo, *Ethics and the Moral Life*, London: Macmillan, 19CS8, [P].
2. Willam Frankena, “A Critique of Virtue-based Ethical Systems”, from Willam Frankena, *Ethics*, Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1973, Second Edition, [P].
3. Walter, Schaler “Are Virtues No More than Dispositions to Obey Moral Rules?” Reprinted from *Philosophia* 20, July, 1990, [P].
4. Robert Luden, “Some Vices of Virtue Ethics”, Reprinted from *American Philosophical Quarterly* 21, 1984, [P].

5. A. MacIntyre, "The Nature of Virtues", from A. MacIntyre, *After Virtue*, Indiana: University of Notre Dame Press, 1981, [P].
6. Susan, Wolf "Moral Saints", Reprinted from *Journal of Philosophy* 79, 1982, [P].
7. Louis, Pojman. "In Defense of Moral Saints", [P].
8. Jonathan, Bennet. "The Conscience of Huckleberry Finn", Reprinted from *Philosophy* 49, 1974, [P].
9. James Rachel, "The Ethics of Virtue", from James Rachel, *Elements of Moral Philosophy*, New York: McGraw-Hill, [CM].

### **Suggested Readings for Unit-VI**

1. Anscombe. G.E.M, *Modern Moral Philosophy*, *Philosophy* 33, 1958.
2. Pence. G, 'Recent Works on the Virtues', *American Philosophical Quarterly* 21, 1984.
3. Kruschwitz. R. & Roberts. R. (Eds), *The Virtues: Contemporary Essays on Moral Character*, Belmont: Wadsworth, 1987.
4. MacIntyre. A, *After Virtue*, Indiana, University of Notre Dame Press, 1981.
5. Foot. Philippa, *Virtues and Vices*, Oxford, Blackwell, 1971.
6. Baron. Marcia, Petit. Philip & Slote. Michael, *The Three Methods of Ethics*, Oxford, Blackwell, 1997.
7. Taylor. Richard, *Ethics, Faith and Reson*, Englewood Cliffs, Prentice Hall, 1985
8. Blum. A. Lawrence, *Friendship, Altruism and Morality*, London, Routledge, 1980
9. Casey. John, *Pagan Virtues*, Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1990
10. Pincoffs. Edmund, *Quandaries and Virtues*, Lawrence, Kansas, University of Kansas Press, 1986.
11. Wallace. James, *Virtues and Vices*, Ithaca, Cornell University Press, 1978
12. Slote & Crisp (Eds), *Virtue Ethics*.
13. Rosalind Hursthouse, *Virtue Ethics*.
14. Owen Flanagan & Rorty. A, (Eds), *Identity, Character and Morality*.

## **CC-III LOGIC INDIAN LOGIC Group-A**

### **Unit-I**

- *Bhāṣāparicchedaḥ* with *Siddhāntamuktāvalī* by Viswanath (Anumāṅkhaṇḍa)

### **Unit-II**

- *Nyāyabindu* of Dharmakīrti (Pratyakṣakhaṇḍa).

### **Suggested Readings:**

1. *Bhāṣāparicchedaḥ with Siddhāntamuktāvalī*, Bengali trs. and elucidation by Panchanan Bhattachārya, Kolkata.
2. *Bhāṣāparicchedaḥ with Siddhāntamuktāvalī*, Bengali elucidation by Sri Dipak Ghosh, Samskrita Pustak Bhandar Kolkata.
3. *Nyāyabindu of Dharmakīrti*, Bengali Trans & elucidation by Sri Sanjib Sadhukhan, Sanskrita Pustak Bhandar, Kolkasta.
4. *Nyāyabindu with Nyāyabinduṭīkā*, Eng. Trs and elucidation by Mrinal Kanti Ganguly, Firma KLM, Kolkata.
5. Raghunath Ghosh. *The Justification of Inference: A Navya Nyāya Approach*, Bharatiya Vidya Prakashan, Bungalow Rd., Delhi.

## **GROUP-B**

### **WESTERN LOGIC**

#### **Unit-I**

##### **Intuitive Set Theory:**

1. Basic concepts of Set Theory.
2. Set Theoretical operators, such as, Intersection, Union and Difference.
3. Translating Everyday Language.
4. Venn Diagrams, testing validity.
5. Relations, classification of relations, etc.

Text Book: *Introduction to Logic* by Pratick Suppies.

#### **Unit-II**

##### **Predicative Logic**

1. The Language of Predicate Logic.
2. The Rule of Conditional Rule (C.P.)
3. The Rule of Indirect Proof (I.P.)
4. Reductio Ad Absurdum Method (RAA).
5. Proposition and Classification of Proposition.
6. Preliminary Quantification Rules.
7. Techniques of Symbolization.
8. Multiply General Propositions and Quantification Rules.
9. Proving Validity by symbolizing propositions.
10. Relations (Binary).

Text Book: *Symbolic Logic* by Irving M. Copi.

#### **Unit-III**

##### **Tree Method:**

1. Truth-Functional Inference.

2. Truth trees.
3. Truth-Functional Equivalence.
4. Conditionals.

Text Book: *Formal Logic: It's Scope and Limits* by Richard Jeffrey.

**CC-IV**  
**EPISTEMOLOGY**  
**Group-A**  
**INDIAN EPISTEMOLOGY**

**Unit-I**

- Svataḥprāmānyavādaḥ and Parataḥprāmānyavādaḥ from Gangesha's Theory of Truth by J.N. Mohanty.
- Khyātivādaḥ.

**Unit-II**

- Arthāpatti and Anupalabdhi (Vedāntaparibhāṣā).
- Śabdapramāṇa (Bhāṣāparicchedaḥ with Siddhāntamuktāvalī by Viswanatha).
- Skeptical objections against Śabdapramāṇa.

**Unit-III**

- Svapna and Smṛti (Prāśastapādabhāṣya with Nyāyakaṇḍalī, Bhāṣāparicchedaḥ with Siddhantamuktāvalī).

**Suggested Readings:**

1. *Bhāṣāparicchedaḥ* with *Siddhantamuktāvalī* Bengali Trs and elucidation by Panchanan Bhattacharya, Samakrita Pustak Bhandar, Kolkata.
2. *Bhāmatī* by Sri Mohun Bhattacharya, Samskrita Pustak Bhandar, Kolkata.
3. *Mānameyodayaḥ*, Beng. Trs by Brahmācari Medha Caitanya (Candiswami Damodar Ashram), Kolkata.
4. *Knowing a Negative Fact: Anupalabdhi* by Amal Kr. Harh, New Bharitya Vidyaprakashan, Delhi.
5. Gangesha's *Theory of Truth* by J.N. Mohanty Motilal Banarasi Das.
6. Raghunath Ghosh: *Knowledge, Meaning & Intuition*, New Bharatiya Vidya Prakashan, Delhi.
7. Dilip Kumar Mohanty: '*Śabda Kena Pramān noy?*' Levant Books, (Sarat Book House), Kolkata.

## **Group-B**

### **Western Epistemology**

This course aims at providing a bird's-eye-view of the general features of the problems of western epistemology. The question of clearly distinguishing what is knowledge from what is not knowledge, is the central task of Western Epistemology and also in India; but this task is pursued in very different way in the west. Unlike in India what is not knowledge is not wrong knowledge but 'no' knowledge at all or just absence of knowledge. Familiarity with the following topics is expected to generate an awareness of the issues and debates that uniquely characterize western epistemology.

#### **Unit-I**

- Skepticism and possibilities of knowledge.
- Nature and definition of knowledge; belief and knowledge.

#### **Unit-II**

- Gettier problem and its response to it.
- Justification of knowledge-claims and epistemic decision: Foundationalism, Coherentism, Causal theory and Reliabilism.

#### **Unit-III**

- Theories of perception
- Problem of memory: Knowledge of the past.
- Problem of other- mind.

#### **Unit-IV**

- Theories of truth: Self evidence, Correspondence, Coherence, Pragmatic and Semantic
- A-priori knowledge, Analytic and synthetic, necessary and contingent, synthetic a priori
- Limits of knowledge.

#### **Suggested Readings:**

1. Lehrer, Keith. *Theory of Knowledge*: Westview press. 1990
2. Chisholm, R.M. *Theory of Knowledge*, Prentice- Hall in International Editions(3<sup>rd</sup>): USA. 1966.
3. Ayer, A. J. *The Problem of Knowledge*. Macmillan &Co. limited: London. 1956.
4. Danto A.C. *Analytical Philosophy of Knowledge*. Cambridge University Press.
5. Hintikka, Jaakko. *Knowledge and Belief*. Cornell University Press, 1962.
6. Russell, B. *Human Knowledge: Its Scope and Limits*. Routledge. 2009.
7. Pollock, John. *Knowledge and Justification*. Princeton University Press, 1974.
8. Rescher, Nicholas. *The Coherence Theory of Truth*. Univ Pr. of Amer. 1982.

9. Pollock, John. *Conemporary Theories of Knowledge*. Rowma & Littlefield Publishers. 1999.
10. Ammerman, J. R. *Classics of Analytic Philosophy*. Hackett Publishing Co., 1990.
11. Blanshar, Brand. *The Nature of Thought (Vol-I&II)*. Routledge. 2015.
12. Hamlyan, D.W. *The Theory of Knowledge*. Palgrave Macmillan. 1971.
13. Stroll, Avrum. *Epistemology: New Essays in the Theory of Knowledge*. Greenwood Press. 1979.
14. Strawson, P.F. *Skepticism and Naturalism: Some Varieties*. Columbia University Press. 1986.
15. Unger, Peter. *Ignorance: A Case for Scepticism*. Oxford University Press. 1975.
16. Pappas G.S. & M. Swain. *Eassays on Knowledge and Justification*.
17. Malcolm, N. *Knowledge and Certainty*.
18. Chattopadhyaya, S. *Doubt, Belief and Knowledge*. Indian Council of Philosophical Research. 1987.
19. Chattopadhyaya, D.P. *Induction, Probability and Skepticism*. State University of New York Press. 1991.
20. Matin, R.L. *Recent Essays on Truth and the Liar Paradox*. Oxford University Press. 1984.
21. Wittgenstein, L. *On Certainty*. Basil Blackwell. German: 1969.