

M. Phil (Philosophy) Syllabus

(A) Preamble

Out of the four papers, M. Phil (Philosophy) students are required to give three papers consisting of coursework and a Dissertation to be completed under the guidance of supervisor appointed by the Department. The first three papers are :

- Paper I - Methodology of Science and Philosophy
- Paper II - Philosophical Reasoning (Recent Trends)
- Paper III - Study of a Philosophical Text
- Paper IV - Dissertation

Paper I is supposed to provide an in-depth knowledge of various methods used in philosophical writings. These philosophical methods are also supposed to be compared with methods in sciences.

Paper II aims at acquainting the student with the recent philosophical writings and research (produced during last 50 years with a twofold purpose; a) to give the student an idea of the way philosophical methods are actually used by philosophers and b) to update the student's knowledge on the recent philosophical themes and perspectives on the background of which the student is supposed to produce his\her philosophical research in the form of a dissertation.

Paper III is meant for enhancing the student's knowledge and understanding in the area of his\her research interest in the light of a philosophical text which can be supplementary to his\her research work.

(B) Outline of the Course

An outline of the papers I to III and guidelines for dissertation are given below;

Paper I : Methodology of Science and Philosophy.

This course is expected to have advanced level discussion on various conceptual issues concerning methods of philosophy and formal, natural and human sciences.

1. Knowledge, belief and justification.

- (a) Nature of knowledge: Distinction between knowledge and belief, Gettier's problem and responses to it; Rorty's criticism of the traditional conception of knowledge .
- (b) Nature, kinds and scope of justification: A priori and A posteriori justification.
- (c) Foundational v/s non-Foundational theories of justification.

2. **Methodology of Logic and Mathematics.**

Nature and justification of propositions of logic and mathematics; Contemporary debates on the distinction between necessary and contingent, analytic and synthetic, a priori and empirical (Quine, Strawson, Rorty)

Nature and scope of self evident and conclusively evident a priori knowledge.

3. **Methodology of Natural Sciences.**

Problem of Induction, Hypothesis-verification v/s confirmation, confirmation by observed instances v/s predicative confirmation; Paradox of confirmation, observation and theory.

The Positivist, the Realist and the Instrumentalist debate about theory and theory choice and growth of scientific knowledge. (Hempel, Popper, Lakatos, Kuhn, Feyerband)

4. **Methodology of Social Sciences.**

The positivist conception of unity of scientific method and its critics: Hermeneutics, Critical Theory, phenomenology and postmodernism (Ricoeur, Husserl, Habermas, Derrida, Dilthey, Schutz)

5. **Methodology of Philosophy.**

(a) **Metaphysics**- The problem of sense and non-sense in metaphysics (Ayer, Wittgenstein). Descriptive metaphysics and Revisionary metaphysics (Strawson);

The problem of demarcation between science and metaphysics (Popper); Traditional and contemporary views about nature of metaphysical statements and reasoning.

(b) **Ethics**-Traditional, Modern and Postmodern views on nature of moral judgment and moral reasoning.

(c) **Method of Analysis**, (Moore, Wittgenstein) and the **Phenomenological method** (Husserl).

References :

Knowledge Belief and Justification.

1. Pappas G.S. and Swain M. (eds); *Essays on Knowledge and Justification*, Cornell University Press London, 1978
2. Keith Lehrer; *Knowledge*, Oxford University Press, London 1974.
3. Pappas G.S. (ed); *Justification of knowledge*, Dordrecht: D.Reidel, 1979.
4. Cornman, James W.; *Skepticism, Justification and Explanation*, Dordrecht: D.Reidel, 1988.

5. Chishom R.M.; *Theory of Knowledge*, Englewood Cliffs, N.J. Prentice-Hall 1977.
6. Pollock John; *Knowledge and Justification*, Princeton University Press, Princeton N.J. 1974.
7. Rorty Richard; *Philosophy and Mirror of Nature*; Princeton University Press, Princeton N.J. 1979

Methodology of Logic and Mathematics.

1. Strawson, P.F. (ed); *Philosophical Logic* (Relevant articles only); Oxford University Press, Oxford 1988.
1. Putnam H.; *Philosophy of Logic*, George Allen and Unwin, 1972.
2. Quine. W.V.O; *Philosophy of Logic*, Printice Hall, 1970

Methodology of Natural Science and Social Science.

1. N. Rescher; *Induction*, Pittsburg University Press, Pittsburg, 1980.
2. Richard Swinburn; *Justification of Induction*, Oxford University Press, 1974.
3. C.G. Hempel; *Aspect of Scientific Explanation*, Free Press, New York, 1965.
4. Richard Rudner; *Philosophy of Social Science*, Englewood Cliffs, N.J. Prentice-Hall, 1966.
5. Alan Ryan; *Philosophy of Social Science*, Mac-Millan Publication, London, 1970.
6. E. Nagel; *The Structure of Science: Problems in Logic Of Scientific Explanation*, Routledge and Kegan Paul, London, 1961.
7. G.H. VonWright; *Understanding and Explanation*, Cornell University Press, New York, 1971.
8. Lauden Larry; *Progress and its problems: Towards a theory of scietific growth*, RKP London, 1977.
9. Norman Stockmon; *Anti-positivist Theories of science*, Dordrecht: Reidel, 1983.
10. Popper Karl; *The Structure of scietific Discovery*, Harner Torch Books, New York, 1968.
11. Kuhn Thomas; *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, Chicago University Press, 1970.
12. Lacatos I. and Musgraves A. (ed); *Criticism and Growth of knowledge*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. 1970.
13. Ricoeur Paul; *Hermeneutics and Human Sciences*, Martinus Nijhoff Dordrecht, 1984.
14. Habermas J; *Theory of communicative Action*, Vol.1 (Relevant parts only)
15. Stephan K. White (ed); *The Cambridge Companion to Habermas* (Relevant articles only) Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1995.
16. Mohanty J.N.; *Phenomenology and the Human Sciences*, Martinus Nijhoff Dordrecht, 1984.
17. Rorty Richard; *Philosophy and Mirror of Nature* (Relevant parts only) Princeton University Press, Princeton N.J. 1979
18. Kearny and Rainwater Mara; *The Cotinental Philosophy Reader*, Routledge, London, 1996.
19. Feyerabend P; *Against Method*, Cornell University Press, Verso, London, 1975.

Methodology of Philosophy

1. Ayer A.J.; *Central Question of Philosophy*. (relevant parts only).
2. Rorty Richard; *Lingustic Turn* (Relevant articles only).
3. Husserl E.; *The Idea of phenomenology* (tran.) by W.P. Alston and N. Nakhnikian Martinus Nijhoff Thettague, 1964.
4. Hammond M Howarth, Keat Russel; *Understanding Phenomenology*, (Relevant parts only). Blackwell. Oxford, 1922.
5. Foot Phillina (ed), *Theories of Ethics*. (Relevant parts only), Oxford University Press, Oxford.
6. Wormack Geohhy, *Contemporary Moral Philosophy*, Macmillan, 1967.
7. Roser Crisp and Michal Stone (ed); *Virtue Ethics*, Oxford University Press, Oxford 1997.
8. Zygmunt Bauman; *Postmodern Ethics*, (Relevant parts only) Blackwell Publication, Oxford 1993.
9. Shapiro Jeremy (trans.), *Knowledge and Human Interests*, Beacon Press, Boston 1992.

Paper II: Philosophical reasoning (Recent Trends)

(The concerned teacher in consultation with the M. Phil committee will decide the syllabus for each year.)

This course is divided into two parts. The first part will consist the study of two to four recent Indian philosophers (i.e. philosophers who have worked within the Indian philosophical tradition) extensively w. r. t their specific writings. In the second part two to four recent Western philosophers (i.e. philosophers who themselves may be Indian or Western, but who have worked within western philosophical tradition) will be studied w. r. t their specific writings. The specific authors and their specific writings as specified by the concerned teacher in consultation with the M. Phil committee will constitute the syllabus of this paper for the respective year. A provisional list of authors for both the parts is given below:

Part One: Kalidas Bhattacharya, K.C. Bhattacharya, Anand Coomaraswamy, J. N. Mohanty, B.K. Matilal, R.C. Gandhi, S.S. Barlingay, N.K. Devraja, Daya Krishna, Rajendra Prasad, Debiprasad Chattopadhyay, G.R. Malkani, Ras Vihari Das.

Part Two: John Rawls, Karl Popper, Richard Rorty, Charles Taylor, Sartre, J. Habermas, H. Gadamer, Paul Ricouer, R. Sundararajan,

Paper III: Study of a Philosophical text

In this course, students are expected to study critically a certain philosophical text. The text should be classical or modern or contemporary text in Eastern or Western philosophy. The department will prepare list of texts from time of time. A student is expected to critically read the text with a view to be able to-

- (a) present the argument of the text in his/her own words;
- (b) formulate his/her appraisal; of argument of the text with justification;
- (c) point out and warrant interconnection between/ among points; and
- (d) critically evaluate other's appraisals of it or arguments presented therein.

This paper can be supplementary to the topic of dissertation chosen by the student or may be independent of it.

A student is expected to do such a study of a text with the help of a teacher. (Students are expected to give in writing the philosophical texts they intend to study. The name/s of teacher/s with whose help they are expected to study the respective texts will be notified on the basis of approval of the M. Phil. committee. The text the student had already studied at undergraduate or post graduate level is to be avoided.)

Paper IV: Dissertation :

- A) Every student is supposed to write dissertation on the topic to be decided by a student in consultation with a supervisor. The topic of dissertation and the name of the supervisor need to be approved by M. Phil Committee. A student is to finalize the general outline, collect the bibliographical details and complete dissertation. A dissertation is expected to give an exemplification of academic independence and research competence of the candidate. Students are supposed to be working on their dissertation while completion of other courses.
- B) Every student will be required to give a seminar on the dissertation. He/She would also be required to appear for viva-voce examination on dissertation. The dissertation can be submitted only after the completion of the M. Phil. course work (papers I to III).

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