

SYLLABUS FOR IV SEMESTER

PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

Objectives:

1. To introduce the students to the major religions of the world
2. To be familiar with the basic concepts of different thinkers and philosophies of religions
3. To critically reflect on the contemporary questions on religious philosophy of thinkers and religions.

Unit 1: A brief introduction to the major religions of the world.

Arguments for the existence of God in the East and West: Ontological, Cosmological, Teleological, Design and Moral arguments.

Unit 2: The attributes of God according to the Eastern and Western Philosophy and the Problem of Evil. The Emergence of Modern Philosophy of Religion: Shift of the focus from philosophizing about God to Religion. Pre-Kantian philosophy of Religion; Post-Kantian reconstruction, Reformulation of Religion by Friedrich Schleiermacher, Hegel, Hume, Marx and Nietzsche.

Unit 3: Nature of Religion: its Independence, Irreducibility to Knowledge. Morality and Aesthetics; Two grounds of Religion. Immediate self-consciousness and ultimate concern. Analysis of Religious experience with special reference to the 'The Idea of the Holy'.

Unit 4: The Linguistic Turn: The problem posed by verification principle, Ayer's challenge and its implications for religious discourse.

Unit 5: Religious Pluralism: conflicting truth claims of different religions, Religious harmony, Dialogue and Religious Truth, Theism and Toleration. The Philosophy of God in the Indian Traditions.

Books for study

1. Ayer A.J. The Revolution in Philosophy, London, Macmillan Publications, 1971
2. Ayer A.J. The Problem of Knowledge, New York, Penguin Books. 1948
3. Bulcke, C. The Theism of Nyaya Vaisesika, its Origin and Early Development. Delhi. Motilal Banarasidass. 1968.

5. E. L. Mascall, *Words and Images, A study in Theological Discourse*, Longmans Green Publication, 1957.
6. Hick, John, *Problems of Religious Pluralism*, London, Macmillan Publications 1988.
7. Joseph Damney Bettis, *Phenomenology of Religion, Eight Modern Descriptions of the Essence of Religion*
8. Schleiermacher, Friedrich., 'On Religion, Speeches to its Cultural Despisers' Newyork, Harper and Brothers, 1947.
9. Otto, Rudolf. *The Idea of the Holy*, New York, Oxford University Press 1931.
10. Quinn, Philip L. And Charles Taliaferro Eds. *A Companion to Philosophy of Religion*, 1997.
11. Vattanky, John. *Development of Nyaya Theism*, Delhi, Intercultural Publications 1993.

General Bibliography

1. Abernethy George and Thomas Langford, *Philosophy of Religion, A Book of Readings*, 1962.
2. Kuncheria Patil, *Religious Pluralism*, Delhi, ISPCK, 1987
3. Harold G. Coward: *Religious Pluralism and the World Religions* University of Madras. 1980.
4. Dhavamony Mariasusai, *Phenomenon of Religion*, Rome, Gregorian University, 1987.
5. Hick, John, *Philosophy of Religion*, New Jersey, Prentice Hall Publication, 1981
6. Aletrino, *Six World Religions*, London, SCM Press, 1964
7. Augustine John, *Religious Fundamentalism: Asian Perspective*, Bangalore, South Asia Theological Research institute.
8. Chopra V.D. *Religious Fundamentalism in Asia*, New Delhi, Gyan Publishing House
9. Tylor. A.E. *Does God Exist*. London, Macmillan and Co. 1959
10. Hawkins D.J.B. *Approach to Philosophy*, New York, Magi Books. 2009.
11. Hardon, John A. *Religions of the World*, Westminster, Marylnad, 1963.
12. Sutherland, Stewart eds. *The World Religions*, London, Routledge Publishers, 1988.

13. Tillich, Paul *What is Religion*, New York, Harper and Row Publishers, 1972.
14. Hick John, *A John Hick Reader*, Macmillan Publications 1921.

Vedanta (MC PL 4811)

Objectives

- a. To introduce the students to 'Vedanta', one of the well known, living philosophical systems of India.
- b. To be familiar with various Upanishadic texts which form the basis of *Brahmasutra-s Badarayana*
- c. To be aware of various philosophical schools within the framework of Vedanta.
- d. To encounter the Vedantic thinkers of our Modern times.

Outline of the course

I. Introducing Vedanta (Karl Potter)

- a) Introduction to Upanishads
- b) Selected readings from four Upanishadic texts
- c) Common features of Vedanta

II. Advaita of Sankara

- a) The first 4 of the *Brahma Sutra-s* of Badarayana.
- b) Selected readings from four Upanishadic texts.
- c) Common features of Vedanta

III. The theistic development of Vedanta (Eric Lott, J.B. Carman and J. Lipner)

- a) Visistadvaita of Ramanuja (with extract from his *Vedarthasangraha*)
- b) Basic Philosophy of Azhvars of Tamil Vaisnava tradition.

IV. Dvaita Vedanta of Madhva (cf. I. Puthiadam)

- a) Epistemological and Metaphysical Basis of Madhva's Thought.
- b) Man's knowledge of the Supreme Being
- c) Visnu - in Himself/and Universe/and Man's last destiny.

V. Encountering the Modern Vedanta

- a) Mystical Vedanta of Ramana of Ramana Maharshi
- b) Universal Vedanta of Swami Vivekananda
- c) Christian Vedanta of Abhishiktananda and Bede Griffiths

Bibliography

- Richard V. De Smet, *Religious Hinduism* (ed. and Contributor). 4th revised edition (Mumbai: St. Pauls, 1997)
- Eliot Deutsch, *Advaita Vedanta: A Philosophical Reconstruction*, 1969.
- Karl Potter, *Encyclopaedia of Indian Philosophy* Vol. III, 1981.
- Eric Lott: *Vedantic Approaches to God*, 1980
- J.B. Carman, *The Theology of Ramanuja*, 1973
- Julius Lipner, *The Face of Truth*, 1986
- K.S. Murty, *Revelation and Reason in Advaita Vedanta*, 1959.
- T.M.P. Mahadevan, *The Philosophy of Advaita* 1977.
- I. Puthiadam, *Visnu – The Ever Free: A Study of the Madhva Concept of God*. 1985
- Abhishiktananda, *Sachidananda: A Christian Approach to Advaitic Experience*, 1974.
- Hindu-Christian Meeting Point: within the cave of the Heart*, 1983
- Bede Griffiths, *Vedanta and Christian Faith*, 1978; *Marriage of East and West*, 1983; *A New Vision of Reality*, 1989

MC PL 4812 PHILOSOPHICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Objectives:

- 1) To understand human nature as such
 - 2) To learn to appreciate the dignity of human being distinguishing it from animals
 - 3) To understand and defend what is characteristically human
1. Life: The concept, the nature and the origin of life. The Essential difference between Animals and Human Beings: (a) Animal consciousness: Instincts in animals, Learning in Animals, Language in Animals: (b) Human Self-consciousness/ Reflection, co-reflection and human beings.
- II. The Senses: (a) Cognitive Phenomena: Sensations, Images and Imagination, Memory (b) Affective phenomena: Feelings, Emotions. (c) Appetitive phenomena: Inborn Sensory Drives, Habits. The Mind: (a) Human intelligence: How do we think? (b) The Human Will: Will and will power, efficient motives.
- III. Personality: (a) Its definition and components: Factors which Mould Personality; (b) Psycho-analysis: Sigmund Freud, Alfred Adler, C.G.Jung; (c) Characterology.
- IV. The Human Intellect: (a) Immateriality of the Intellect: Universality of our ideas, necessity of our judgments; (b) The origin of our ideas. (c) How the intellect operates: The understanding and the intellect; Knowledge of the Universal and of the Singular;

the intellect as a dynamic faculty; the knowledge of metaphysical principles;
(d) Judgment and affirmation. The Human Will: (a) Its Object and Nature; (b) Freedom of the Will: Freedom and determinism, free will and liberty, horizontal and vertical freedom; (c) Interaction between intellect and will.

V. Soul and Body: (a) The Soul: Subsistent, simple, immaterial; (b) The immortality of the human soul; (c) The relation between body and soul; Various theories. (d) How and when the human soul originates. Human Being as a Person: (a) The traditional philosophy of human being as a person, human being as an individual, human being as possessing spiritual nature; (b) Modern philosophy about human being as a person, human being-in-the-world, human being as embodied; (c) The paradoxes of the human person.

Suggested Readings

Donceel, Joseph F.: *Philosophical Anthropology*, 1967.

Reichmann, J.B.: *The Philosophy of the Human Person*, 1985.

Bernard, Berofsky: *Freedom from Necessity: The Metaphysical Basis of Responsibility*, 1987.

Brennan, Robert E.: *The Image of His Maker*, 1948.

Inwagen, Peter van: *An Essay on Free Will*, 1975.

Puthenkalam, John: *The Comprehension of Freedom: Eastern and Western Ways of Thinking*, 1995.

Perrett, Roy W.: *Death and Immortality*, 1971.

Robinson, Daniel: *Psychology: Traditions and Perspectives*, 1976.

Rychlak, Joseph: *Discovering Free Will and Personal Responsibility*, 1979.

Simon, Yves R.: *Freedom of Choice*, 1969.