

BAG Philosophy

According to the BAG course structure (Choice Based credit System), the BAG Philosophy program is offering 4 core courses (6 credits each), 2 discipline specific electives (6 credits each) and 2 generic electives (6 credits each).

Core Courses

1. Indian Philosophy, BPYC-131 (core course to be offered in **Semester I** for 6 credits)

This course outlines the fundamentals of ancient Indian philosophy. The course covers the basic concepts of the nine schools of Indian philosophy while also delving into various Upanishads along with their detailed philosophical explanations. This course is essential as it lays a background for further philosophical studies and also serves as an introductory overview to studies in metaphysics and epistemology. The objective of this core course is to introduce Indian philosophy from various thematic contexts and also build on basic concepts and their analysis in Philosophy.

The blocks and units under this course are:

Block 1: Introduction to Indian Philosophy

Unit 1: An outline of Indian Philosophy

Unit 2: Indian Scriptures (The unit will be an introduction to the division of Indian scriptures)

Unit 3: Philosophy of the Epics

Unit 4: *Nastika* and *Astika Darshan* (The unit will introduce difference between the different systems/schools of Indian Philosophy)

Block 2: Upanishadic Philosophy: Core themes - 1

Unit 1: Introduction to the Philosophy of Upanishads (This will give brief introduction to the basic themes discussed in the Upanishads)

Unit 2: Different approaches to Moksha (This unit will discuss the three paths to liberation)

Unit 3: Prasna Upanishad

Unit 4: Mundaka Unpanishad

Unit 5: Mandukya Upanishad

Block 3: Upanishadic Philosophy: Core themes - II

Unit 1: Isa Upanishad

Unit 2: Katha Upanishad

Unit 3: Chandogya Upanishad

Unit 4: Brahadaranyaka Upanishad

Block 4: Heterodox Systems

Unit 1: Carvaka

Unit 2: Jainism

Unit 3: Buddhism-I

Unit 4: Buddhism-II

Block 5: Orthodox Systems- I

Unit 1: Nyaya

Unit 2: Vaishesika

Unit 3: Sankhya

Unit 4: Yoga

Unit 5: Mimamsa

Block 6: Orthodox Systems- II

Unit 1: Vedanta: An Introduction

Unit 2: Sankara

Unit 3: Madhva

Unit 4: Ramanuja

Unit 5: Saivism and Vaishnavism

2. Ethics, BPYC-132 (Core Course to be offered in Semester II for 6 credits)

The term ‘ethics’ is derived from the Greek word *ethos* meaning ‘moral character or nature’; thus the discipline of ethics concerns itself with debates around moral philosophy on what is right or wrong conduct; how one must act, what one must ought to do, and so on. Ethics are broadly divided into normative ethics, meta-ethics and applied ethics. This course offers a brief introduction to the concepts of ethics and then delves into the theories of normative ethics, in detail. Further, theoretical meaning and value of ethical principles is discussed in an entire section on meta-ethics. The objective of this course is to offer a philosophical background for basic ethical debates and concepts. The units use the Indian context to simplify the theories and provide easier examples for the students.

Block 1: Basic Concepts

Unit 1: Introduction to Ethics

Unit 2: Moral Action

Unit 3: Virtue and Vices

Unit 4: Moral Law

Unit 5: Moral Relativism

Block 2: Western Ethical Theories

Unit 1: Virtue Ethics: Aristotle

Unit 2: Deontological Ethics: Immanuel Kant

Unit 3: Consequentialist Ethics: J. S. Mill

Unit 4: Critical appraisal of ethical theories

Block 3: Meta-Ethics

Unit 1: Introduction to Meta-ethics

Unit 2: Ethical Natural and Non-naturalism

Unit 3: Subjectivism: David Hume

Unit 4: Emotivism: Charles Stevenson

Unit 5: Prescriptivism: R. M. Hare

3. Logic, BPYC-133 (Core Course to be offered in **Semester III** for 6 credits)

Logic is the systematic study of the general structures of sound reasoning and valid arguments. It is the study of the methods and principles used to distinguish between correct and incorrect reasoning. This core course begins with an explanation of the nature of logic along with the basic concepts that are always relevant to the study of logic. The course primarily focuses on fundamentals of traditional logic and the form of the categorical syllogism. The proper study of logic will enable students to reason well, pay attention to the analysis of fallacies which are common to reasoning and provide criteria for making correct judgments. The units delve into the basics of logic and also use the basic concepts of Indian philosophical logic to compare the two.

Block 1: Nature of Logic

Unit 1: Introduction to Logic

Unit 2: Basic Concepts in Logic

Unit 3: Inductive and Deductive Logic

Unit 4: Truth and Validity

Block 2: Traditional Logic

Unit 1: Categorical propositions

Unit 2: Quality, Quantity, and Distribution

Unit 3: Translating Categorical Propositions into Standard Form

Unit 4: Square of Opposition and Existential Import

Unit 5: Immediate inference

Unit 6: Introduction to Fallacies

Block 3: Categorical Syllogism

Unit 1: Nature of Categorical Syllogism

Unit 2: Methods for testing Categorical Syllogism: Aristotelian and Venn Diagram

Unit 3: Non-categorical Syllogism

Unit 4: Propositional Logic

4. Western Philosophy: Modern, BPYC-134 (Core courses to be offered in **Semester IV** for 6 credits)

Modern Western Philosophy is the philosophy that developed between the seventeenth and the nineteenth century in Western Europe. The study of this philosophy is broadly divided into the schools of the Rationalists and the Empiricists, where the Rationalists were philosophers that evaluated the truth of the world through reason. The empiricists succeeded the rationalists, and gave utmost superiority to experience. These two schools were further reconciled in the critical philosophy of Kant who made space for both experience and reason. This paper focuses on the basic concepts of epistemology and metaphysics that were developed by various philosophers of these schools.

Block 1: Precursor to Modern Western Philosophy

Unit 1: Introduction to Modern Western Philosophy

Unit 2: Renaissance

Unit 3: Enlightenment

Block 2: Rationalism

Unit 1: Descartes

Unit 2: Spinoza

Unit 3: Leibniz

Unit 4: Criticisms of Rationalism

Block 3: Empiricism

Unit 1: Locke

Unit 2: Berkley

Unit 3: Hume

Unit 4: Criticisms of Empiricism

Block 4: Critical and Dialectic Philosophies

Unit 1: Kant

Unit 2: Hegel

Unit 3: Marx

(The following four courses are to be offered as electivel courses to the students of **5th Semester and 6th Semester**. In addition, Applied Ethics (BPYG-171) and Philosophy of Religion (BPYG-172) would be offered as Generic courses to those students who have not opted for Philosophy Major)

Elective Courses

5. Metaphysics, BPYE-141

The word *meta* in Greek means above, after or beyond; this is the study of the nature of things above/ after/beyond physics. Aristotle's papers included his works on physics and his treatises on ultimate reality. This course introduces students to the basic ideas of metaphysics in Philosophy. It looks at concepts such as substance, being, essence, matter, form and so on; and looks at these concepts in depth. The course has an entire section on Indian metaphysics where theories of causation, reality, universal and particulars from the Nyaya-Vaisesika, Buddhist, Sankya, and Vedanta schools.

Block 1: Nature of Metaphysics

Unit 1: Introduction to Metaphysics

Unit 2: Basic Concepts of Metaphysics

Unit 3: Methods

Unit 4: Theories of Causation (Will discuss thoughts of Aristotle, Hume, and Kant)

Block 2: Meaning of Being

Unit 1: Being and Essence

Unit 2: Substance and Accidents

Unit 3: Matter and Form

Unit 4: Appearance and Reality

Block 3: Nature of Finite Being

Unit 1: Entity

Unit 2: Person

Unit 3: Freedom

Block 4: Indian Metaphysics

Unit 1: Theories of Reality

Unit 2: Theories of Causation

Unit 3: Universals and Particulars

6. Social and Political Philosophy: Indian and Western, BPYE-142

This paper delves into the various themes of social and political concerns within Philosophy. The course is divided into four blocks, where the first block discusses the issues of rights, equality, liberty and so on from a historical, sociological, factual and an overall philosophical perspective. The course also looks at the Indian concepts of social and political relevance, such as Swaraj, Secularism and so on.

Block 1: Thematic understanding of Social and Political Philosophy

Unit 1: Rights

Unit 2: Equality

Unit 3: Liberty

Unit 4: Justice

Block 2: Society and State

Unit 1: Individualism

Unit 2: Democracy

Unit 3: Communism

Block 3: Indian Socio-Political Themes

Unit 1: Secularism

Unit 2: Nationalism

Unit 3: Social Discrimination

Unit 4: Swaraj

Block 4: Contemporary Debates

Unit 1: Torture

Unit 2: Affirmative Action

Unit 3: Migration

Unit 4: Privacy

Generic Courses

7. Applied Ethics, BPYG-171

Applied Ethics is the science of morals or that branch of philosophy which is concerned with the practical application of certain principles of morality. It concerns the moral conduct of individuals in the real world scenario. It deals with ethics in the workplace; in and of the environment; of the self as concerning the ethical considerations of suicide and euthanasia; of law and other aspects of public life. Thus, within the scope of the practical aspect of ethics is environmental ethics, business ethics, medical ethics, cyber ethics, professional ethics and so on.

Block 1: Applied Ethics

Unit 1: Introduction to Applied Ethics

Unit 2: Bio-Ethics

Unit 3: Environmental Ethics

Unit 4: Ethics and Technology

Block 2: Ethical Debates

Unit 1: Euthanasia

Unit 2: Suicide

Unit 3: Reproductive Rights

Unit 4: Terrorism

Unit 5: Capital Punishment

Unit 6: Animal Rights

Block 3: Professional Ethics

Unit 1: Introduction to Professional Ethics

Unit 2: Media and Cyber Ethics

Unit 3: Medical Ethics

Unit 4: Business Ethics

8. Philosophy of Religion, BPYG-172

Philosophy of Religion is a reflection on religion through philosophical methods. It takes up basic problems relating to God / Absolute. It also speculates about the origin, nature and function of religion. The task of Philosophy of Religion is to explain as best as it can, in its own language and to the rational and intellectual parts of human the beliefs, truths, the experience and the laws of religion. When Philosophy of Religion studies different religions, it finds that there is a fundamental unity that lies at the root of every religion with regard to three matters: faith in an Absolute Being of at least some kind, belief in the immortality of the soul, and the fundamental principles of morality. Philosophy of Religion is an antidote to all kinds of dogmatism, fanaticism, irrationalism and superstitions in religions,

Block 1: Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion

Unit 1: Meaning and Nature of Religion (Will discuss about the definition, meaning nature and the basic features of religion like, faith, revelation, values etc.)

Unit 2: Theories of the origin of Religion

Unit 3: Religion, Philosophy of Religion and, Theology (Will differentiate between the nature and purpose of the three)

Unit 4: Religious Language (It will be introductory in nature, discussing different components of religious language)

Unit 5: Religious Experience

Block 2: Problem of Affirming God's Existence

Unit 1: Different conceptions of God (The unit will introduce different conceptions of God like Theism [including Monism and Polytheism], Deism, Atheism and Agnosticism etc.)

Unit 2: Nature and Attributes of God

Unit 3: Traditional Arguments for God's Existence

Unit 4: The Problem of Evil

Unit 5: Challenges of Atheism and Agnosticism

Block 3: Religious Pluralism

Unit 1: Religious Pluralism and secularism

Unit 2: Religious Fundamentalism

Unit 3: Inter-religious Dialogue

Unit 4: Contemporary Debates