

# মহাপুরুষ শ্রীমন্ত শঙ্করদেব বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় MAHAPURUSHA SRIMANTA SANKARADEVA VISWAVIDYALAYA



## SYLLABUS OF MSSVRAT

Paper- II

Programme: Ph.D. in Philosophy

Department of Philosophy

Code: RAT-Phi-02  
Subject: Philosophy  
Total Marks: 50

**Unit: 1: Classical Indian: Epistemology and Metaphysics**

- **Vedic and Upanisadic:** *Ṛta* – the cosmic order, the divine and the human realms; *Ṛna*, the centrality of the institution of yajña (sacrifice), theories of creation *Ātman* – Self and not – self ), *Jāgrat*, *Svapna*, *Susupti* and *turiya*, *Brahman*
- **Cārvāka:** *Pratyakṣa* as the only *pramāṇa*, critique of *anumāna* and *śabda*
- **Jainism:** Concept of reality – *sat*, *dravya*, *guṇa*, *paryāya*, *Jiva*, *ajiva*, *anekāntavāda*, *syādvāda* and *nayavāda*; theory of knowledge
- **Buddhism:** Four Noble Truths, *Āstāngika Mārga*, *Pratityasamutpāda*, *kṣaṇabhahgavāda*, *anātmavāda*. Schools of Buddhism: *Vaibhāṣika*, *Sautrāntika*, *Yogacāra*, *Mādhyamika*
- **Nyāya:** *Pramā* and *apramā*, Theories of *pramāṇa*: *pratyakṣa*, *anumāna*, *upamana*, *śabda*. *Hetvabhāsa*, *Anyathākhyāti*
- **Vaiśeṣika:** Concept of *padārtha* and its kinds, *Asatkāryavāda*, Kinds of *Kāraṇa*: *samavāyi*, *asamavāyi*, and *nimitta kāraṇa*, *paramaṇukaraṇavāda*
- **Sāṃkhya:** *Satkāryavāda*, *prakṛti* and its evolutes, arguments for the existence of *prakṛti*, nature of *puruṣa*, arguments for the existence and plurality of *puruṣa*
- **Yoga:** Patañjali's Theory of *Pramāṇa*, concept of *citta* and *citta* – *vṛtti*, stages of *cittabhumi*
- **Purva – Mimāṃsā:** Kumārila and Prabhākara Schools of Mimāṃsa and their major points of difference, *triputi* – *samvit*, *jñatātā*, *abhāva* and *anupalabdhi*, *anvitadbhidhanavāda*, *abhihitānvayavāda*, Theories of error: *Akhyāti*, *Viparītakhyāti*
- **Vedānta:** Advait: *Brahman*, relation between *Brahman* and *Ātman*, three grades of *sattā*, *Adhyāsa*, *māya*, *Jiva*, *Vivartavāda*, *Anirvachniya-khyāti*
- **Viśiṣṭādvaita:** *Saguṇa Brahman*, refutation of *māya*, *aprthaksiddhi pariṇāmavāda*, *Jiva*, *bhakti* and *prapatti*, *Brahma-Pariṇāmavāda*, *Sat-khyāti*
- **Dvaita:** Rejection of *nirguṇa brahman* and *māya*, *bheda* and *sāksi*, *bhakti*

**Unit: 2: Classical Western: Ancient, Medieval, and Modern: Epistemology and Metaphysics**

**Pre-Socratic Philosophers:** Thales, Anaxagoras, Anaximenes, Ionians, Pythagoras, Parmenides, Heraclitus and Democritus.

**The Sophists and Socrates**

**Plato and Aristotle:**

- Plato – Theory of knowledge, theory of Ideas, the method of dialectic.
- Aristotle – Logic as an organon, critique of Plato's theory of Ideas, theory of causation, form and matter, potentiality and actuality

**Medieval Philosophy:**

- St. Augustine: Problem of Evil
- St. Anselm: Ontological argument
- St. Thomas Aquinas: Faith and Reason, Essence and Existence, the Existence of God

**Modern Western Philosophy:**

- **Descartes:** Conception of method, Criteria of truth, doubt and methodological scepticism, *cogito ergo sum*, innate ideas, Cartesian dualism: mind and matter, proofs for the existence of God, interactionism
- **Spinoza:** Substance, Attribute and Mode, the concept of 'God or Nature', parallelism, pantheism
- **Leibnitz:** Monadology, principles of non – contradiction, sufficient reason and identity

of indiscernibles, the doctrine of pre-established harmony

- **Locke:** Ideas and their classification, refutation of innate ideas, distinction between primary and secondary qualities, theory of knowledge
- **Berkeley:** Rejection of the distinction between primary and secondary qualities, immaterialism, critique of abstract ideas, *esse est percipi*
- **Hume:** Impressions and ideas, induction and causality, personal identity, rejection of metaphysics, scepticism
- **Kant:** The critical philosophy, possibility of synthetic a priori judgements, the metaphysical and the transcendental deduction of the categories, phenomenon and noumenon
- **Hegel:** The conception of *Geist* (spirit), the dialectical method, absolute idealism

### Unit: 3: Indian Ethics

- Concept of *Purusārtha*, *Śreyas* and *Preyas*
- *Varṇāshrama*, *Dharma*
- *Karma-yoga*, *Sthitprajña*, *Svadharmā*, *Lokasamgraha*
- Law of *Karma*: ethical implications
- *Astānga Yoga*
- Jainism: *Tri-ratna*, *Panch-vrata*
- Buddhism: *Brahma-vihāra*: *matri*, *karuṇā*, *muditā*, *upeksha*, *bodhi-sattva*
- Carvaka's Hedonism

### Unit: 4: Western Ethics

- Concepts of Good, right, justice, duty, obligation, cardinal virtues, *Eudaemonism*
- Kant's moral theory: Postulates of morality, Good-will, Categorical Imperative, Duty, Mean and ends, Maxims.
- Utilitarianism: principle of utility, kinds of utilitarianism, Moral theories of Bentham, J. S. Mill, Sidgwick
- Theories of Punishment
- Ethical cognitivism and non-cognitivism: Emotivism, Prescriptivism

### Unit: 5: Contemporary Indian Philosophy

**Vivekananda:** Practical Vedanta, Universal Religion

**Sri Aurobindo:** Evolution, mind and supermind, Integral Yoga

**Iqbal:** God, man and superman

**Tagore:** Religion of man, ideas on education

**K. C. Bhattacharyya:** Concept of Philosophy, subject as Freedom

**Radhakrishnan:** Intellect and intuition, the Idealist view of life, concept of Universal Religion, Hindu view of life.

**J. Krishnamurti:** Freedom from the known, analysis of self

**Gandhi:** Truth, Non-violence, *satyagraha*, *swaraj*, critique of modern civilization. Ambedkar: Annihilation of caste, Neo-Buddhism

**M.N.Roy:** Radical Humanism, Materialism

### Unit: 6: Recent Western Philosophy

**Analytic and Continental Philosophy**

**Frege:** Sense and Reference

**Logical Positivism:** Verification theory of meaning, Elimination of metaphysics

**Moore:** Refutation of Idealism, Defense of common-sense

**Russell:** Logical Atomism, Definite Descriptions

**Wittgenstein:** Language and Reality, Facts and objects, names and propositions, the picture theory, critique of private language, meaning and use, forms of life

**Gilbert Ryle:** category mistake, concept of mind, critique of Cartesian dualism

**A. J. Ayer:** The Problem of Knowledge

**Phenomenology and Existentialism:**

Husserl: Phenomenological Method, Philosophy as a rigorous science, Intentionality

Heidegger: The concept of Being (*Dasein*), Man as being in the world, Kierkegaard:

Subjectivity as Truth, Sartre: Concept of Freedom, Bad-faith, Humanism

**Pragmatism:** William James: Pragmatic Theories of Meaning and Truth

**Post-Modernism:** Nietzsche: Will to Power.

**Unit: 7: Social and Political Philosophy: Indian & Western**

Secularism and Fundamental Rights, Terrorism, *Swadeshi*, Satyagrah, Sarvodaya, Social Democracy, Social Institutions: Family, Marriage, property, education and religion, Plato: Ideal State and Justice, Locke, Hobbes, Rousseau: Social Contract Theory, Marxism: Critique of Capitalism, Doctrine of Class Struggle and Classless Society., Feminism: Basic Concepts: Patriarchy, misogyny, Gender, Theories of Feminism; Liberal, Socialist, radical and eco-feminism

**Unit: 8: Logic**

Truth and Validity, Nature of Propositions Categorical Syllogism, Laws of thought Classification of Propositions Square of Opposition, Truth-Functions and Propositional Logic Quantification and Rules of Quantification Symbolic Logic: Use of symbols, Decision Procedures: Truth Table, Using Truth- Tables for testing the validity of arguments Venn diagram, informal and formal Fallacies, Proving Validity, Argument and Argument-form Axiomatic System, Consistency, Completeness Differences between Deductive and Inductive Logic

**Unit: 9: Applied Philosophy**

What is applied Philosophy?, Environmental Ethics: Nature as means or end, Arne Naess: Deep Ecology, Peter Singer; Animal Rights, Medical-Ethics: Abortion, euthanasia, female-infanticide Professional Ethics: Corporate Governance and ethical responsibility, Media Ethics: ethical issues in Privacy, cyber space, pornography, Philosophical Counseling: Managing everyday problems.

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