



SOPHIA COLLEGE FOR WOMEN (EMPOWERED AUTONOMOUS)

Affiliated to the University of Mumbai

Programme: Humanities
PHILOSOPHY (Major and
Minor) F.Y.B.A

**Syllabus for the Academic Year 2025-2026
based on the National Education Policy 2020**



SOPHIA COLLEGE FOR WOMEN (EMPOWERED AUTONOMOUS)

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

COURSE DETAILS FOR MAJOR

	SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
TITLE	Introduction to Western Ethics	Thinking Through Philosophy
TYPE OF COURSE	DSC	DSC
CREDITS	4	4

COURSE DETAILS FOR MINOR:

	SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
TITLE	Introduction to Philosophy	Minor 4: Introduction to Moral Philosophy
TYPE OF COURSE	Minor	Minor
CREDITS	4	4

Preamble:

The pursuit of philosophical inquiry arises from mankind's innate sense of wonderment regarding the universe and its position within it. This intrinsic curiosity compels individuals to seek knowledge and understanding, eschewing ignorance in favor of wisdom. Philosophical contemplation emerges whenever individuals engage in deep and consistent reflection upon their beliefs, concepts, principles, theories, morals, and modes of existence. Fundamental inquiries such as "What constitutes the virtuous life? What obligations do I owe to myself, others, and society? What forms of existence are deemed virtuous and meaningful?" represent common philosophical queries. However, reflective individuals also ponder upon broader topics such as the nature of the cosmos, the dichotomy of mind and body, the essence and scope of human rights, and the optimal societal structure.

We at Sophia College endeavors at the undergraduate Philosophy program level to cultivate critical thinking, ethical discernment, and profound engagement with existential, epistemic, and axiological inquiries. Designed to furnish students with a comprehensive grasp of philosophical traditions, theories, and methodologies, the program



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aims to nurture intellectual inquisitiveness and analytical acumen essential for success across diverse disciplines. Every course within this program is conceived with the utmost consideration for the educational enrichment of our students. The syllabi of all courses offered under this program embody a novel vision and embrace a "learning outcome-based curriculum framework," fostering enhanced teaching-learning experiences in a more student-centric milieu.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

PO 1	To introduce students to the traditional, modern and contemporary methods of philosophical inquiry in Greek, Indian and Western philosophy
PO 2	To familiarize students with the knowledge of some of the main figures, movements and periods in the history of philosophy
PO 3	To equip students with a command of some of the main issues in traditional and contemporary philosophy in Indian and Western context.

PROGRAMME SPECIFIC OUTCOMES

PSO 1	Students will be able to analyse and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of ethical theories through the application of philosophical reasoning and logical arguments.
PSO 2	Students will possess the knowledge and skill to critically examine political decisions and social policies of a society from the perspective of justice, liberty and equality.
PSO 3	Students will be able to look at philosophical problems clearly and carefully in order to construct and defend their view on a wide variety of philosophical topics ranging from religion to morality to metaphysics and epistemology.

Programme: Humanities Philosophy Major 1	Semester – 1
Course Title:	Course Code: APHI111MJ
<u>COURSE OBJECTIVES (CO)</u> CO1: Introduce the foundations and scope of ethics within philosophy. CO2: Explore classical Greek perspectives on virtue, fate, and moral reasoning. CO3: Examine modern ethical theories and their approaches to duty, pleasure, and utility. CO4: Present diverse approaches beyond traditional Western frameworks.	



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COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLO)

CLO1: Students will be able to explain the nature of ethics and distinguish it from law and conscience.
 CLO2: Students will be able to analyze ethical ideas in Homer, Socrates, Epicurus, and Stoicism.
 CLO3: Students will be able to compare egoism, hedonism, utilitarianism, and Kantian ethics.
 CLO4: Students will be able to evaluate divine command theory, existentialist ethics, and feminist ethics of care.

Lectures per week (1 Lecture is 60 minutes)		4	
Total number of Hours in a Semester		60	
Credits		4	
Evaluation System	Summative Assessment	2 Hours	50 marks
	Continuous Assessment	--	50 marks

Unit 1 Nature of Ethics	1.1	Nature and branches of Philosophy
	1.2	What is ethics? Its nature and scope
	1.3	Basic concepts and distinctions in ethics
	1.4	Ethics, law and conscience.
Unit 2 Greek Ethics	2.1	Ethics and Fate: Homer's Iliad.
	2.2	Socratic ethics.
	2.3	Virtue and character.
	2.4	Epicurus and Stoicism.
Unit 3 Modern Ethics	3.1	Egoism and altruism.
	3.2	Hedonism: Jeremy Bentham.
	3.3	Utilitarianism: J S Mill.
	3.4	Ethics of duty: Immanuel Kant.
Unit 4 Alternative Approaches to Ethics		Divine command theory of ethics
		Existentialist Ethics: J P Sartre
		Feminist Ethics of Care: Carol Gilligan



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REFERENCES:

- Ray Billington, *Living Philosophy: An Introduction to Moral Thought*. 3rd edition.
- Richard Creel, *Thinking Philosophically: An Introduction to Philosophy*.
- James Rachels, *Elements of Moral Philosophy*, 4th edition.
- Barbara MacKinnon and Adrew Fiala, *Ethics: Theory and Contemporary Issues* 8th edition.
- Ayn Rand, *The Virtue of Selfishness*.
- Gordon Graham, *Theories of Ethics*.
- Mark Dimmock and Andrew Fisher, *Ethics for A Level*
- Kenan Malik, *The Quest for a Moral Compass*.



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Programme: Humanities		Semester – 1	
Philosophy Minor 1			
Course Title: Introduction to Philosophy		Course Code: APhi111MN	
<p><u>COURSE OBJECTIVES (CO)</u></p> <p>CO1: To understand the basic notions about Philosophy as a subject of study, its method and the tasks Philosophers engage in, and to familiarise with how to read and write Philosophy.</p> <p>CO2: To study the concepts of myth and its connections with ancient Philosophy and analyse how the ancient Greek Philosophers thought about nature and reality of the world</p> <p>CO3: To familiarise with the areas and issues dealt in Philosophy such as Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mind, and Bioethics.</p> <p>CO4: To look through the lens of Philosophy a few characters in Mahabharat and to apply critical reasoning in engaging ethical discussions.</p>			
<p><u>COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLO)</u></p> <p>CLO1: Recall the basic subject matter of Philosophy and to familiarize with methods used in Philosophizing and describe how to read and write Philosophical essays.</p> <p>CLO2: Distinguish between myth and Philosophy and discuss the ways in which ancient Greek Philosophers thought about nature and reality of the world.</p> <p>CLO3: Develop the skill to critically think through thought experiments prominent issues discussed in Philosophy such as Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mind, and Bioethics</p> <p>CLO4: Apply critical reasoning and analyze a few characters in Mahabharat and the ethical discussions engaged on discourses about them in it.</p>			
Lectures per week (1 Lecture is 60 minutes)		4	
Total number of Hours in a Semester		60	
Credits		4	
Evaluation System	Summative Assessment	2 Hours	50 marks
	Continuous Assessment	-	50 marks



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Unit 1 What is Philosophy	1.1	Nature of a philosophical enquiry; Method of Philosophy
	1.2	Philosophy, Science and Religion
	1.3	What Philosophers do. Reading and writing philosophy
Unit 2 Ancient Greek Philosophy	2.1	Philosophy and Myth: Hesiod and Homer
	2.2	Natural Philosophers: Thales, Anaximander and Anaximenes
	2.3	Pythagoras, Parmenides and Heraclites; Pluralists
Unit 3 Philosophy Through Thought Experiments	3.1	Metaphysics: “Where did the universe come from?”
	3.2	Philosophy of Mind: “Brain Snatched”
	3.3	Bioethics: Killing Mary to Save Jodie”
Unit 4 Indian Philosophy: The Mahabharat	4.1	Who is to judge? “Draupadi’s courage”
	4.2	Ethics of detachment: “Arjuna’s Despair”
	4.3	Differential Treatment: “Karna’s Status anxiety”

REFERENCES

Unit 1

Richard Creel, *Thinking Philosophically*.

Clare Saunders and others, *Doing Philosophy: A Practical Guide for Students*, chapter 1

Unit 2:

William Lawhead, *Voyage of Discovery*, chapters 1 and 2

Unit 3

Stephen Law, *The Philosophy Gym*

Unit 4

Gurcharan Das, *The Difficulty of Being Good*;

Irawati Karve, *Yuganta*

“Karna and the Mahabharat: An Ethical Reflection



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Programme: Humanities Philosophy Major 2		Semester – 2	
Course Title: Thinking Through Philosophy		Course Code: APhi122MJ	
<p><u>COURSE OBJECTIVES (CO)</u></p> <p>CO 1. To understand the basic notions about Philosophy as a subject of study, its method and the tasks Philosophers engage in, and to familiarise with how to read and write Philosophy.</p> <p>CO 2. To study the concepts of myth and its connections with ancient Philosophy and analyse how the ancient Greek Philosophers thought about nature and reality of the world.</p> <p>CO 3. To familiarise with the areas and issues dealt in Philosophy such as Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mind, and Bioethics.</p> <p>CO 4. To look through the lens of Philosophy a few characters in Mahabharat and to apply critical reasoning in engaging ethical discussions.</p>			
<p><u>COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLO)</u></p> <p>CLO 1. Recall the basic subject matter of Philosophy and to familiarize with methods used in Philosophizing and describe how to read and write Philosophical essays.</p> <p>CLO 2. Distinguish between myth and Philosophy and discuss the ways in which ancient Greek Philosophers thought about nature and reality of the world.</p> <p>CLO 3. Develop the skill to critically think through thought experiments prominent issues discussed in Philosophy such as Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mind, and Bioethics.</p> <p>CLO 4. Apply critical reasoning and analyze a few characters in Mahabharat and the ethical discussions engaged on discourses about them in it.</p>			
Lectures per week (1 Lecture is 60 minutes)		4	
Total number of Hours in a Semester		60	
Credits		4	
Evaluation System	Summative Assessment	2 Hours	50 marks
	Continuous Assessment	-	50 marks

Unit 1 What is Philosophy	1.1	Method of Philosophy
	1.2	What Philosophers do
	1.3	Reading and writing philosophy



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Unit 2 Philosophy Through Ancient Greeks	2.1	Philosophy and Myth: Hesiod and Homer (CA 1)
	2.2	Natural Philosophers: Thales, Anaximander and Anaximenes
	2.3	Pythagoras, Parmenides and Heraclites
Unit 3 Philosophy Through Thought Experiments	3.1	Metaphysics: “Where did the universe come from?”
	3.2	Philosophy of Mind: “Brain Snatched”
	3.3	Bioethics: Killing Mary to Save Jodie”
Unit 4 Philosophy Through the Mahabharat	4.1	Who is to judge? “Draupadi’s courage”
	4.2	Ethics of detachment: “Arjuna’s Despair”
	4.3	Differential Treatment: “Karna’s Status anxiety”

REFERENCES

Unit 1 What is Philosophy?

- Richard Creel, Thinking Philosophically.
- Clare Saunders and others, Doing Philosophy: A Practical Guide for Students, chapter 1

Unit 2: Philosophy Through Ancient Greeks

- William Lawhead, Voyage of Discovery, chapters 1 and 2

Unit 3 Philosophy Through Thought Experiments

- Stephen Law, The Philosophy Gym

Unit 4 Philosophy Through The Mahabharat

- Gurcharan Das, The Difficulty of Being Good
- Irawati Karve, Yuganta
- Christopher Key Chapple, “Karna and the Mahabharat: An Ethical Reflection



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Programme: Humanities Philosophy Minor 2		Semester – 2	
Course Title: Introduction to Moral Philosophy		Course Code: APhi122MN	
<p><u>COURSE OBJECTIVES (CO)</u></p> <p>CO 1. Familiarize students with significant contributions the history of moral theory in the western world</p> <p>CO 2. Inculcate in students an essence of morality based on analytical reasoning rather than dogmatic assertion.</p> <p>CO 3. To provide students with an ethical framework for assessing moral decisions in different areas of life.</p>			
<p><u>COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLO)</u></p> <p>CLO 1. Use philosophical and ethical terms and concepts correctly and consistently</p> <p>CLO 2. Apply critical thinking and reasoning skills to ethical issues in a variety of real-world contexts</p> <p>CLO 3. Analyse how ethical issues are handled differently by different ethical theories.</p> <p>CLO4 Examine alternative approaches to addressing ethical issues and questions and identify their limitations.</p>			
Lectures per week (1 Lecture is 60 minutes)		4	
Total number of Hours in a Semester		60	
Credits		4	
Evaluation System	Summative Assessment	2 Hours	50 marks
	Continuous Assessment	-	50 marks

Unit 1 Introduction to Moral Philosophy	1.1	Branches of Philosophy: Metaphysics, Epistemology and Ethics
	1.2	Nature of ethics
	1.3	Basic Concepts and preliminary distinctions: branches of ethics; fact value distinction; moral, amoral, and non-moral, intrinsic value and extrinsic value
Unit 2	2.1	Socratic ethics: Sophists, Socratic Method, Virtue and knowledge, can virtue be taught?



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Greek Philosophy	2.2	Ethics of Character: Eudaimonia, Virtue is a habit, Doctrine of Mean
	2.3	Stoicism
Unit 3 Normative Ethical Theory	3.1	Utilitarianism: Hedonistic calculus – Jeremy Bentham
	3.2	Mill's version of utilitarianism, Act and Rule Utilitarianism.
	3.3	Deontology: Good will, hypothetical and categorical imperative, Respect for persons.
Unit 4 Alternative Approaches to Ethics	4.1	Divine command theory
	4.2	Existentialist ethics: Jean Paul Sartre
	4.3	Feminist ethics: Carol Gilligan

References and Reading List

Unit 1 References

Richard Creel, *Thinking Philosophically*, chapter 1
 Rogers, *A Short History of Ethics*, chapter 1 (nature of ethics)
 Mel Thompson, *Access To Religion and Philosophy*, pp. 35-36 (Basic concepts)
 Richard Burnor, *Ethical Choices*, chapter 1, Part IV (Intrinsic and extrinsic value)

Unit 2 References

Norman Melchert and David Morrow, *The Great Conversation*, chapter 9 (Aristotle); William Lawhead: *Voyage of Discovery* chapter 3 (Socrates) and 5 (Aristotle)
 Brent Adkins, *A Guide to Ethics and Moral Philosophy*, chapter 1 and 2. (Aristotle)

Unit 3 References

Brent Adkins, *A Guide to Ethics and Moral Philosophy*, Part II, chapter 5 to 8
 Russ Shaffer Landau, *Living Ethics: An Introduction with Readings*, chapter 5 (Utilitarianism) and chapter 6 (Deontology)

Unit 4 References

James Rachels, *Elements of Moral Philosophy*, chapter 4 (ethics and religion), chapter 11 (Feminist ethics)
 Ray Billington, *Living Philosophy: An Introduction to Moral Thought*, chapter 7 (Existentialism)
 Stephen Darwall, *Philosophical Ethics*, chapter 19 (Ethics of care)



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EVALUATION PATTERN

Continuous Assessment: 50 marks (Major and Minor)

- **25 marks:** Class Test (combination of any of the following: MCQ, fill in the blanks, quiz, match the columns, one-line answers, short notes, etc)
- **20 marks:** Critical essay or assignment; **5 marks:** Viva on the essay/assignment.

Summative Assessment: 50 marks (Major and Minor)

- Descriptive type.
- Total No of questions: 5
- 4 questions @ 10 marks corresponding to 4 units of the syllabus.
- Internal choice within each unit.
- 5th question: Attempt 2 short notes @5 marks from 4 options.
