

Syllabus of Western Philosophy

[This Syllabus is offered for a four year BA (Hons.) degree and one year MA degree at the Department of Philosophy, University of Chittagong, session 2013-2014 & 2014-2015. The group setting as 'Core Philosophy', 'Branch Philosophy' and 'Eastern Philosophy' is not copied from the printed syllabus but given as bellow for helping the interested ones to have a proper understanding of institutional study of philosophy.]

Core Philosophy

- CP 1 Introduction to Philosophy: Metaphysics
- CP 2 History of Western Philosophy
- CP 3 Theory of Knowledge
- CP 4 Ethics
- CP 5 Logic
- CP 6 Analytic Philosophy
- CP 7 Continental Philosophy
- CP 8 Pragmatism & Humanism

Branch of Philosophy

- BP 1 Philosophy of Art
- BP 2 Philosophy of Language
- BP 3 Philosophy of Mind
- BP 4 Political Philosophy
- BP 5 Social Philosophy
- BP 6 Philosophy of Religion & Comparative Religion
- BP 7 Philosophy of Science

Eastern Philosophy

- EP 1 Muslim Philosophy
- EP 2 Indian Philosophy
- EP 3 Bangladesh Philosophy

CP 1 Introduction to Philosophy: Metaphysics

1. The nature and Scope of Philosophy
2. Functions of Philosophy
3. Methods of Philosophy
4. Relation of Philosophy to Science, Religion & Common-sense
5. Theories of the Origin of Knowledge – Authoritarianism, Rationalism, Empiricism, Critical Theory of Kant, Intuitionism.
6. The object of Knowledge – Idealism, Realism & Phenomenalism.
7. Theories of Reality— Monism, Dualism and Pluralism.
8. Philosophy of God: The idea of God and arguments for and against God's existence.
9. The Problem of Value – Types of Value
10. Mind – body relation
11. The Problem of the Possibility of knowledge – Scepticism and reactions to Scepticism.
12. Theories of Truth
13. Theories of Evolutionism and creationism.

CP 2 History of Western Philosophy

Thales to Aquinas, Bacon to Hume, German Idealism (Kant to Hegel), Neo Hegelian Idealism (Bradley, Bosanquet, T. H. Green), Neo Idealism (Croce, Gentile, Royace), Neo-Realism, Critical Realism, Existentialism, Dialectical Materialism, Bergson, Schopenhauer and Nietzsche.

CP 3 Theory of Knowledge

CP 3.1 Introduction to Contemporary Epistemology

1. Definition of knowledge.
2. Gettier's objection and its responses in brief.
3. Kinds of knowledge: a priori vs a posteriori and synthetic vs analytic statements
4. The Nature and structure of justification: Internalism and External, Foundationalism & Coherentism, evidentialism and Reliabilism.
5. Sources of knowledge: Perception, Introspection, Memory, Reason, Testimony.
6. The limits of knowledge brief discussion on different forms of skepticism and its responses.
7. Contextualism in epistemology.
8. Naturalistic epistemology, virtue epistemology, religious epistemology, moral epistemology, social epistemology, feminist epistemology and evolutionary epistemology.

CP 3.2 Epistemology and Metaphysics

Texts: R.M. Chisholm: *Theory of Knowledge*, (3rd edition) & Michael J. Loux: *Metaphysics: A Contemporary Introduction* (3rd edition) Routledge, 2006. (Chapter I: Problem of Universal – Metaphysical Realism)

CP 3.3 Philosophical Aspects of Artificial Intelligence

1. Introduction: What is AI, Foundations of AI, History of AI, AI Application Areas.
2. Intelligent Agents: Agents & Environments, Good Behavior, The Nature of Environments, The Structure of Agents.
3. New Approaches to define AI: Intelligence and the Physical System Hypothesis, Neural Computing, Agents, Emergence and Intelligence.
4. The Science of Intelligent Systems: Psychological Constraints, Epistemological Issues, Situated Actors and the Existential Mind.
5. Weak & Strong AI: Can Machines Act Intelligently? Can Machines Really Think?
6. AI: Current Issues and Future Directions.
7. Ethics & Risks of Developing AI.
8. Men and Machines: Cybernetics, The Identity of the Person: Cyber Men, The Ultimate Difference: Emotion and Faith.
9. The Computational Theory of Mind.

CP 3.4 Contemporary Epistemology

Texts:

1. Jonathon Dancy - *Contemporary Epistemology*
2. Robert Audi – *Epistemology: A Contemporary Introduction to the Theory of Knowledge*, 3rd edition

CP 4 Ethics

CP 4.1 Introduction to Ethics

1. Nature, Scope and Utility of Ethics.
2. Relation of Normative Ethics with Meta-ethics and Applied or Practical Ethics.
3. Nature of Moral Judgment.
4. Different Theories of Ethics: Hedonism, Egoism, Utilitarianism, Kant's Ethics, Perfectionism, Virtue Theory.
5. Feminist Ethics: The Ethics of Care.
6. Ethical Relativism.
7. Moral Rights.
8. Moral values.
9. Theories of Punishment.

CP 4.2 Meta-Ethics

Texts: selected chapters from (1) G. E. Moore: *Principia Ethica*, (1903), A. J. Ayer: *Language, Truth and Logic*, R. M. Hare: *Moral Thinking*, (1981)

1. Nature, Subject-matter and Scope of Meta-Ethics.
2. Some Basic Concepts about Ethical Realism.
3. Ethical Nihilism and Ethical Scepticism.
4. Origin & Development of Meta-ethical Theories: Naturalism, Non-naturalism, Emotivism, Prescriptivism and Descriptivism.

CP 4.3 Bio-Ethics & Medical Ethics

1. Nature and scope of bio-ethics and medical ethics
2. Principles of medical ethics
3. Suicide and Euthanasia
4. Abortion and use of contraceptives and other means of birth control.
5. Ethics of genetic engineering.
6. Ethics of assisted reproduction, Surrogacy and human cloning.
7. Ethical issue regarding the genetic screening, Genetic counseling and Genetic therapy.
8. Ethical issues of prenatal diagnosis.
9. Neurology and Neuro ethics, Nanotechnology and Nano-ethics. Nano-ethics of different forms of Human Enhancement. Ethical issues related to cosmetic surgery.
10. Ethical issues associated with drug abuse and addiction.
11. Ethics of genetically modified foods.
12. Ethics of organ donation transplantation buying selling and trading.
13. Ethical issues in experiments on embryos and animals.
14. Healthcare ethics.
15. Doctor- patient relationship and their duties and obligations.
16. Nursing ethics. Nurse-physician and nurse-patient relationships.

CP 4.4 Broad Ethical aspects of Applied Philosophy

1. Nature and Scope – Theory and Practice.
2. Relationships: Human bonds – Natural, Legal and Social; Duties and Obligations towards each other; Marital and Family bonds; Gender Questions –Personal relationship and morality.
3. Family and Parenthood: Philosophical foundations – Parental rights – Concept of generation – authenticity of Parenthood- Caring Children.
4. Autonomy and Self-respect: Autonomy and obstacles to freedom.
5. Human Rights: Meaning Rights – Classification of rights – Content of human rights – Human rights and Cultural diversity, Human Rights and Responsibilities—Comparison between individual rights and collective rights and responsibilities, Humanity’s attempts at establishing international humanitarian law.
6. Peace and peace keeping (a) causes and consequences of war, (b) Theories of war.
7. Terrorism: What is Terrorism? Classification of Terrorism, Terrorism, war and moral consistency. Crime, punishment and responsibility, terrorism and political violence.
8. Law Enforcing Authority – Duties, obligation and Role.
9. Ethics, Law and Quality of the Media. Pornography and Censorship.
10. Poverty and hunger, legitimacy of Foreign Aid.
11. Quota System.
12. Welfare State and Good Governance.
13. Intellectual property rights.
14. Information Technology.
15. Human Wickedness.
16. Philosophy of Love and Hate

CP 4.5.1 Business Ethics

1. Nature, utility and possibility of business ethics.
2. Problems with business ethics.
3. Necessity of ethical codes in business.
4. Ethics and business management, role of managers.
5. Ethics of marketing, advertising and product safety.
6. Firm's duties to the employees and employee's obligation to the firm.
7. Consumer's rights and privacy.
8. Employees rights and whistle blowing
9. Role of Human Resources (HR) in Business conduct.
10. Role of Human Resource (HR) in ethics.
11. Ethical investment in ethical business
12. Corporate social responsibility; corporate governance; corporate ethical programs in business.

CP 4.5.2 Environmental Philosophy

1. Nature, scope and utility of Environmental Philosophy.
2. Problems with environmental Philosophy.
3. Classification of environmentalism: Anthropocentric Environmentalism, Biocentric Environmentalism, Deep Ecology.
4. Land Ethics.
5. Human's responsibility to nature.
6. Value of nature. Are values intrinsic? Does nature have objective values?
7. Duties and obligation towards lower and higher organisms.
8. Duties towards future generations.
9. Economics and Environmental Ethics.
10. Principles of Environmental protection and Environmental planning.

CP 5 Logic

CP 5.1 Traditional Logic

Text: Copi, Irving. M., *Introduction to Logic* (selected chapters)

1. Introduction: Historical Background, Arguments, Deduction and Induction.
2. The Uses of Languages.
3. Definition, Kinds of Definition, Rules of Definition.
4. Categorical Propositions: Classes, Quality, Quantity, Distribution, Traditional and Immediate Inferences, Existential Import.
5. Categorical Syllogism: Mood, Figure, Venn diagram Tests, Rules and Fallacies.
6. Mill's Methods of Experimental Inquiry.

CP 5.2 Symbolic Logic

Text: Copi. Irving. M. – *Symbolic Logic* 5th ed. New York.1979 (Chapter—1, 2, 3 & 4)

1. Basic Concepts: Simple & Compound Statement—Different Kinds of Compound Statements, Truth-table, Test of Tautology, Contradiction and Contingency.
2. (a) The Method of Deduction: Tests of Validity, Rules of Inference and Rules of Replacement: (b) Proof of Invalidity, (c) Rule of Conditional Proof (d) Rule of Indirect Proof (e) Strengthened Rule of Conditional Proof (f) Shorter Truth Table, Technique (g) Test of Inconsistency.
3. Quantification Theory: Singular and General Propositions, Propositional Functions, Rules of Quantification— Proving Validity and Proving Invalidity.

CP 5.3 Basic Mathematical Logic

1. Sets, Relations, and Functions
2. Properties of Binary Relations, Ordering Relations, Testing Arguments Involving Relations.
3. Theorem: Paradoxes in set theory
4. Boolean Algebra
5. Switch circuit design.

CP 5.4 Informal Logic

1. The inadequacy of Inductive-Deductive Dichotomy
2. Nature, Scope and Utility of Informal Logic.
3. The Uses of Language, Recognizing Premise, Conclusion Missing Premise and Additional Irrational Premise in the Argument.
4. Practical Reasoning, Legal Reasoning, Ethical Reasoning (Conduction), Scientific Reasoning (Abduction).
5. Argumentative Dialogue.
6. Non-Inductive Analogy
7. Informal Fallacies.

CP 5.5 Philosophical Logic

Texts: A.C. Grayling, *Philosophical Logic*, 3rd Edition (selected chapters)

Haack, S., *Philosophy of Logics* (selected chapters)

CP 6 Analytic Philosophy

Text: Ammerman - *Classics in Analytic Philosophy*

Emphasizing on Gottlob Frege, G.E. Moore, Bertrand Russell, Peter Strawson & Ludwig Wittgenstein.

CP 7 Contemporary Continental Philosophy

Phenomenology:

1. Historical background of phenomenology.
2. Husserl's Phenomenology- Crisis of European Man.
3. Intentionality.
4. Phenomenological Reduction.
5. Transcendental Idealism.

Existentialism: Movement from Husserl to Heidegger, Existentialist Philosophers—Heidegger, Sartre, Merleau Ponty.

Some Preliminary concepts of **Hermeneutics**, **Structuralism**, Post-Structuralism / **Deconstructionism** and **Post-Modernism**.

CP 8 Pragmatism & Humanism

Texts:

1. James, W. - *Pragmatism*, New York, 1907
2. Schiller, F.C.S. - *Studies in Humanism*, London, Macmillan & Co., 1907

BP 1 Philosophy of Art

1. Nature, Scope and Origin of Philosophy of Art
2. Problems of Philosophy of Art
3. Different types of Art: Literature, Painting, Drama, Music, Architecture and Sculpture
4. Relation of Art with Philosophy, Pleasure, Beauty, Understanding etc.
5. Defining Art, Value of Art, Ontology of Art
6. Art and Ethics: Autonomy of Art

7. Cognitivism in Art
8. Pluralism of Art
9. Powers of Art
10. Art Criticism: Marxism, Structuralism, Deconstructionism, Post-modernism.

BP 2 Philosophy of Language

Texts:

1. W. P. Alston — *Philosophy of Language*
2. Lycan, W.G., — *Philosophy of Language: a contemporary introduction*

BP 3 Philosophy of Mind

Text: Edward Feser: *Philosophy of Mind: A Short Introduction*

BP 4 Political Philosophy

BP 4.1 Political Philosophy (ancient & medieval)

Texts: Plato, *The Republic* and, Aristotle, *The Politics*.

1. Nature & Scope of Political Philosophy.
2. Political Philosophy and Political science.
3. An analysis of the main Contribution of the following thinkers to the domain of political philosophy. Plato, Aristotle, St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, Al-Farabi and Ibn-Khaldun.

BP 4.2 Political Philosophy (modern)

Machiavelli, Jean Bodine, Hobbes, Locke, Baron De Montesquieu, Rousseau, Bentham, Mill and Hegel.

BP 4.3 Contemporary Political Philosophy

Text: Quinton, Anthony, *Contemporary Political Philosophy*

BP 5 Social Philosophy

1. Nature, aim, and value of Social Philosophy.
2. Man and society, common good and social welfare.
3. Social values-equality, freedom, rights and justice.
4. Meaning, origin and development of the theory of justice.
5. Brief outline of the different theory of justice with special reference to Rawls and Nozick.
6. Nature and basic structure of the just society.

BP 6 Philosophy of Religion & Comparative Religion

BP 6.1 Philosophy of Religion

Texts: Hick John: *The Philosophy of Religion* (Selected Chapters), London, 1973. & Thouless Robert H. – *An Introduction to Psychology of Religion* (Selected Chapters), Cambridge, 1971.

BP 6.2 Comparative Religion

Text: *World Scripture: A Comparative Anthology of Sacred Texts*, International Religious Foundation, New York, 1991

General Study of:

1. Nature, Scope and Function of Comparative Religion.
2. Eastern and Western forms of religion.

3. Genesis, Nature, Development and basic principles of major religions.
4. Main teachings of the founders of great religion.

Comparative Study of:

God, Worship and Prayer, Sin and atonement, problem of evil, purpose of life in the individual, family and society, life beyond death, salvation and enlightenment, self-cultivation and spiritual growth, mystical union.

BP 7 Philosophy of Science

1. Nature and the main issues of philosophy of science.
2. Verificationism, Testability, Falsificationism and Scientific Explanation.
3. Is science inductive or deductive?
4. Science, method and decision.
5. Science and justification with reference to Karl Popper.
6. Kuhn's views regarding the structure of scientific revolutions.
7. Feyerabend's epistemological anarchism.
8. Lakatos and the methodology of scientific research programme.
9. Uniformity of nature and the cause-effect relationship in science.

EP 1 Muslim Philosophy

EP 1.1 Classical Muslim Philosophy

1. Nature, scope and sources of Muslim Philosophy.
2. Difference between Muslim Philosophy and Islamic Philosophy.
3. Muslim Philosophy and Islamic Theology.
4. The causes of the origin of different sects in Islam: Imam Hasan al-Basari, Qadariya, Jabariya, Mutazila, Ashariya.
5. Epistemological and Metaphysical thoughts of the following Muslim Philosophers: Al-Kindi, Al-Farabi, Ibn-Sina, Al-Ghazali, Ibn-Rushd.

EP 1.2 Sufism

1. Definitions and sources of Sufism.
2. Aims of Sufism.
3. Relation of Sufism to the Islamic Shariah. Historical development of Sufism.
4. Sufi paths.
5. Tenets of Sufism.
6. Different Sufi orders.
7. Doctrines and practices of some great Sufis: Imam Hasan al Basri, Rabiya Basri, Junnun Misri, Bayazid Bostami, Ibn al Arabi and Jalal Uddin Rumi.

EP 1.3 Contemporary Muslim Philosophy

The main aspects of the thoughts of the following Muslim Philosophers: Ibn Khaldun, Ibn-AL Arabi, Jalaluddin Rumi, Ibn Taimiya, Mullah Sadra, Muhammad Ibn Abdul Wahhab, Shah Walliallah, Saiyed Ahmed Khan, Ashraf Ali Thanwi, Moulana Ilias, Mufti Muhammad Abduhu, Allama Iqbal, Saiyed Ameer Ali, Muhammad Abdur Rahim, Aliga Izzat Beghovich, Ayatullah Ruhulla Khomeini.

EP 1.4 Recent Trends in Islamic Philosophy

Revivalism, New-Revivalism, Fundamentalism, neo-Fundamentalism, classical Modernism, neo-Modernism, Post-Modernism, Secularism, Westernism, Islamization of Knowledge. These trends are to be discussed in relations to their agenda of discourse such as religious education vs. western education, economics, politics, women rights, human rights, Jihad, Ijtihad, Law of inheritance, Zakat system, etc.

EP 1.5 Allama Iqbal, Ibn al-Arabi & Jalal Uddin Rumi

Texts:

1. Allama Iqbal – *Reconstruction of the Religious Thoughts in Islam*
2. Abu Hamid al-Ghazali – *Tahafut al-Falasifa*
3. Ibn Rushd – *Tahafut al-Tahafut*

EP 2 Indian Philosophy

EP 2.1 General Introduction:

1. Meaning, nature, scope and sources of Indian Philosophy.
2. Common features of Indian Philosophy.
3. Objections against Indian Philosophy and the replies to the objections.
4. Fundamental concepts of Indian Philosophy.
5. A Comparison between the nature of Indian Philosophy and Western Philosophy.

Carvaka Philosophy: Epistemology. Logic. Ethics. Metaphysics: Carvaka Materialism.

Jaina Philosophy: Metaphysics, ethics and doctrine of liberation.

Buddhist Philosophy: Four noble truths of Buddhism. Buddhist anti-metaphysical outlook and the metaphysical implications.

EP 2.2 Sankhya Philosophy:

1. Doctrine of Purusa and Prakriti.
2. Causation.
3. Theory of Evolution.
4. Theory of Knowledge.
5. Theory of Liberation.
6. Problems of God.
7. Sankhya Theory of Evolution and Western Theory of Evolution.

Yoga Philosophy: Meaning of Yoga, Yoga Psychology and Ethics, Problem of God.

Nyaya Philosophy:

1. Theory of Knowledge.
2. Naya Logic and Aristotelian Logic.
3. Doctrine of Perception and problem of Vyapti.
4. Proof for the existence of God.
5. Individual Self and Liberation.

Vaisesika Philosophy:

1. Vaisesika Atomism and Western Atomism.
2. Doctrine of Categories.
3. Doctrine of Creation and Destruction of the World.

Mimansa Philosophy: Theory of knowledge, Metaphysics, Ethics and Religion.

Vadanta Philosophy:

1. Origin and Development of Vedanta.
2. Main Schools of Vadanta.
3. Pure Monism of Sankara and Qualified Monism of Ramanuja.

EP 2.3 Contemporary Indian Philosophy

A study of the contemporary developments in Indian Philosophy since the 19th century and their effects upon the present day philosophical thinking. Special attention will be paid to the work of

1. Raja Rammohan Roy,
2. Swami Vivekanda,
3. Sri Aurobindo,

4. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi and
5. Krishna Chandra Bhattacharjee.

EP 3 Bangladesh Philosophy

EP 3.1 Introduction to Bangladesh Philosophy

1. Nature, Scope and Characteristics of Bangladesh Philosophy.
2. Influence of various thoughts upon Bangladesh Philosophy.
3. Development of Philosophical thinking in Bangladesh: Ancient, Medieval and Modern period.
4. Different theories to be discussed in Bangladesh Philosophy: Carvaka Philosophy, Buddhism, Vaisnavism, Baulism and Sufism.

EP 3.2 Modern Trends in Bangladesh Philosophy

A brief discussion will be made on Nineteenth Century Bengal by giving emphasis on the philosophical foundation of following Socio-Ethico-Religious Movements:

- a) Wahabi and Faraji movement,
- b) Brahmo Samaj movement &
- c) Young Bengal movement.

Modern trends in Muslim social thoughts in the Nineteenth and early Twentieth Century Bengal will also come under the purview of discussion with special reference to Nawab Abdul Latif, Syed Ameer Ali and Delwar Hossain Ahmed Meerza.

EP 3.3 Contemporary Bangladesh Philosophy

Western Philosophical Trends in Bangladesh:

1. Utilitarianism and its influence in Bengal.
2. Humanism and Marxism.
3. Twentieth Century Bengali Thoughts and Thinkers: Bengal Renaissance, Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam.
4. Contemporary Philosophical Trends in Bangladesh since 1900 up to date.

EP 3.4 Readings in Bangladesh Philosophy

Texts:

1. মোহাম্মদ বরকতুল্লাহ - মানুষের ধর্ম
2. G. C. Dev - *Aspirations of the Common Man*
3. Abul Hashem - *The Creed of Islam*
4. দেওয়ান আজরফ - জীবন দর্শনের পুনর্গঠন

1. An analysis and evaluation of the main concepts related to Philosophy of Life.
2. Materialistic Philosophy, Religion and Civilization.
3. Life and Divine World.
4. Synthetic Philosophy.
5. Rabbaniath's Philosophy.
6. Reconstruction of the Philosophy of Life as discussed by Barkatullah, G. C. Dev, Abul Hashem and Dewan Mohammed Azraf.