



**UNIVERSITY OF CHITTAGONG**  
**Faculty of Arts and Humanities**  
**Department of Philosophy**

**Curriculum for Master of Arts (M.A.)**  
**Session: 2017-2018 & 2018-2019**

## Year of Examinations

### MA Final Year: 2018 & 2019

Year	Course group	Course number	Marks	Credits	Sessional	Terminal	Viva-voce	Credits	Total Marks	Total Credits
2018	5	10	500	20	50	25	25	2+1+1	600	24
2019	5	10	500	20	50	25	25	2+1+1	600	24

Courses are divided into 5 (five) groups.

Each course contains 50 marks.

Students are required to take 2 (two) courses from each group.

#### Distribution of Marks

Course Marks $50 \times 10 =$	500
Sessional	50
Terminal	25
Viva	25
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Total =	600

**MA Final Year**  
**Session: 2018 & 2019**  
(Any two courses from each group)

	<b><u>Course No &amp; Title</u></b>	<b><u>Marks</u></b>
<b>Group A:</b>	501 Analytic Philosophy	50
	502 Philosophy of Language	50
	503 Contemporary Continental Philosophy	50
	504 Pragmatism and Humanism	50
<b>Group B:</b>	505 Recent Trends in Metaphysics	50
	506 Recent Trends in Epistemology	50
	507 Philosophy of Science	50
	508 Philosophical Logic	50
<b>Group C:</b>	509 Applied Philosophy	50
	510 Philosophy of Freedom	50
	511 Experimental Philosophy	50
	512 Environmental Philosophy	50
<b>Group D:</b>	513 Contemporary Bangladesh Philosophy	50
	514 Contemporary Indian Philosophy	50
	515 Far-Eastern Philosophy	50
	516 Comparative Religion	50
<b>Group E:</b>	517 Contemporary Political Philosophy	50
	518 Distributive Justice	
	519 Feminist Philosophy	50
	520 Philosophy of Education	50
	521 Game Theory	50

## **Group A**

**Course: Phil –501**

**Marks: 50**

### ***Analytic Philosophy***

This course is aimed mainly at those who wish to develop more deeply into advanced research of theoretical and practical philosophical questions based on the perspective of Analytic Philosophy. It will cover late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century works by authors like Frege, Russell, Moore and Wittgenstein on Logic, Language, Ontology, Epistemology and Ethics.

**Course: Phil – 502**

**Marks: 50**

### ***Philosophy of Language***

Philosophy of language examines the influence of philosophical theories on the analysis of language, focusing on the critical analysis of the relationship between the philosophy of language and linguistics. In this course, students will be expected to gather thorough knowledge on the topics discussed in the prescribed text and a general knowledge of the problems that are marked in the recommended books.

**Course: Phil –503**

**Marks: 50**

### ***Contemporary Continental Philosophy***

Contemporary Continental Philosophy is the most widely influential branch of philosophical enquiry. It deals with intriguing analyses of aspects of human life and our world in the context of the study of social, cultural, political, media, literary or art theory. This course will concentrate on both phenomenology and existential movement covering with Husserl's Phenomenology-Crisis of European Man, Intentionality, Phenomenological Reduction, Transcendental Idealism together with Heidegger, Sartre, Merleau-Ponty. In addition, some preliminary

concepts like hermeneutics, structuralism, post-structuralism/deconstructionism and post-modernism will also be discussed.

**Course: Phil -504**

**Marks: 50**

***Pragmatism & Humanism***

The purpose of the course is to make the students acquainted with some salient features of pragmatism and humanism. Discussion will be based on the texts prescribed.

***Texts :***

W. James : *Pragmatism: A New Name for Some Old Ways of Thinking*, New York, 1907 (Selected Chapters)

F. C. S. Schiller: *Studies in Humanism*, London, Macmillan & Co., 1907 (Selected Chapters)

## **Group B**

**Course: Phil-505**

**Marks: 50**

### ***Recent Trends in Metaphysics***

In this course we will mainly examine *some* (though not all) interrelated topics that have gained importance in contemporary analytic metaphysics, like substance-hood, modality, grounding, causality, truth-making, and time.

**Course: Phil - 506**

**Marks: 50**

### ***Recent Trends in Epistemology***

This course examines topics of recent trends in epistemology. Topics include: Knowledge, Rationality and Science, Epistemological Logic, Explanationism and Fallibilism, Epistemology of Perception, Overview of Gettier's Problem, Epistemic closure principles, Responding to Skepticism, Naturalistic Epistemology, Feminist Epistemology, Contextualism in Epistemology, Virtue Epistemology, Moral Epistemology, Religious Epistemology, Ethno-epistemology and Evolutionary Epistemology.

**Course: Phil – 507**

**Marks: 50**

### ***Philosophy of Science***

The purpose of this course is to make the students acquainted with the nature and the main issues of philosophy of science. It includes the following topics: A unified view of the nature of philosophy of science, Verificationism, Testability, Falsificationism and Scientific Explanation. Is science inductive or deductive? Science, method and decision; science and justification with reference to Karl Popper. Kuhn's views regarding the structure of scientific revolutions; Feyerabend's epistemological

anarchism; Lakatos and the methodology of scientific research programme. Uniformity of nature and the cause-effect relationship in science.

**Course: Phil - 508**

**Marks: 50**

***Philosophical Logic***

Logical forms explain both the detailed problems involved in finding logical forms and also the theoretical underpinnings of philosophical logic. This course includes topics on Philosophical logic, the philosophy of logic, philosophy and logic, The proposition, necessity, analyticity and the aprior existence, presuppositions and Descriptions; Truth: The Pragmatic, Coherence and Correspondence theories. Truth: similarities, deflation, indefinability and evaluation, Meaning, reference, Verification and use, Truth, Meaning, Realism and Anti Realism; Idealism and Relativism.

***Text:***

A.C. Grayling, *Philosophical Logic*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (selected chapters)

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

## **Group C**

**Course: Phil – 509**

**Marks: 50**

### ***Applied Philosophy***

This course will focus on various topics in applied philosophy. It will include some of the more well-known issues, e.g. relationship (Human bonds – Natural, Legal and Social; Duties and Obligations towards each other; Marital and Family bonds; Gender Questions –Personal relationship and morality), family and parenthood (Philosophical foundations – Parental rights – Concept of generation –authenticity of Parenthood- Caring Children), autonomy and self-respect (Autonomy and obstacles to freedom ), human 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 to establishing international humanitarian law.), and peace (Peace and peace keeping --causes and consequences of war, -- Theories of war ).Issues related to the nature of applied philosophy will be raised throughout the course in connection with the various specific problems like terrorism, law and ethics, poverty and hunger, quota system, welfare and good governance, intellectual property rights, information technology, human wickedness and philosophy of love and hate.

**Course: Phil - 510**

**Marks: 50**

### ***Philosophy of Freedom***

The course is designed to introduce some theories and practices of freedom such as conscious human action, knowledge and individuality, factors of life, monism and the philosophy of freedom, world purpose and



life purpose, value of life, individual and the genus, moral imagination etc.

***Text:***

Rudolf Steiner, *The Philosophy of Freedom*

**Course: Phil - 511**

**Marks: 50**

***Experimental Philosophy***

This course will introduce students to Experimental Philosophy. Most works in this field utilizes survey research in order to discern the source of the various intuitions people have to philosophical thought experiments. In addition to surveying prominent work in Experimental Philosophy, the course will consider potential limitations as well as potential further applications of this methodology. The following topics will be studied in this course: Normativity and Epistemic Institutions Semantics, Cross-Cultural Style, Identification, Situational Constraint, and Social Cognition: Studies in the Attribution of Moral Responsibility: Is In compatibilism Intuitive?: Moral Responsibility and Determinism: The Cognitive Science of Folk Intuitions, The Concept of Intentional Action: A Case Study in the Uses of Folk Psychology, Bad Acts,: Some Problems for Juror Impartiality, Intentional Action: Two-and-a-Half Folk Concepts, Empirical Philosophy and Experimental Philosophy: Abstract + Concrete=Paradox, How Are Experiments Relevant to Intuitions?

***Text:***

Joshua Knobe and Shaun Nichols (Ed.)--*Experimental Philosophy* (selected chapters)

***Environmental Philosophy***

The course explores key philosophical issues regarding the moral status of nature (individuals, species, eco-systems) and whether this status differs substantially from the status of human. No less fundamental than the ethical issue is the ontological one regarding what nature is. This cannot be discussed independently of how a given culture understands (construes) nature, be it as spirited, sacred, inherently valuable or as soulless material, a reservoir of resources solely of instrumental value. Do humans see themselves as a part of nature or as apart from nature? Particular emphasis will be given to the significance of technology in shaping, both philosophically and pragmatically, society's relationship with nature.

## **Group D**

**Course: Phil – 513**

**Marks: 50**

### ***Contemporary Bangladesh Philosophy***

An analysis and evaluation of the main concepts related to Philosophy of Life, Materialistic Philosophy, Religion and Civilization, Life and Divine World, Synthetic Philosophy, Rabbaniath Philosophy and Reconstruction of the Philosophy of Life discussed by Barkatullah, G. C. Dev, Abul Hashem, Dewan Mohammed Azraf and Sri Chinmoy

**Course: Phil – 514**

**Marks: 50**

### ***Contemporary Indian Philosophy***

A study of the contemporary developments in Indian Philosophy since the 19<sup>th</sup> century and their effects upon the present day philosophical thinking will be included in this course. Special attention will be paid to the works of Raja Rammohan Roy, Swami Vivekanda, Sri Aurobindo, Mohandas Karamchand Ghandi and Krishna Chandra Bhattacharjee.

**Course: Phil – 515**

**Marks: 50**

### ***Far-Eastern Philosophy***

The course introduces religious philosophy of Asia with references to selected Asian philosophers. It includes the discussion of the relationship between Western and Eastern philosophical thoughts regarding ethics, reality, theology and political theory.

This course is the essence of the selected religious philosophy of Asia. The class emphasizes open discussions about Asian philosophical ideas and thoughts to relate the contemporary ethical and political issues so that the students can incorporate those ideas to their lives.

***Comparative Religion***

The aim of this course is to offer an exposition, comparison and evaluation of different religious phenomena found in scriptures, ethical teachings and philosophies of different religious traditions. The natural outcome of this study should lead the enthusiastic students to develop the universal brotherhood of man and to instill love in them. Topics include: God, Worship and Prayer, Sin and atonement, problem of evil, purpose of life in the individual, family and society, life after death, salvation and enlightenment, self- cultivation and spiritual growth, mystical union.

***Text:***

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

## **Group E**

**Course: Phil – 517**

**Marks: 50**

### ***Contemporary Political Philosophy***

An analysis and evaluation of the main ideas: rights, equality, liberty, authority, sovereignty, democracy and public interest.

***Text:***

Quinton, Anthony – *Contemporary Political Philosophy*

**Course: Phil – 518**

**Marks: 50**

### ***Distributive Justice***

This course is an introduction regarding the theories of ethics and distributive justice and will attempt to apply those theories to real world problems and current events. It will cover Utilitarianism, Egalitarianism, Libertarianism, Feminist normative theory, Marxism, communitarianism and John Rawls. The ultimate goal of the course is to enable students to form theoretically grounded moral judgments on contemporary political and social problems. Special emphasis will be given to answer the following questions: What is justice? Should society have a just distribution of wealth? What is a just distribution? One that is equal, lets people keep what they earn, promotes overall happiness, gives people what they deserve or something else?

***Text:***

Will Kymlicka – *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2002).

**Course: Phil – 519**

**Marks: 50**

***Feminist Philosophy***

An analysis of philosophical issues of special interest in feminism and women issues. Topics typically include overview of the encyclopedia sub-entries in general, feminism and class, feminism and disability, feminism, human rights, global feminism, and human trafficking, feminism and race/ethnicity, feminism, sex, and sexuality.

***Text:***

Alison Stone – *An Introduction to Feminist Philosophy*

**Course: Phil – 520**

**Marks: 50**

***Philosophy of Education***

It refers to either the academic field of philosophy of education or to one of any educational philosophies that promote a specific type or vision of education and/or which examine the definition, goals and meaning of education. Topics include: Idealism, Realism, Scholasticism, Pragmatism: John Dewey, William James, Richard Rorty; Analytic philosophy, Richard Stanley Peters; Existentialist, Critical theory, Paulo Freire; Other Continental thinkers: Martin Heidegger, Hans-Georg Gadamer, Jean-François Lyotard, Michel Foucault, Normative educational philosophies: Perennialism, Progressivism, Essentialism, Social reconstructionism and critical pedagogy, Waldorf, Democratic education.

**Course: Phil – 521**

**Marks: 50**

***Game Theory***

This course will explore the followings: Logic of Preference Orderings—Rules of Decision under Ignorance—Decisions under Risk: Bayes' Theorem—Expected Utility Hypothesis—Von Neuman Morgenstern

Utility Theory—Criticism of Utility Theory: Allais’s Paradox—Game Theory: Concepts—Two Person Zero—Sum Games—Nash Equilibrium—Two person Nonzero Sum Games: Failures of the Equilibrium Concept: The Prisoner’s Dilemma—The Clash of Wills—the Predictor Paradox—Cooperative Games—Bargaining Games—Social Choice: Arrows Theorem—its Conditions and Proof.