



DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND COMPARATIVE  
RELIGION  
VIDYA-BHAVANA

NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY

MINOR

2023

**VISVA-BHARATI**

SANTINIKETAN  
WEST BENGAL, INDIA

## GENERAL STRUCTURE OF THE SYLLABUS

Year	Semester	Paper Code	Paper Name
1 <sup>ST</sup>	Semester I & II	MNPR01	THEMES IN RELIGION
2 <sup>ND</sup>	Semester III & IV	MNPR02	ETHICS IN PRACTICE
3 <sup>RD</sup>	Semester V & VI	MNPR03	PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION AND SCIENCE
4 <sup>TH</sup>	Semester VII & VIII	MNPR04	MAJOR ISSUES IN PHILOSOPHY

THE DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND COMPARATIVE RELIGION OFFERS FOUR MINOR PAPERS FOR THE STUDENTS OF OTHER DEPARTMENTS OF VISVA-BHARATI. EACH MINOR PAPER WILL BE OFFERED FOR CONSECUTIVE TWO SEMESTERS SO THAT EACH STUDENT MAY GET AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THE SPECIFIC COURSES AT THEIR OWN CONVENIENCE.

Abbreviation: MN- Minor, PR- Philosophy and Comparative Religion

**1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR**  
**SEMESTER-V & VI**  
**(MINOR COURSE)**

COURSE CODE: <b>MNPR01</b>	COURSE TITLE: <b>THEMES IN RELIGIONS</b>	
COURSE CREDIT: <b>4 (FOUR)</b>	TOTAL CONTACT HOURS: <b>72</b>	TYPE OF COURSE: <b>THEORY</b>
TOTAL MARKS: <b>100</b>	INTERNAL MARKS: <b>20</b>	END SEMESTER MARKS: <b>80</b>

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

To introduce the basic concepts of religion  
 To apply these concepts to different religions  
 To present different sets of ideas related to a particular theme  
 To present the similarities and differences of the same themes in different religions

**COURSE OUTCOME:**

The students will gain understanding of the basic concepts of religion.  
 The students will learn the perspectives of different religions on the same theme.  
 The students will develop comparative and analytical skills.  
 The students will be able to appreciate the similarities and the differences in different religions.

SL. NO.	CONTENT OF COURSE	CONT. HRS.
1.	INTRODUCTION TO THE CONCEPT OF GOD: Gnosticism - Agnosticism - Naturalism - Polytheism - Monotheism - Pantheism - Panentheism – Atheism (with examples from different religions)	
2.	THE CONCEPT OF SOUL AND HUMAN IN DIFFERENT RELIGIONS AND SYSTEMS OF THOUGHT (INCLUDING THEORETICAL CONCEPTIONS LIKE ANIMISM, TOTEMISM, AND MANA)	
3.	THE CONCEPT OF SALVATION AND/OR LIBERATION IN DIFFERENT RELIGIONS AND SYSTEMS OF THOUGHT	
4.	THE CONCEPT OF WORLD AND ITS BEINGS IN DIFFERENT RELIGIONS AND SYSTEMS OF THOUGHT	
5.	THE CONCEPT OF INCARNATION /AVATARA AND INTERMEDIARIES IN DIFFERENT RELIGIONS	
6.	THE CONCEPT OF MIRACLE IN DIFFERENT RELIGIONS	
<b>SUGGESTED READINGS</b>		
1.	ELIADE, MIRCEA (ED.). ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RELIGION. NEW YORK: MACMILLAN PUBLISHING COMPANY, 1987. (SELECTED ARTICLES)	
2.	HASTINGS, JAMES (ED.). ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RELIGION AND ETHICS. EDINBURGH: T. & T. CLARK, 1918. (SELECTED ARTICLES)	
3.	TYLOR, MARK C. CRITICAL TERMS FOR RELIGIOUS STUDIES. CHICAGO: CHICAGO UNIVERSITY PRESS, 1998.	
4.	ORSI, ROBERT A. (ED.). THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO RELIGIOUS STUDIES. CAMBRIDGE: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2011.	
5.	STAUSBERG, MICHAEL AND STEVEN ENGLER (EDS.). THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF THE STUDY OF RELIGION. OXFORD: OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2016.	
6.	HINNELL, JOHN. THE ROUTLEDGE COMPANION TO THE STUDY OF RELIGION. LONDON: ROUTLEDGE, 2009.	

**2<sup>ND</sup> YEAR**  
**SEMESTER-III & IV**  
**(MINOR COURSE)**

COURSE CODE: <b>MNPR02</b>	COURSE TITLE: <b>ETHICS IN PRACTICE</b>	
COURSE CREDIT: <b>4 (FOUR)</b>	TOTAL CONTACT HOURS: <b>72</b>	TYPE OF COURSE: <b>THEORY</b>
TOTAL MARKS: <b>100</b>	INTERNAL MARKS: <b>20</b>	END SEMESTER MARKS: <b>80</b>

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

1. To acquaint the students with basic ideas of applied ethics
2. To enable students to apply ethical theories to real life dilemmas and issues.
3. To enable students to understand ethical rights concerning humans and animals.
4. To focus on relevant areas of application like business ethics, bio ethics and environmental ethics.

**COURSE OUTCOME:**

1. The students should be able to connect ethical arguments with real life moral dilemmas.
2. The students should be able to gain clarity regarding issues of moral rights, claims, duties etc. and to think critically regarding ethical problems in particular spheres.
3. The students should be able to enhance their understanding of ethical applications and relevant behavior in particular domains of life, business and environment.

SL. NO.	CONTENT OF COURSE	CONT. HRS.
1.	An Introduction to Moral Philosophy and Applied Ethics	
2.	Moral Dilemma	
3.	Rights Theory	
4.	Bio-ethics: Euthanasia; Abortion	
5.	Business Ethics: Corporate Moral Agency; Whistle Blower	
6.	Environmental Ethics: Anthropocentrism, Biocentrism, Ecocentrism; Deep Ecology, Shallow Ecology	
<b>SUGGESTED READINGS</b>		
1.	Singer, Peter (1986): Applied Ethics, Oxford, Oxford University Press	
2.	Singer, Peter (2011): Practical Ethics, Cambridge University Press, 3rd edition	
3.	Piet, John H. & Prasad Ayodhya (eds, 2000): An Introduction to Applied Ethics, New Delhi, Cosmo Publications	
4.	Lafollette, Hugh (ed. 2014): Ethics in Practice: An Anthology, Wiley Blackwell	
5.	May, Larry (2010): Applied Ethics: A Multicultural Approach, Pearson	
6.	T. L. Beauchamp & Walters (eds.): Contemporary Issues in Bioethics	
7.	Cottingham, J. (2008), Western Philosophy: An Anthology, Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.	
8.	Holmes Rolston and Andrew Light (eds.), (2007), Environmental Ethics: An Anthology. USA, Blackwell.	
9.	Kvalnes, Øyvind. 2015. <i>Moral Reasoning at Work: Rethinking Ethics in Organizations</i> . Palgrave Macmillan.	

**3<sup>RD</sup> YEAR**  
**SEMESTER-V & VI**  
**(MINOR COURSE)**

COURSE CODE: <b>MNPR03</b>	COURSE TITLE: <b>PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION AND SCIENCE</b>
COURSE CREDIT: <b>4 (FOUR)</b>	TOTAL CONTACT HOURS: 72
TOTAL MARKS: <b>100</b>	END SEMESTER MARKS: <b>80</b>

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

To introduce the students the relationship between philosophy and science, religion and science  
 To make the students to be familiar with the major philosophical and religious concepts with scientific theories  
 To help the students to learn the philosophers and religionists view on science  
 To teach the students the scientists view on philosophical and religious concepts

**COURSE OUTCOME:**

The students will be able to learn different philosophical and religious concepts in relation with scientific theories  
 They will be able to critically analyse the relationship between philosophy and science, religion and science as well  
 They will be able to identify similarity, dissimilarity and peculiar aspects of philosophy, religion and science  
 They will be motivated to do the multi-disciplinary research on philosophy, religion and science

SL. NO.	CONTENT OF COURSE	CONT. HRS.
1.	<b>Introduction</b> – Definition and Importance of Philosophy, Religion and Science; The Relationship between Philosophy and Science; The Relationship between Religion and Science	
2.	<b>Philosophy and Science</b> – Ancient Greek Philosophers and Science; Mind and Psychology	
3.	<b>Hinduism and Science</b> - Yoga and Mental Health; Siddha, Ayurveda and Medical Science	
4.	<b>Jainism, Buddhism and Science</b> - Jainism and Environmental Science; Buddhism and Psychoanalysis of Modern Science	
5.	<b>Christianity, Islam and Science</b> – Creation <i>Ex Nihilo</i> of the Bible and Big-Bang Theory; Islam and Quantum Physics	
6.	<b>Philosophers, Religionists View on Science</b> – John Dewy; Swami Vivekananda, Dalai Lama & Pope Francis	
<b>SUGGESTED READINGS</b>		
1.	Barbour, Ian G. (2000). <i>When Science Meets Religion: Enemies, Strangers, or Partners?</i> Harper San Francisco.	
2.	Blavatsky, H. P. (2006). <i>Encyclopedia of the Synthesis of Science, Philosophy and Religion</i> . Bharatiya Kala Prakashan.	
3.	Chatterjee, K. Kisor. (2016). <i>Science, Religion, and the Quest</i> . Mittal Publications.	
4.	De Haro, Sebastian. (2020). <i>Science and Philosophy A Love – Hate Relationship</i> . Foundations of Science, XXV, 297-314.	
5.	Jinpa, Thupten. (Ed.). (2018). <i>Science and Philosophy in the Indian Buddhist Classics</i> . Simon & Schuster India.	
6.	Malak, Sebahat. (2018). <i>The Quran and the Quantum Physics: Heart and Science</i> .	
7.	Nath, M. C. (1981). <i>Science and Philosophy of Life</i> . Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers Pvt. Ltd.	
8.	<i>Philosophy and Science: An Exploratory Approach to Consciousness</i> . (2014). Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture.	
9.	Ralte, Rodinmawia. (2022). <i>Science and Religion</i> . Christian World Imprints.	
10.	Rezania, Hamid. (2012). <i>Religion and Science: A Philosophical Approach</i> . Concept Publishing Company Pvt. Ltd.	
11.	Sharma, L. N. (Ed.). (2007). <i>Religion and Science: A Religio- Spiritualistic Dialogue with Scientific World Views</i> . Indica Books.	
12.	Singh, T. D., and Samaresh B. (2001). <i>Thoughts on Synthesis of Science and Religion</i> . Bhakti Vedanta Institute.	
13.	Singh, T. D. (2015). <i>Essays on Science and Religion</i> . Bhakti Vedanta Institute.	
14.	Vivekananda, Swami. (2005). <i>The Science and Philosophy of Religion</i> . Advaita Ashram.	

**4<sup>TH</sup> YEAR**  
**SEMESTER-VII & VIII**  
**(MINOR COURSE)**

COURSE CODE: <b>MNPR04</b>	COURSE TITLE: <b>MAJOR ISSUES IN PHILOSOPHY</b>	
COURSE CREDIT: <b>4 (FOUR)</b>	TOTAL CONTACT HOURS: <b>72</b>	TYPE OF COURSE: <b>THEORY</b>
TOTAL MARKS: <b>100</b>	INTERNAL MARKS: <b>20</b>	END SEMESTER MARKS: <b>80</b>

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

1. To introduce students to a critical discussion of some of the main problems of Western philosophy, particularly epistemology.
2. To encourage students to acquire a deeper and critical understanding of the core epistemological issues through interactive presentations.
3. To arouse the interest of the students (coming from different disciplines) in reading original philosophical works.

**COURSE OUTCOME:**

Students who successfully complete the course will be able to:

- respond clearly, logically and critically to examination-questions and discussion-questions about some important philosophical issues relevant to the course;
- comprehend, explain and evaluate the most important and influential philosophical views discussed in the course; contributions of different philosophers discussed in the course;
- be able to present orally or write short essays on some of the philosophical themes with reasonable supporting arguments.

SL. NO.	CONTENT OF COURSE	CONT. HRS.
1.	Relation between the Knowing Mind and the Object: Idealism (Berkeley, Kant, Hegel)	
2.	Relation between the Knowing Mind and the Object: Realism (Naïve, Neo-realism, Critical)	
3.	The Unit of Knowledge: Simple Apprehension; Knowledge by Acquaintance, Nirvikalpa perception	
4.	The Problem of Truth: Truth as Coherence	
5.	The Problem of Truth: Truth as Correspondence	
6.	The Problem of Truth: Truth as 'Successful Working'	

**SUGGESTED READINGS**

1.	Sengupta, P.K. 1966. <i>An Introduction to Philosophy</i> . Progressive Publishers.
2.	Das, R. 2017. <i>A Handbook to Kant's Critique of Pure Reason</i> . Andesite Press.
3.	Hospers, J. 1956. <i>An Introduction to Philosophical Analysis</i> . Routledge & Kegan Paul.
4.	Russell, B. 1912. <i>The Problems of Philosophy</i> . Williams and Norgate.
5.	Chatterjee, s.c. 1964. <i>The Problems of Philosophy</i> . University of Calcutta.
6.	Chatterjee, S.C. & Dutta, D. M. 2015. <i>An Introduction to Indian Philosophy</i> . Motilal Banarasidass.