

Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur

Proposal for a New Course

1. Course No: PHI 7XY (TBA)

2. Course Title: Contemporary Indian Philosophy-1

3. Per Week Lectures: 3 (L), Tutorial: 0 (T), Laboratory: 0 (P), Additional Hours[0-2]: 0 (A), Credits (3*L+2*T+P+A): 3-0-0-0- (9) Duration of Course: Full Semester

4. Proposing Department/IDP : HSS

Other Departments/IDPs which may be interested in the proposed course:

Other faculty members interested in teaching the proposed course:

5. Proposing Instructor(s): Vineet Sahu

6. Course Description:

This is the first of a series of courses on contemporary Indian philosophers. This course reads some of the prominent philosophies that matured and shaped 20th century thinking in India. These philosophies have been grouped together as Contemporary Indian Philosophy (CIP). CIP is both a continuation and reaction to the classical schools of Indian philosophy. The classical schools of Indian philosophy developed in much more isolation to other worldviews than CIP. Many of the contemporary Indian Philosophers have not only put forth their philosophies as concrete theories but have also not compromised practicality and relevance of their philosophies. This can be evidenced from institutions (viz., Krishnamurti foundation, Ramakrishna mission, Sri Aurobindo trust etc.) that have germinated to preserve the philosophies of the founders whilst giving meaning and direction to the people at large. This course makes a scholarly study of these philosophies and the role they play in the story of India. This course is also aligned with the University Grants Commission syllabus on contemporary Indian philosophy.

A) Objectives:

- To make a philosophical assessment of contemporary Indian philosophies including, but not limited to exploring a common approach that could characterize CIP.
- To connect and interpret the trajectory from classical to contemporary Indian philosophies.
- To map the influence and interaction of the CIP to philosophical thinking across the world, particularly contemporary European philosophies.
- To make advanced readings in primary texts of any chosen contemporary philosopher.

B) Contents (*preferably in the form of 5 to 10 broad titles*):

S.No.	Broad Title and Topics	No. of Lectures
0.	Introduction	3
1.	Bal Gangadhar Tilak - interpretation of the Gītā.	3

2.	Rabindranath Tagore - man and God; religion of man.	3
3.	Swami Vivekananda - man, universal religion; practical vedānta.	3
4.	Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi - truth; non-violence; swarāj; sarvodaya; critique of modern civilization.	3
5.	Sri Aurobindo - evolution, mind and supermind, Integral Yoga	3
6.	K C Bhattacharya - concept of philosophy, subject as freedom, the doctrine of maya.	3
7.	Muhammad Iqbal - self; intellect and intuition.	3
8.	Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan - intellect and intuition; the Idealist view of life; Hindu view of life.	3
9.	Bhim Rao Ambedkar - annihilation of caste, philosophy of Hinduism, neo-Buddhism.	3
10.	Jiddu Krishnamurti - conception of thought, freedom from the known, analysis of self, choiceless awareness.	4
11.	Presentations and class discussions	6

C) Pre-requisites, if any (examples: a- PSO201A, or b- PSO201A or equivalent): Nil

D) Short summary for including in the Courses of Study Booklet

This course is the first of a series of courses on contemporary Indian philosophers who have shaped the philosophy of 20th century India. This course would discuss the philosophies of B G Tilak, R Tagore, Swami Vivekananda, M K Gandhi, Sri Aurobindo, K C Bhattacharya, Md. Iqbal, S Radhakrishnan, B R Ambedkar and J Krishnamurti. This course will require the student to make an active reading of these philosophers and unearth both the general approach of contemporary Indian philosophers and their connection with classical Indian philosophy.

7. Recommended books:

Textbooks:

Lal, Basant Kumar. *Contemporary Indian Philosophy*. Motilal Banarsidass Publ., 1978.

Mahadevan, Telliavaram Ponnambalam Mahadevan, and G. V. Saroja. *Contemporary Indian Philosophy*. 1983.

Radhakrishnan, S., and J. H. Muirhead. *Revival: Contemporary Indian Philosophy (1936)*. Routledge, 2018.

Ray, Benoy Gopal. *Contemporary Indian Philosophers*. 1947.

Reference Books:

Ambedkar, B.R. *Annihilation of Caste: The Annotated Critical Edition*. Verso Books, 2014.

Ambedkar, Bhimrao Ramji. *Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar: Writings and Speeches*. 1992.

Aurobindo, Sri, and Aurobindo Ghose. *The Integral Yoga: Sri Aurobindo's Teaching and Method of Practice : Selected Letters of Sri Aurobindo*. Lotus Press, 1993.

Bhattacharyya, Krishnachandra. *Studies in Philosophy*. 1983.
Gandhi, Mahatma. *Hind Swaraj*. Rajpal & Sons, 2010.
Iqbal, Mohammad. *The Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam*. Stanford University Press, 2013.
Krishnamurti, J. *Freedom from the Known*. Random House, 2010.
Krishnamurti, Jiddu. *Tradition and Revolution*. 1972.
Lal, Basant Kumar. *Contemporary Indian Philosophy*. Motilal Banarsidass Publ., 1978.
Mahadevan, Telliavaram Ponnambalam Mahadevan. *Contemporary Indian Philosophy*. 1985.
Mahadevan, Telliavaram Ponnambalam Mahadevan, and G. V. Saroja. *Contemporary Indian Philosophy*. 1983.
Mohanty, Sachidananda. *Sri Aurobindo: A Contemporary Reader*. Routledge, 2012.
Naravane, Vishwanath S. *Modern Indian Thought*. 1978.
Paranjape, Makarand R. *Swami Vivekananda: A Contemporary Reader*. Routledge, 2015.
Radhakrishnan, S. *An Idealist View Of Life*. Harper Collins, 2015.
Tagore, Rabindranath. *The Religion of Man*. 2018.
Upton, Robert E. *The Thought of Bal Gangadhar Tilak: An Intellectual Biography*. Oxford University Press, 2024.
Vivekananda, Swami. *Practical Vedanta: Practical Vedanta (Swami Vivekananda Motivational & Inspirational Book) - Embracing Practical Wisdom: Swami Vivekananda's Teachings on Applying Vedanta in Daily Life*. Prabhat Prakashan, 2021.

8. Any other remarks: Nil

Dated: 19th Sept. 2024 Proposer: Vineet Sahu

Dated: _____ DUGC/DPGC Convener: _____

The course is approved / not approved

Chairman, SUGC/SPGC

Dated: _____