



# Indraprastha College for Women University of Delhi

## Work Plan for ODD SEMESTER – 2026

|                    |                                       |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Course Name:       | B.A (Hons)                            |
| Paper Title:       | Western Philosophy: Descartes to Kant |
| Unique Paper Code: | 2102102302                            |
| Semester:          | III                                   |
| Faculty:           | Dr. Akham Hemabati Devi               |
| Year:              | 2026                                  |

| Work Plan |                                                                                                                                                              |             |                                |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
| Unit No.  | Learning Objective                                                                                                                                           | Lecture No. | Topics to be Covered           |
| I         | The paper introduces the seminal ideas of the Western philosophers from the time of Descartes (1592-1650) onwards till David Hume (1711-1776)                | 1           | Introduction                   |
|           | This will enhance the study of six philosophers grouped under two traditions of thought: Rationalism and Empiricism                                          | 2           | Rationalism                    |
|           | This will aim at analysing the main arguments surrounding the reasons for accepting Rationalism vs Empiricism                                                | 3           | Rationalism                    |
|           | This will increase an understanding of the genesis of modern debates in philosophy and allied disciplines like cognitive science and artificial intelligence | 4           | Empiricism                     |
|           |                                                                                                                                                              | 5           | Empiricism                     |
|           |                                                                                                                                                              | 6           | The main aspects of the debate |
|           |                                                                                                                                                              | 7           | The main aspects of the debate |
|           |                                                                                                                                                              | 8           | The main aspects of the debate |
|           |                                                                                                                                                              | 9           | The main aspects of the debate |
| II        |                                                                                                                                                              | 10          | Rationalism                    |
|           |                                                                                                                                                              | 11          | Descartes Method of Doubt      |
|           |                                                                                                                                                              | 12          | Descartes Method of Doubt      |
|           |                                                                                                                                                              | 13          | Descartes Method of Doubt      |

|     |  |    |                                                                |
|-----|--|----|----------------------------------------------------------------|
|     |  | 14 | Spinoza_ Concept of Substance                                  |
|     |  | 15 | Spinoza_ Concept of Substance                                  |
|     |  | 16 | Spinoza_ Concept of Substance                                  |
|     |  | 17 | Spinoza_ Concept of Substance                                  |
|     |  | 18 | Leibnitz- The concept of Monads                                |
|     |  | 19 | Leibnitz- The concept of Monads                                |
|     |  | 20 | Leibnitz- The concept of Monads                                |
|     |  | 21 | Leibnitz- The concept of Monads                                |
| III |  | 22 | Empiricism                                                     |
|     |  | 23 | Locke: Critique of Innate Ideas                                |
|     |  | 24 | Locke: Critique of Innate Ideas                                |
|     |  | 25 | Locke: Critique of Innate Ideas                                |
|     |  | 26 | Berkeley: Immaterialism (Denial of Matter)                     |
|     |  | 27 | Berkeley: Immaterialism (Denial of Matter)                     |
|     |  | 28 | Berkeley: Immaterialism (Denial of Matter)                     |
|     |  | 29 | Hume: Ideas and Impressions (Brief Descriptions) and Causation |
|     |  | 30 | Hume: Ideas and Impressions (Brief Descriptions) and Causation |
|     |  | 31 | Hume: Ideas and Impressions (Brief Descriptions) and Causation |
|     |  | 32 | Hume: Ideas and Impressions (Brief Descriptions) and Causation |
|     |  | 33 | Hume: Ideas and Impressions (Brief Descriptions) and Causation |
| IV  |  | 34 | Critical Philosophy                                            |
|     |  | 35 | Classification of Propositions                                 |
|     |  | 36 | Classification of Propositions                                 |
|     |  | 37 | Classification of Propositions                                 |
|     |  | 38 | Analytic, Synthetic                                            |
|     |  | 39 | Analytic, Synthetic                                            |
|     |  | 40 | Analytic, Synthetic                                            |
|     |  | 41 | Analytic, Synthetic                                            |
|     |  | 42 | Synthetic Apriori                                              |
|     |  | 43 | Synthetic Apriori                                              |
|     |  | 44 | Synthetic Apriori                                              |

|  |  |    |                   |
|--|--|----|-------------------|
|  |  | 45 | Synthetic Apriori |
|--|--|----|-------------------|

| Unit   | Contents/Syllabus                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| I      | <b>Introduction:</b><br>Rationalism<br>Empiricism<br>The main aspects of the debate                                                                                   |
| II     | <b>Rationalism:</b><br>Descartes Method of Doubt<br>Spinoza_ Concept of Substance<br>Leibnitz- The Concept of Monads                                                  |
| III    | <b>Empiricism:</b><br>Locke: Critique of Innate Ideas<br>Berkeley: Immaterialism (Denial of Matter)<br>Hume: Ideas and Impressions (Brief Descriptions) and Causation |
| IV     | <b>Critical Philosophy:</b><br>Classification of Propositions<br>Analytic, Synthetic<br>Synthetic Apriori                                                             |
| S. No. | Name of Authors/Books/Publishers                                                                                                                                      |
| 1.     | Rationalism vs Empiricism- Markei, Peter, The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 2017, ed. Zalta. N. Edward                                                         |
| 2.     | Rene Descartes- Meditations on the First Philosophy, London: Penguin Classics, 1998, (Chapters 1 & 2)                                                                 |
| 3.     | Spinoza, Ethics, London: Penguin Classics, 2005, Book 1                                                                                                               |
| 4.     | G W Leibniz- Refer to any secondary source for the concept of Monads                                                                                                  |
| 5.     | Locke, John: An Essay Concerning Human Understanding, London, Penguin Classics, 1997, (Book-1)                                                                        |

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|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6. | Berkeley, George: Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous, London, Penguin Classics, 1988 (First Dialogue only)                                |
| 7. | Hume, David: An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1975 (Part 1-Section 2&3 and Part 2- Section 7)                   |
| 8. | Kant, Immanuel, Critique of Pure Reason, Cambridge Ed. of the works of Immanuel Kant, Guyer, Paul and Wood, Allen, 1999, (Introduction-pp-127-152) |

| Paper Components  |                                                                                                                                                |                |               |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Credits           | Lecture (L)                                                                                                                                    | Tutorial (T)   | Practical (P) |
|                   |                                                                                                                                                |                |               |
| Assessment Scheme |                                                                                                                                                |                |               |
| S.No.             | Component                                                                                                                                      | Marking Scheme | Total Marks   |
| 1                 | Internal Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assignment</li> <li>Class Test</li> <li>Attendance</li> </ul>                       |                | 30            |
|                   |                                                                                                                                                | 12             |               |
|                   |                                                                                                                                                | 12             |               |
|                   |                                                                                                                                                | 6              |               |
| 2.                | Continuous Assessment ( <b>Tutorial</b> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activity 1</li> <li>Activity 2</li> <li>Attendance</li> </ul> |                | 40            |
|                   |                                                                                                                                                | 20             |               |
|                   |                                                                                                                                                | 15             |               |
|                   |                                                                                                                                                | 5              |               |
| 3.                | Practical <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuous Assessment</li> <li>End Term Written/Practical Exam</li> <li>Viva</li> </ul>       | NA             |               |
|                   |                                                                                                                                                | NA             |               |
|                   |                                                                                                                                                | NA             |               |
|                   |                                                                                                                                                | NA             |               |
| 4.                | End Semester Examination                                                                                                                       |                | 90            |