



Indraprastha College for Women

University of Delhi

Work Plan for ODD SEMESTER – 2026

Course Name:	DSC
Paper Title:	Approaches to Indian Philosophy
Unique Paper Code:	2102103503
Semester:	I
Faculty(s):	Dr. Purnima Lenka
Year:	2026

Work Plan			
Unit No.	Learning Objective	Lecture No.	Topics to be Covered
I	This course will introduce students to various ways of reading Indian philosophy- from the spiritual to the material.	1	Traditional Approach: Meaning of tradition; orthodox and heterodox traditions
		2	Traditional Approach: Meaning of tradition; orthodox
		3	general features of traditional accounts of Indian philosophy
		4	Concept of Philosophy in India: Meaning and scope of <i>darśana</i> ; philosophy as a way of life;
		5	Concept of Philosophy in India: Meaning and scope of <i>darśana</i> ; philosophy as a way of life;

		6	relation between philosophy, religion and liberation
		7	Critical examination of the traditional approach: Unity and diversity in Indian philosophy
		8	Critical examination of the traditional approach: Unity and diversity in Indian philosophy
		9	historical understanding of Indian philosophical traditions
II	This course will give a corrective pictures of Indian philosophy, paving the way for a better understanding and more nuanced reading of the subject. Students will be able to distinguish philosophical argument from	10	Discourse and Debates: Nature of philosophical discourse in India; debate traditions
		11	Discourse and Debates: Nature of philosophical discourse in India; debate traditions
		12	Discourse and Debates: Nature of philosophical discourse in India; debate traditions
		13	Classical debates: <i>vāda</i> , <i>jalpa</i> , and

	dogma and critically examine the dominant assumptions and myths surrounding Indian philosophy.		<i>vitandā</i> ; methods of philosophical argumentation
		14	Classical debates: <i>vāda</i> , <i>jalpa</i> , and <i>vitandā</i> ; methods of philosophical argumentation
		15	Classical debates: <i>vāda</i> , <i>jalpa</i> , and <i>vitandā</i> ; methods of philosophical argumentation
		16	Colonial and contemporary debates in Indian philosophy
		17	Colonial and contemporary debates in Indian philosophy
		18	Dogmas and Myths: Meaning of dogma; commonly held assumptions about Indian philosophy; examination of philosophical myths
		19	Dogmas and Myths: Meaning of dogma; commonly held assumptions about Indian philosophy; examination of philosophical myths

		20	Dogmas and Myths: Meaning of dogma; commonly held assumptions about Indian philosophy; examination of philosophical myths
III	The student will develop critical faculties to understand the historical trajectory of Indian philosophy. Students will critically examine materialistic and naturalistic traditions and understand how they challenge the conventional spiritual interpretation of Indian philosophy.	21	Deviating from the “Tradition” : Meaning of materialism; questioning the traditional spiritual interpretation
		22	Deviating from the “Tradition” : Meaning of materialism; questioning the traditional spiritual interpretation
		23	Deviating from the “Tradition” : Meaning of materialism; questioning the traditional spiritual interpretation
		24	Naturalistic Tradition of Indian Philosophy: Naturalism

		25	Naturalism, rationality and rejection of supernatural explanations
		26	Naturalism, rationality and rejection of supernatural explanations
		27	Materialism in Indian Philosophy: Cārvāka/Lokāyata; materialism and alternative interpretations of Indian philosophy
		28	Materialism in Indian Philosophy: Cārvāka/Lokāyata; materialism and alternative interpretations of Indian philosophy
		29	A Different Reading of Indian Philosophy: M. N. Roy; scientific thought, rationalism and materialism
		30	A Different Reading of Indian Philosophy: M. N. Roy; scientific thought, rationalism and materialism
		31	Comparative discussion: Traditional vs.

			materialistic approaches
		32	Comparative discussion: Traditional vs. materialistic approaches
IV	This course will provide a better base to the student to do more serious research in the subject that is both relevant and contemporary.	33	Caste, Society and Philosophy: B.R. Ambedkar: Caste system, social hierarchy and philosophical critique
		34	B. R. Ambedkar: Caste system, social hierarchy and philosophical critique
		35	B. R. Ambedkar: Caste system, social hierarchy and philosophical critique
		36	The Philosophy of Hinduism: Ambedkar's critique of Hindu social and philosophical structures
		37	The Philosophy of Hinduism: Ambedkar's critique of Hindu social and philosophical structures

		38	Alternative readings of Indian Philosophy; Ambedkar's approach
		39	Annihilation of Caste and riddle of Hinduism
		40	Annihilation of Caste and riddle of Hinduism
		41	Comparative and Critical Review: Traditional, debate-oriented
		42	Comparative and Critical Review: Traditional, debate-oriented
		43	Traditional, debate-oriented, materialistic and alternative approaches
		44	Discussion
		45	Discussion

Syllabus		
Unit	Contents	Contact Hours
I	Indian Philosophy: Tradition and Significance 1. Traditional Approach 2. Concept of Philosophy in India	9
II	Dogmas and Debates 1. Discourse and Debates 2. Dogmas and Myths	12
III	Materialistic Approach to Indian Philosophy 1. Deviating from the "tradition" 2. A different reading of Indian philosophy 3. Naturalism in Indian Philosophy	12

IV	Alternative approach to Indian Philosophy 1. Caste, Society and Philosophy: Ambedkar 2. The Philosophy of Hinduism	12
	Total	45
Text Books/Suggested Readings:		
S. No.	Name of Authors/Books/Publishers	Year of Publication/ Reprint
1.	S.Radhakrishnan and Charles A Moore. 'History of Indian Thought', Source Book in Indian Philosophy, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1957, Pp.XV-XXIX	1957
2.	Bimal K Matilal, 'On the concept of Philosophy in India', Jonardon, Ganeri (Ed.) Indian Philosophy: A Reader London: Routledge,2020,pp.7-16	2020
3.	Raghramaraju, 'The Discourse of Debates in Indian Philosophy: Classical, Colonial, and Contemporary', Debates in Indian Philosophy-Classical, Colonial and Contemporary, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2007, pp 1-27	2007
4.	Dr.BabasahebAmbedkar Writings and speeches vol.1, New Delhi: DrAmbedkar Foundation, Gol,2020, pp.50-58,69-80 (Excerpts from Annihilation of Caste)	2020

Paper Components			
Credits	Lecture (L)	Tutorial (T)	Practical (P)
4	3	0	1
Assessment Scheme			
S.No.	Component	Marking Scheme	Total Marks
1	Internal Assessment - Assignment/Quiz/Project/ Presentation - Class Test - Attendance		30
		12	
		12	
		6	
2.	Continuous Assessment (Tutorial) Activity 1		

	• Activity 2 • Attendance		
3.	Practical • Continuous Assessment • End Term Written/Practical Exam • Viva		40
4.	End Semester Examination		90