



**Indraprastha College for Women
University of Delhi**

Work Plan for ODD SEMESTER – 2025

Course Name:	B.A. (Hons.) Philosophy
Paper Title:	Western Philosophy: Descartes to Kant
Unique Paper Code:	2102102302
Semester:	V
Faculty(s):	Dr. Bindu Das
Year:	2025

Work Plan			
Unit No.	Learning Objective	Lecture No.	Topics to be Covered
I	To introduce the main traditions of Western philosophy and the rationalism–empiricism debate	1-3	Introduction to Rationalism and Empiricism

		4-6	Main aspects of the debate; Historical context
II	To study the core ideas of major Rationalist philosophers	7-12	Descartes: Method of Doubt
		13– 17	Spinoza: Concept of God
		18-22	Leibniz: Concept of Monads
III	To examine key concepts in Empiricism and its critique of Rationalism	23-27	Locke: Critique of Innate Ideas
		28-33	Berkeley: Immaterialism (Denial of Matter)
		34-36	Hume: Ideas and Impressions
		37-38	Hume: Causation
IV	To understand Kant's synthesis and his classification of propositions	39	Classification of Propositions
		40-42	Analytic and Synthetic
		43-45	Synthetic a priori propositions

Unit	Contents/Syllabus
I	Introduction to Rationalism and Empiricism; Main aspects of the debate
II	Rationalism – Descartes (Method of Doubt), Spinoza (Concept of God), Leibniz (Concept of Monads).
III	Empiricism – Locke (Critique of Innate Ideas), Berkeley (Immaterialism), Hume (Ideas and Impressions, Causation).
IV	Critical Philosophy – Kant’s Classification of Propositions, Analytic/Synthetic, Synthetic a priori.
S. No.	Name of Authors/Books/Publishers
1.	<p>Markie, Peter, 'Rationalism vs Empiricism', The Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy, 2017 ed., Zalta, N. Edward.</p> <p>Copleston, F.J., History of Philosophy, USA, Image Books, 1993.</p> <p>Falkenberg, R., History of Modern Philosophy, USA, Jefferson Publications, 2015.</p> <p>Moore, Bruder, Philosophy: The Power of Ideas, New Delhi, Tata McGraw Hill, 2011.</p> <p>O’Connor, D.J., A Critical History of Western Philosophy, USA, MacMillan, 1964.</p> <p>Steg Muller, W., Main Currents in Contemporary German, British and American Philosophy, Dordrecht, D. Riedel Publishing, 1969.</p>

	Garrett, Thomson, An Introduction to Modern Philosophy, California, Wadsworth Publishing, 1993.
2.	Descartes, Rene, Meditations on First Philosophy, Penguin Classics, 1998 (Ch. 1 & 2).
3.	Spinoza, Ethics, Penguin Classics, 2005 (Book 1).
4.	Leibniz, Secondary sources on the concept of Monads.
5.	Locke, John, An Essay Concerning Human Understanding, Penguin Classics, 1997 (Book 1).
6.	Berkeley, George, Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous, Penguin Classics, 1988 (First Dialogue only).
	Hume, David, An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding, Clarendon Press, 1975 (Part 1: sec. 2 & 3; Part 2: sec. 7).
	Kant, Immanuel, Critique of Pure Reason, Cambridge Ed., Guyer, Paul & Wood, Allen, 1999 (pp. 127–152).

	Paper Components		
Credits	Lecture (L)	Tutorial (T)	Practical (P)
4	3	1	0

Assessment Scheme			
S.No	Component	Marking Scheme	Total Marks
1	Internal Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assignment/Quiz/Project/Presentation ● Class Test ● Attendance 	12	30
		12	
		6	
2.	Continuous Assessment (Tutorial) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Activity 1 ● Activity 2 ● Attendance 		40
		20	
		15	
		5	
3.	Practical <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continuous Assessment ● End Term Written/Practical Exam ● Viva 	0	0
4.	End Semester Examination		90