

PHI-001: Foundations of Philosophy

Course Objectives:

The course is designed as an open elective that will cater to students with no background in Philosophy as well as those who are acquainted with philosophical discourse. The course comprises of general, essential and foundational concepts/themes/issues that are a prerequisite to any competent philosophic understanding.

The course is divided into two units, each focussing on developing a comprehensive and foundational understanding of Philosophy. Unit I explores the way Philosophy is defined/understood and why there is a need to do Philosophy even now, the evolution of Philosophy and the various philosophical schools. Unit II is aimed at exploring central branches of philosophy like Metaphysics, Epistemology, and Ethics etc. The main objectives of the paper are:

- To introduce the student to a fundamental Philosophic knowledge.
- To acquaint the student with basic philosophical concepts, themes and schools.
- To equip the student with basic tools and vocabulary to engage in a philosophic discourse.

Course Outcomes:

- To gain the basic Philosophic vocabulary and an acquaintance with various philosophic concepts and the debates surrounding them.
- To provide a critical distinction between various philosophic systems and summarize their main tenets with a proper vocabulary.
- To use various philosophic paradigms for the interpretation of a text.

UNIT I: Introducing Philosophy

1. Philosophy

- Meaning: Why do Philosophy?
- Definition: What does Philosophy mean?

1

Evolution of Philosophy

- A general history of philosophy from the Greeks to the Moderns

3. Schools of Philosophy

- Idealism, Rationalism, Empiricism, Scepticism, Dialectics, Hermeneutics, Marxism

UNIT II: Branches of Philosophy

1. Metaphysics: What does it mean to be?

2. Epistemology: How do you know that you know?

3. Ethics: What should you do?