

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Introduction to Indian Philosophy - 35126

Last update 23-08-2022

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Asian Studies

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Eviatar Shulman

Coordinator Email: eviatar.shulman@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Wed 12-13, upon appointment by email

Teaching Staff:

Prof Eviatar Shulman

Course/Module description:

This course offers an introduction to the main philosophical currents of the Indian tradition. Philosophy in India is systematic, but is meant to directly influence the way one sees the world and allow a vision of truth. Hence, "philosophy" is actually "seeing" (Sanskrit darshana). Among Indian philosophers, many emphasized the concept of oneness (or non-duality), as well as the primacy of consciousness over the material world. They did so joining logical argument with hermeneutics and interpretation of scripture. Others that oneness must be qualified, and others yet, like the Buddhists and perhaps the Jains, that it is mistaken. We will examine how philosophical exploration arise in India and how it developed, and learn to recognize its main schools of thought.

At the core of the course will be question in metaphysics and epistemology.

Course/Module aims:

1. To introduce the students to the main currents of the Indian philosophical world.
2. To analyze central questions that arise in Indian philosophy and see how they challenge key positions in Western thought.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

1. To understand and discuss central question in Indian philosophy and use these to re-consider important aspects of life and reality.
2. To better understand themselves.

Attendance requirements(%):

80%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lectures based on powerpoints and leading to discussion, based on prior reading of sources.

Course/Module Content:

A plan of lessons for the course will be posted near the beginning of the teaching term. This will include (but not be necessarily confined to):

1. Upaniṣads
2. Bhagavad gīta
3. Advaita Vedānta.
4. Other kinds of Vedānta

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5. Nyāya (and Vaiśeṣika)
 6. Yoga and Sāṃkhya.
 7. Buddhism.
 8. Jainism.
 9. Tantra and Kashmiri Śaivism.

Required Reading:

A complete list of sources will be supplied close to the beginning of the teaching term. Normally there will be a reading of a primary source for each class. Most secondary reading will be optional, but for 2 or 3 cases the recommendation will be stronger.

There will be 2 or 3 books in English that cover most of the course's materials, so readings can be made up.

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

Additional information:

Home exam