

BA (Hons) Philosophy

The BA (Hons) Philosophy programme in Delhi University is an attempt to both introduce and, at the same time, provide an in depth look into one of the most challenging subjects that one can study.

It will introduce students to the great philosophers and their ideas and also how one thinks about contemporary problems through the lens of their theories. It will give a comprehensive sweep of Indian and Western philosophy.

It will also make the students aware of the main currents of thought in Ethics. Students can also explore Philosophy of Science, Logic, Feminism and Bio-ethics amongst many other core and optional papers. The core idea of the Honours course is to make the student aware of the foundational issues related to the world around us, whether it be in our life, or regarding mind and matter, or existence, or belief, or religion or science. Philosophy is vast in scope and intense in analysis and the Honours course tries to provide a taste of the extent of philosophy and the intensity of the argumentation and analysis at the same time.

2. Learning Outcomes based approach to Curriculum Planning

The learning outcomes-based curriculum framework for B.A (Hons.) Philosophy is based on the graduate attributes that a graduate in philosophy is expected to attain along coupled with the expected learning outcomes of each course and the combined course. The curriculum for B.A (Hons) Philosophy is prepared keeping in mind the needs, expectations and aspirations of students in philosophy as well as the modernizing trends and methodological perspectives of philosophy as a subject. The course learning outcomes and the programme learning outcomes specify the knowledge, understanding, skills, attitudes, values that a student completing this degree is expected to inculcate and know.

Course objective and learning outcome : 2018-2019

Semester-I

Indian Philosophy

Core Course - (CC) , Credits:6

Course Objectives

The objective of this course is to make students familiar with Indian Intellectual traditions. This course will be an Introduction to the major schools of Indian philosophy. Focus will be on interactive learning where students will engage themselves into rigorous and an analytical examination of key concepts in a manner that enables them for contemporary engagement and reflection .

Learning outcome:

The course will help the students in understanding the significance of Indian philosophical studies in their daily life, how to overcome the stress, how to manage their life and take challenges in life; hence there will be a focus on the dialectical and analytical method to understand Indian philosophy.

Logic

Core Course - (CC) ,credits:6

Course Objectives::

Logic is fundamental to the way human beings communicate. Though our public debate and private reasoning are shaped by logical principles, we are not able to spell them out without a basic training in logic.

Learning outcome:

Logic course helps the students to develop an understanding of the basic concepts of logic and language as well as familiarity with precise models of deductive reasoning. It will also facilitate an understanding to effectively distinguish between rhetoric, fallacious arguments and sound reasoning in real life. Identifying these distinctions is quite significant to preserve one's intellectual sanctity in an increasingly media saturated world with fake news.

Ethics in the Public Domain

(GE), Generic Elective, Credit:6

Course Objectives

The course aims to develop an ethical perspective on socio-political and even economic issues where the public discourses and debates are often bereft of ethical/moral considerations and are often plagued with objectivism and materialism.

Through theoretical understanding of ethics and its practical application in daily life, it generates ethical awareness/sensitivity necessary for overall wellbeing and inspires the students to contribute voluntarily to the society as a responsible member.

Course Learning Outcomes

To equip the students with tools and techniques for handling socio political issues that affect them on individual / collective basis. It also inculcates, among students, a larger awareness of public issues and empathy with marginalised issues in society.

Greek Philosophy

Core Course - (CC) Credit:6

Course Objectives

This course traces the origins of philosophy in the Western tradition in the thinkers of Ancient Greece.

Course Learning Outcomes

This course facilitates a comprehension of early Greek tradition. A comprehensive understanding of it is like a foundation course in the Classics. The two great classical traditions, viz., Greek and Indian have left a rich legacy of philosophic knowledge that can be pragmatically and scholastically contextualized in the present day times. Students of Delhi University read Indian Philosophy, this course in Greek Philosophy complements it fairly well for understanding of the classics.

Ethics

Core Course - (CC) Credit:6

Course Objective

The objective is to introduce students to basic ethical theories which enhance their decision making capabilities. The course is designed to help them achieve clarity and creative approach in a given situation.

Course Learning Outcomes

The students after having run through basic ethical theories gain a better orientation from the ethical perspective. This course helps to understand and interpret socio-cultural aspects with a more rational basis.

Formal Logic

(GE (2))

Generic Elective - (GE) Credit:6

Course Objective:

This course is designed as an introductory course in logic which will bring out the standard forms of Formal and Informal reasoning. It introduces the basic logical concepts and provides a clear understanding of the structure of arguments and the nature of inferential reasoning.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Formal logic enhances the reasoning skills and develops ground for rejecting the wrong arguments on the basis of sound inferences. It creates ground for eliminating superstitious beliefs and creates ways for strong arguments.

Semester-3

Western Philosophy: Descartes to Kant

Core Course - (CC) Credit:6

Course Objective

The paper is designed to appreciate the profound ideas that sprung from the minds of the great philosophers of the modern western world. The syllabus comprises of six philosophers grouped under two traditions of thought: Rationalism and Empiricism and the seventh conciliating these two traditions with conflicting thoughts.

Course Learning Outcomes

This paper seeks to enable the students to witness how philosophers who were either predecessors or contemporaries evaluated the theories of others. It will also make students aware that there is no place for superficial approach to the complex questions in life.

Social and Political Philosophy

Core Course - (CC ,Credits:6

Course Objective

This course aims at studying different range of social and political thinkers, theories and concepts. It would provide a broad survey of fundamental, social and political questions in current context discussing philosophical issues central to political and social thoughts.

Course Learning Outcomes

This course may make students a better citizens by understanding the notions of governance and democracy. It enables them to know rights of Individuals and communities, and to learn to live in cohesive manner in a multicultural setup.

Applied Ethics

Core Course - (CC) Credit:6

Course Objective

The course objective is to apply the theoretical tools of Ethics in life situations as well as devise ethical resolutions in moral dilemmas as they come up. This will gradually generate an ethical acumen amongst the students of philosophy.

Course Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to make students philosophically competent about their own decisions, to achieve clarity, develop comprehension skills and reach precision in arguments with reasons. A spectrum of issues ranging from morality, environment, real life situations, moral dilemmas and ongoing philosophical examination of the crisis in the field of electronic media are a part of this course curriculum.

Critical Thinking and Decision Making

(SEC (1)),Credit:4

Course Objective:

This course is primarily focused to develop thinking skills. It aims at enabling a person to take decision in difficult situations. It is the ability to analyze the way one thinks and presents the evidence for one's own ideas rather than simply accepting it. It is creative, clear and to some extent reflective thinking.

Course Learning Outcomes

This course will help in generating intellectual and productive/creative ideas for further use in difficult situation. It will also provide a clarity in thinking as well as proper understanding of an issue to make it precise for further analysis. The learner can become self-directed, self-monitored and self-corrective through this process of reflective thinking, and can proceed for right choice.

Feminism

Generic Elective - (GE) Credit:6

Course Objectives:

A course in Feminism is needed to sensitise students to a perspective of thought that acts as a filter—a lens through which all subjects must be studied. It seeks to create gender sensitization and develops a holistic approach towards education. This course addresses the concerns of women in terms of debates on consciousness and soul, analyses their connect with nature and culture; and explains the development of feminist ideologies.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Study of Feminism arms the student with analytical skills to develop valid arguments to counter gender discrimination, sexism and patriarchal dominance. Feminist theory has a social agenda i.e. to initiate transformation in social structures, customs and practices. Thus the study of Feminism is not only an empowering tool against gender oppression but also against other systems of oppression such as race, class and colour.

Semester -4

Text of Indian Philosophy

Core Course - (CC) Credit:6

Course Objective

The objective of this course is to engage the student in a participative framework to critically and creatively look at the dialogical and pluralistic epistemological traditions within the mosaic of what is called the Indian Philosophical Textual Depository. The primary focus will be on the three sources of knowledge and cognitive activity: perception, inference and verbal testimony.

Course Learning Outcomes

After having done this course, the student is expected to have mastered the art of philosophically reading the given textual excerpts and to understand the issues hermeneutically afresh, keeping in mind the dialogical and pluralistic nuances employed in the epistemic enterprise.

Text of Western Philosophy

Core Course - (CC) Credit:6

Course Objective:

The Western philosophical tradition forms a key component of the discipline since the domain area borrows plenty of fodder from Western philosophical thinkers. Having been introduced to history of Western Philosophy, the students would now be expected to read and critically examine the basic text of some prominent contemporary philosophical thinkers in West. This would enable the students to get a first- hand exposure to core philosophical issues that bothered these Western philosophers.

Course Learning Outcomes

The idea is to encourage the students towards a comparative trajectory where they probe the similarities and differences between the Western and non-Western stands of thought. Hence, one of the key learning outcomes would be and should be to develop comparative skills. By focusing on individual philosophical thought from original texts, the students would be capable of differentiating between positive and normative worldview.

Truth Functional Logic

Core Course - (CC) Credit: 6

Course Objective

This paper aims to equip the students with an understanding of the basic logical concepts which helps to enhance their reasoning capacity, proving validity and invalidity of argument forms. They learn various logical tools and methods with the application of rule, axioms and theorems.

Course Learning Outcomes

It enhances the logical reasoning and problem-solving skills. The significance of this paper is that it prepares students to reason out in day to day life situations as well as to develop the skill to clear various competitive examination.

Art & Film Appreciation

Skill-Enhancement Elective Course - (SEC) Credit:4

Course Objective

The objective of the course is to enable a student to become an active and engaging viewer of art and cinema . The course also aims to enable students to discern the aesthetic experience as different from art experience, and thereby to discern various art forms.

Course Learning Outcomes

It is a skill to develop and enhance philosophical analysis and contextualizing in terms of rasa empathy and disinterestedness in relation to works of art, especially in relation to cinema. This will help students pursue a career as art critic, historian or art analysts.

Bio-Ethics

Generic Elective - (GE) Credit:6

Course Objective

The course aims at ethical analysis of the topics within the realm of bio-medical sciences and legal studies.

Learning Outcome:

It is a career-oriented curriculum which enables students to develop competence in policy making and participation in ethics committee of various medical and care institutes. It sensitizes the minds towards the ongoing ethical dilemmas in the fields of medicine and bio-technology.

Semester-5

Analytic Philosophy

Core Course - (CC) Credit:6

Course Objective

The objective of the course in Analytic Philosophy for Honours students is to make them conversant with an important school of Western Philosophy in the 20th century that led to a revolutionary re-conceptualization of the subject matter and methodology of philosophy in terms of linguistic analysis, logic and mathematics.. Analytic philosophy is generally seen as the dominant philosophical tradition in the English-speaking world even today.

Course Learning Outcomes

The course in Analytic Philosophy will introduce the students to the primary thinkers of one of the most important and influential school of thought in Western Philosophy. It will enable students in acquainting them with the complex set of interconnected sub-traditions that Analytic Philosophy ramified into and which became equally influential in the twentieth century.

Continental Philosophy

Core Course - (CC) ,credits -6

Course Objectives:

The main objective of this course is to make students familiar with the leading figures of 19th and 20th century Continental philosophy. Continental Philosophy refers to a set of traditions of 19th and 20th Century philosophy in mainland Europe. The objective is to gain an overview of Continental European Philosophy since Hegel, with special emphasis on Existentialism and Phenomenology.

Course Learning Outcomes

Make students gain familiarity with, and clear understanding of, the major thinkers of Continental tradition and their philosophy. Improved critical reading of the texts, their rational and logical understanding, and writing abilities. This will also enable students to be able to philosophise various texts of Continental Philosophy.

Philosophy of Law

Discipline Specific Elective - (DSE) , credits-6

Course Objective:

The course in Philosophy of Law, seeks to Familiarise students with the nature and purpose of law by examining questions such as “What is (the nature of) law?”, “How, if at all, is law connected with morality?” and “What is justice?”, and to instruct students about possible answers and arguments provided in legal philosophy and theory.

Course Learning Outcomes

The ideal outcome of this course is to make students understand the concept of law, its place in our lives, its formal structure, rules and modalities. Students should be able to discuss and argue on crucial legal questions that impact the life of common citizens with sensitivity, acumen, precision and insight.

Bio Ethics

Discipline Specific Elective - (DSE) ,credits-6

Course Objective

The course aims at ethical analysis of the topics within the realm of bio-medical sciences and legal studies.

Learning Outcome:

It is a career-oriented curriculum which enables students to develop competence in policy making and participation in ethics committee of various medical and care institutes. It sensitizes the minds towards the ongoing ethical dilemmas in relation to medicine , health and well-being.

Philosophy of Religion: Indian and Western

Core Course - (CC) ,credits-6

Course Objective:

To familiarize the students with basic concepts of religion and its philosophical significance. To develop a wider vision for contemporary issues in religion.

Course Learning Outcomes

The students will acquire a general understanding of religious issues .They will learn to think critically about religious issues.

Philosophy of Language: Indian and Western

Core Course - (CC) ,credits-6

Course Objective

This course enables students to develop the ability to read and interpret philosophical texts. In the section of Western text, the classical debate between Frege/ Russell/ Strawson, makes students have a meaningful intellectual encounter with the articles by these philosophers of language. The Indian text section exposes students to the problems of understanding language, meaning, reference and other related concepts in Indian philosophy. Getting a comparative understanding of Indian and Western perspectives of these philosophical issues is one of the main objectives of this course.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students are able to know, towards the end of the course, what they learnt and communicate to others their understanding of the fundamental issues in philosophy of language.

Feminism

Discipline Specific Elective - (DSE) Credit: 6

Course Objectives:

A course in Feminism is needed to sensitise students to a perspective of thought that acts as a filter—a lens through which all subjects must be studied. It seeks to create gender sensitization and develops a wholistic approach towards education. This course addresses the concerns of women in terms of debates on consciousness and soul, analyses their connect with nature and culture; and explains the development of feminist ideologies.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Study of Feminism arms the student with analytical skills to develop valid arguments to counter gender discrimination, sexism and patriarchal dominance. The study of Feminism is not only an empowering tool against gender oppression but also against other systems of oppression such as race, class and colour.

Aesthetics

Discipline Specific Elective - (DSE), credits:6

Course Objective:

The course is aimed to make students understand various philosophical traditions and approaches to contextualise the nature, meaning and definition of art, craft, beauty, creativity and aesthetic experience. The course also includes an eclectic collection of textual references.

Course Learning Outcomes

The course prepares the students to pursue and qualify for a career in art, culture and media studies.
