

**GENERIC ELECTIVES (GE-11): Philosophical Debates: Western**

**Credit distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course**

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course	Department offering the course
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice			
<b>Philosophical Debates: Western GE 11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>UG 1<sup>st</sup> Year</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Philosophy</b>

**Learning Objectives**

**Course Objective**

- The paper is designed to appreciate the profound ideas that sprung from the minds of the great philosophers of the Greek world, as well as modern western and contemporary philosophy.
- It allows students to learn the main issues, arguments and counter-arguments in the entire spectrum of western philosophical debates.
- The syllabus comprises of philosophers grouped under several traditions of thought. It begins with Descartes' seminal views on epistemology and metaphysics and traces the emergence of ideas in a kind of chronological order which demonstrates methodical development of philosophical thought.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

- It will develop skills of critical evaluation of key arguments of philosophers
- It will enable students to have a better understanding of how a philosopher develops and defends a theme
- It will create an understanding of philosophical themes and debates

**Unit 1 Epistemology**

**(3 weeks)**

- 1) Knowledge and opinion/belief
- 2) Episteme and doxa

**Essential/recommended readings**

Plato, *Republic*, Translated by Lee (Penguin), Book VI & VII, pp. 502-521.

## Unit 2 Metaphysics

(4 weeks)

- 1) Descartes' Mind-Body dualism.
- 2) Gilbert Ryle on Descartes Myth.

### Essential/Recommended Readings

Rene Descartes, *Meditations Concerning First Philosophy*, Meditation II, in J J Blom (Ed), *Descartes; Essential Writings* (Harper Torch Books, 1977).

Gilbert Ryle, *The Concept of Mind* (Hutchinson, 1949), Chapter I.

## Unit 3 Empiricism about substance

(3 weeks)

- 1) John Locke's theory of material substance.
- 2) Berkeley's critique of Locke's material substance.

Essential/Recommended readings

John Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (London, 1706), Chapter XXIII.

George Berkeley, *The Principles of Human Knowledge* in G J Warnocke (Ed), (Fontana Press, 1985), Part I, Section 1-24.

## Unit 4 Humanism; Emotion & God

(4 weeks)

- 1) Jean Paul Sartre's theory of emotion.
- 2) Russell and Copleston debate on the existence of God.

### Essential/Recommended readings

- Jean Paul Sartre, *Sketch for a Theory of the Emotions* (London: Routledge).
- Bertrand Russel, *Why I am not a Christian?*(London: George Allen and Unwin), including the BBC debate between Russel and Copleston Broadcast in 1948.

### Suggestive readings

- T Z Lavine, *From Socrates to Sartre: The Philosophic Quest* (New York: Bantam Books, 1984).
- F C Copleston, *History of Philosophy* (Image Books, 1993).
- R Falkenberg, *History of Modern Philosophy* (Jefferson Publications, 2015).

- Bruder Moore, *Philosophy: The Power of Ideas* (New Delhi: Tata McGraw Hill, 2011).
- D J O'Connor, *A Critical History of Western Philosophy* (Macmillan, 1964).
- W Stegmuller, *Main Currents in Contemporary German, British and American Philosophy* (Riedel Publishing, 1959).
- Thomson Garrett, *An Introduction to Modern Philosophy* (California: Wadsworth Publishing, 1993).
- Y Masih, *A Critical History of Western Philosophy* (New Delhi: Motilal Banarsidas, 2016)

**Note:** Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.