

Course Title: Fundamentals of Western Philosophy

Course Code

Course Description:

The course aims to introduce students to the key concepts, thinkers, and historical development of Western philosophy. By exploring various philosophical disciplines, students will develop critical thinking skills and gain a deeper understanding of ethical considerations. The course encourages students to apply philosophical ideas to real-life situations and fosters an appreciation for the cultural and historical context in which Western philosophy has evolved.

Course Objectives:

1. To introduce students to the foundational concepts and theories of Western philosophy.
2. To familiarize students with influential philosophers and their contributions to Western thought.
3. To develop critical thinking and analytical skills through the examination of philosophical arguments.
4. To explore the historical context and intellectual movements that shaped Western philosophy.
5. To provide an understanding of metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and logic within Western philosophy.
6. To encourage the application of philosophical ideas to real-life situations and personal reflections.

Learning Outcomes:

LO1: Demonstrate knowledge of key philosophical concepts, including metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, logic, and the philosophy of mind.

LO2: Identify and analyze the contributions of influential philosophers from different historical periods in Western philosophy.

LO3: Develop critical thinking and analytical skills through the study and evaluation of philosophical arguments and theories.

LO4: Apply ethical reasoning and engage in ethical dilemmas, allowing for the development of ethical decision-making skills.

LO5: Recognize the historical and cultural context in which Western philosophical ideas emerged and appreciate their impact on society.

LO6: Engage in reflective self-examination, fostering a deeper understanding of personal beliefs, values, and worldviews.

1. Development of Western Philosophy

The image shows five handwritten signatures in blue ink. From left to right, they are: a stylized signature, a signature with a large 'A', a signature that appears to be 'Anand Gupta', a signature that appears to be 'Harj Kumar Singh', and a signature that appears to be 'S. Singh'.

- 1.1 Greek Philosophy
- 1.2 Christian Philosophy
- 1.3 Modern Philosophy

2. Western Philosophy (a conceptual study)

- 2.1 Ontology
- 2.2 Epistemology
- 2.3 Axiology

3. Ontological Theories

- 3.1 Idealism and Materialism
- 3.2 Pragmatism and Existentialism
- 3.3 Structuralism and Post Structuralism

4. Epistemological Theories

- 4.1 Rationalism
- 4.2 Empiricism
- 4.3 Realism and Constructivism

5. Axiological Theories

- 5.1 Deontology and Teleology
- 5.2 Virtue ethics
- 5.3 Aesthetical Theories

A series of handwritten signatures in blue ink. From left to right: a stylized signature, a signature with a large flourish, a signature that appears to be 'Anurag Gupta' inside a circle, followed by the text 'Ajay Kumar Singh', and finally a signature that appears to be 'S Singh'.

Suggested Reading:

1. Russell, Bertrand. The History of Western Philosophy. Routledge, 2004.
2. Copleston, Frederick. A History of Philosophy: Volume 1-9. Continuum, 2003-2013.
3. Durant, Will. The Story of Philosophy: The Lives and Opinions of the World's Greatest Philosophers. Simon & Schuster, 1991.
4. Cottingham, John, et al. Western Philosophy: An Anthology. Wiley-Blackwell, 2007.
5. Aristotle. Nicomachean Ethics. Translated by Terence Irwin, Hackett Publishing Company, 1999.
6. Descartes, René. Meditations on First Philosophy. Translated by Donald A. Cress, Hackett Publishing Company, 1993.
7. Kant, Immanuel. Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals. Translated by Mary Gregor, Cambridge University Press, 2012.
8. Nietzsche, Friedrich. Beyond Good and Evil. Translated by Judith Norman, Cambridge University Press, 2002.
9. Plato. The Republic. Translated by G.M.A. Grube, Hackett Publishing Company, 1992.
10. Taylor, C.C.W. The Philosophy of the Enlightenment. Routledge, 2001.

The image shows five handwritten signatures in blue ink. From left to right: the first signature appears to be 'John Doe'; the second is a stylized signature; the third is 'Anand Gupta' with 'Gupta' circled; the fourth is 'Ajay Kumar Singh'; and the fifth is 'S. Singh'.