

Master Degree Programme in Philosophy

(MAPY)

Second Year

January 2019

MPY - 002 : WESTERN PHILOSOPHY

MPYE - 008 : METAPHYSICS

MPYE - 009 : PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE AND COSMOLOGY

MPYE - 010 : PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

MPYE - 011 : PHILOSOPHY OF ART (AESTHETICS)

MPYE - 012 : TRIBAL PHILOSOPHY

MPYE - 013 : PHILOSOPHY OF TECHNOLOGY

MPYE - 014 : PHILOSOPHY OF MIND

MPYE - 015 : GANDHIAN PHILOSOPHY

MPYE - 016 : PHILOSOPHY OF SRI AUROBINDO

Assignment **MPY – 002: Western Philosophy**

- i) Answer all five questions
- ii) All questions carry equal marks
- iii) For every question, refer to the texts and write down the assignment-responses in your own words.
- iv) Answers to question no.1 and 2 should be in about 500 words each.

1. Explain the philosophy of God according to Aquinas. Discuss the five traditional ways to prove the existence of God. 20

Or

“Pragmatists have consistently sought to purify empiricism of the vestiges of Cartesianism.”
Discuss the anti-Cartesian stand in pragmatism.

2. Elaborate Kant’s philosophy of knowledge. What is special about the philosophical method of Kant? 20

Or

What are the general characteristics of existentialism? Explain the important themes discussed in existentialism.

3. Answer **any two** of the following questions in about 250 words each:
- (a) Write on the period of pure phenomenology in Husserl. 10
 - (b) Discuss elaborately methodological scepticism in Descartes 10
 - (c) Present a general picture of the philosophical system of Avicena. 10
 - (d) Explain the ‘Allegory of the Cave’. 10

4. Answer **any four** of the following in about 150 words each:
- (a) Distinguish between ‘Philosophical Method’ and ‘Scientific Method’. 5
 - (b) Briefly state the characteristics of Scholasticism. 5
 - (c) What are the major themes discussed in existentialism? 5
 - (d) What are the general characteristics of feminist thought? 5
 - (e) Describe the concept of absolute in Hegel. 5
 - (f) What is efficient cause? 5

5. Write short notes on **any five** of the following in about 100 words each:
- (a) Bracketing (Epoché)
 - (b) Eco-feminism 4
 - (c) The Eleatic School 4
 - (d) Hermeneutical circle 4
 - (e) Matters of fact 4
 - (f) Necessary conditions 4
 - (g) The Phenomenology of Spirit 4
 - (h) Cogito Ergo Sum 4

Assignment **MPYE – 008: Metaphysics**

Notes:

- i) Answer all five questions
- ii) All questions carry equal marks
- iii) For every question, refer to the texts and write down the assignment-responses in your own words.
- iv) Answers to question no.1 and 2 should be in about 500 words each.

1. Explain the concepts of primary matter and substantial form in detail. 20

Or

Explain the ontology of relation. Discuss various factors and kinds of relation.

2. Make a detailed exposition of various intrinsic and extrinsic causes. 20

Or

Elaborate the characteristics of being.

3. Answer **any two** of the following questions in about 250 words each:

- (a) Bring out the relation between 'Act' and 'Potency'. 10
- (b) Discuss the general characteristics of "accident". 10
- (c) What are the factors and kinds of relation? Explain. 10
- (d) Explain the main characteristics of prime matter. 10

4. Answer **any four** of the following in about 150 words each:

- (a) Describe the principle of causality (karana) 5
- (b) Describe the problem of falsity. 5
- (c) Explain being as the core of meaning. 5
- (d) Explain the principles of identity and distinction. 5
- (e) Being is neither univocal nor equivocal but analogous. Explain. 5
- (f) Explain essence as the ground of particular instances. 5

5. Write short notes on **any five** of the following in about 100 words each:

- (a) *Maya* as Analogy 4
- (b) Agapeic love 4
- (c) Ontological Truth 4
- (d) *Parinamavada* 4
- (e) Problem of Falsity 4
- (f) Substantial form 4
- (g) *Karma* 4
- (h) *Tad Ekam* 4

Assignment **MPYE – 009: Philosophy of Science and Cosmology**

Note:

- i. Answer all five questions
- ii. All questions carry equal marks
- iii. Before writing the assignment-responses, read the questions, understand them, refer the texts and write down the answers in your own words.
- iv. Answer to question no.1 and 2 should be in about 500 words each.

1. Explain the relation between epistemology and philosophy of science. Comment on the need and relevance of philosophy of science for other intellectual inquiries. 20

Or

Explain the uncertainty principle. Discuss in detail the philosophical implications of uncertainty principle.

2. What is the relation between reason and faith? How Scientific Perspective of Truth differs from Religious Perspectives? Explain. 20

Or

Is philosophy of science a second order discipline? Explain the broad areas of inquiry for philosophy of science.

3. Answer **any two** of the following questions in about 250 words each:

- (a) Make a critical analysis of logical positivism. 10
- (b) Discuss the philosophical implications of uncertainty principle. 10
- (c) Present feminist accounts of science in detail. 10
- (d) Explain how philosophy of science is related to metaphysics. 10

4. Answer **any four** of the following in about 150 words each:

- (a) What are the problems of inductive reasoning? 5
- (b) Discuss the correlation between perception, thought, and language. 5
- (c) Briefly describe the contribution of Kepler to cosmology. 5
- (d) How has logical positivism tried to interpret science? 5
- (e) What do you understand by epistemological anarchism? 5
- (f) Briefly explain the inflationary theory. 5

5. Write short notes on **any five** of the following in about 100 words each:

- (a) Falsification 4
- (b) Generalizations 4
- (c) Incommensurability 4

(d) Schrodinger's Cat	4
(e) Multiverse	4
(f) Inductive reasoning	4
(g) Paradigm	4
(h) Unobservables in science	4

Assignment **MPYE – 010: Philosophy of Religion**

Notes:

- i) Answer all five questions
- ii) All questions carry equal marks
- iii) For every question, refer to the texts and write down the assignment-responses in your own words.
- iv) Answers to question no.1 and 2 should be in about 500 words each.

1. ‘Atheism is the denial of theism’. Do you agree with this statement? 20
Or
Discuss various types of theism based on the philosophical concepts about God.
2. What are the different types of religious experiences? Explain various factors involved in religious experience. 20
Or
Critically examine the classical proofs for the existence of God.
3. Answer **any two** of the following questions in about 250 words each:
 - (a) Explain how religious thinkers defend religious language against the attacks of “verification” and “falsification” principles. 10
 - (b) Explain the three ‘C’s of organized religion: creed, code and cult. 10
 - (c) Differentiate between univocal, equivocal and analogical languages. 10
 - (d) Discuss the relation among myth, religion, and philosophy. 10
4. Answer **any four** of the following in about 150 words each:
 - (a) Differentiate between determinism and indeterminism 5
 - (b) Briefly explain the problem of evil 5
 - (c) Differentiate between Atheism and A-theism. 5
 - (d) Explain the moral argument for God’s existence. 5
 - (e) How does Emile Durkheim look at religious experience? 5
 - (f) Explain evil as privation. 5
5. Write short notes on **any five** of the following in about 100 words each:
 - (a) Evolution in Aurobindo 4
 - (b) Religious tolerance 4
 - (c) Kant’s idea of God 4
 - (d) Agnosticism 4
 - (e) Immanence 4
 - (f) Naturalism 4
 - (g) Symbolism 4
 - (h) Teleological argument for the existence of god 4

Assignment **MPYE – 011: Philosophy of Art (Aesthetics)**

Notes:

- i) Answer all five questions
- ii) All questions carry equal marks
- iii) For every question, refer to the texts and write down the assignment-responses in your own words.
- iv) Answers to question no.1 and 2 should be in about 500 words each.

1. Define rasa and explain the meaning and significance of the key concepts of the rasa-theory. 20
Or
Write an essay on Aristotle's doctrine of catharsis. How is it significant in the study of aesthetics?
2. Explain the various concepts in the Kantian theory of aesthetics. 20
Or
Write an essay on the nature of aesthetics. Elaborate the three basic approaches to aesthetics.
3. Answer **any two** of the following questions in about 250 words each:
 - (a) Write a short essay on the concept of beauty in art. 10
 - (b) Explain Bharata's contribution to Indian aesthetics. 10
 - (c) What do you understand by art experience? How is it approached in the Vedantic context? 10
 - (d) Elaborate Aristotle's doctrine of catharsis. 10
4. Answer **any four** of the following in about 150 words each:
 - (a) Is art a process? 5
 - (b) What are the factors which decide Aesthetic judgment? 5
 - (c) Briefly describe the representation theory of art. 5
 - (d) Describe the inference theory of Rasa (*rasanumiti vada*). 5
 - (e) What is the doctrine of Sadharnikarana? 5
 - (f) Explain the three basic approaches to aesthetics. 5
5. Write short notes on **any five** of the following in about 100 words each:
 - (a) Emanation
 - (b) Symmetry 4
 - (c) *Rasa-brahma vada* 4
 - (d) *Sahrdaya* 4
 - (e) Suchness 4
 - (f) Universality of the sense of beauty 4
 - (g) Types of art 4
 - (h) *Dhvani* 4

Assignment **MPYE – 012: Tribal Philosophy**

Notes:

- i) Answer all five questions
- ii) All questions carry equal marks
- iii) For every question, refer to the texts and write down the assignment-responses in your own words.
- iv) Answers to question no.1 and 2 should be in about 500 words each.

1. What is the importance of tribal culture? Write an essay on the adivasi contributions to Indian civilization. 20

Or

Examine the need for re-tribalisation in reference to the modern hunger for tribal values.

2. Discuss various tribal values and their moral outlook. What do you understand by going back to the tribal values?

Or

What is the relationship between displacement and livelihood? Explain the problems of displacement and rehabilitation in detail. 20

3. Answer **any two** of the following questions in about 250 words each:
- (a) What is the analogical way of understanding religious language? Explain. 10
 - (b) Write an essay on the tribal eschatological views? 10
 - (c) Write a short essay on the Kantian idea of God. 10
 - (d) What are the unique factors that signify tribal religious life? How do you look at the future of tribal religions? 10

4. Answer **any four** of the following in about 150 words each:
- (a) What are the general characteristics of Indian tribes according to T.B Naik? 5
 - (b) What is the Santal belief about the creation of the heavenly bodies? 5
 - (c) Explain the significance of oral tradition in tribal religions? 5
 - (d) Explain tribals as environmentally specialized societies. 5
 - (e) What is Ethnobotany? 5
 - (f) What was the Tana Bhagat movement? 5

5. Write short notes on **any five** of the following in about 100 words each:
- (a) Sanskritization 4
 - (b) Haribaba movement 4
 - (c) Totemism 4
 - (d) Bitlaha (Ostracism) 4
 - (e) Belief in ancestor spirits 4
 - (f) Eco-aesthetics 4
 - (g) Scapegoat 4
 - (h) Folklore 4

Assignment MPYE – 013: Philosophy of Technology

Notes:

- i) Answer all five questions
- ii) All questions carry equal marks
- iii) For every question, refer to the texts and write down the assignment-responses in your own words.
- iv) Answers to question no.1 and 2 should be in about 500 words each.

1. Explain the scientific basis for the reflections on physical immortality. 20
OR
Explain the applications of nanotechnology. Discuss its social and ethical implications.
2. What do you know about the nature of cognition in machines? Discuss artificial intelligence and the functionalist theory of mind. 20
Or
Write an essay on the ethical and social aspects of technology.
3. Answer **any two** of the following questions in about 250 words each:
 - (a) Discuss the role of technology in the debate on nature, nurture, and culture. 10
 - (b) Explain various ethical and social aspects of technology 10
 - (c) What do you understand by democratization of technology? 10
 - (d) To what extent is technologization of human nature possible? Discuss. 10
4. Answer **any four** of the following in about 150 words each:
 - (a) What are the philosophical consequences of deterministic Newtonian mechanics? 5
 - (b) Explain briefly the relationship between nature and culture. 5
 - (c) Explain briefly the relationship between technology and science. 5
 - (d) What do you understand by singularity? 5
 - (e) What do you understand by identities extension from biological to cybernetic identities? 5
 - (f) What is the difference between extending life-span and physical immortality? 5
5. Write short notes on **any five** of the following in about 100 words each:
 - (a) Commodification of humans beings 4
 - (b) Chaos Theory 4
 - (c) Artificial intelligence 4
 - (d) Cultural transmission 4
 - (e) Genetic discrimination 4
 - (f) Cyborg 4
 - (g) Cloning 4
 - (h) Artificial intelligence 4
 - (i) Stem cell 4

Assignment **MPYE – 014: Philosophy of Mind**

Notes:

- i) Answer all five questions
- ii) All questions carry equal marks
- iii) For every question, refer to the texts and write down the assignment-responses in your own words.
- iv) Answers to question no.1 and 2 should be in about 500 words each.

1. Explain the mind - body problem in detail. Discuss some of the positions held on it in the contemporary philosophy of mind. 20

OR

Is any universal structure necessary in language? Discuss the western perspective on the relation between mind and language.

2. What is the meaning of 'understanding'? Explain John Locke's concepts on ideas and understanding. 20

Or

Give a detailed account of the various views on the survival of mind in the history of Western Philosophy.

3. Answer **any two** of the following questions in about 250 words each:

- (a) Explain Wittgenstein's account of understanding. 10
- (b) What are the significant themes discussed in the philosophy of mind? 10
- (c) How do different philosophers think about dream and mind? 10
- (d) Explain the ethical implications of denying mind to the animals? 10

4. Answer **any four** of the following in about 150 words each:

- (a) What do you understand by eliminative materialism? 5
- (b) Why is mind-body problem treated as a category error? 5
- (c) What is the Buddhist theory of meaning (*Apohavada*)? 5
- (d) What is the relation between philosophy of mind and computer science. 5
- (e) What do you understand by innate structure of language? 5
- (f) What do you understand by the problem of other minds? 5

5. Write short notes on **any five** of the following in about 100 words each:

- (a) Antahkarana 4
- (b) Connectionism 4
- (c) Ghost in the machine 4
- (d) Intentionality 4
- (e) Reductionism & Non-reductionism 4
- (f) Animal Intelligence 4
- (g) Physicalism 4
- (h) Simple and Complex Ideas 4

Assignment **MPYE – 015: Gandhian Philosophy**

Notes:

- i) Answer all five questions
- ii) All questions carry equal marks
- iii) For every question, refer to the texts and write down the assignment-responses in your own words.
- iv) Answers to question no.1 and 2 should be in about 500 words each.

1. Explain the principles that underlined Gandhi's vision of 'religious harmony'. 20

OR

Discuss the role of both reason and faith in Gandhi's thought.

2. Explain the dynamic meaning of ahimsa and satyagraha. Discuss their socio-political significance. 20

Or

Explain Sarvodaya as Gandhi's social philosophy and Satyagraha as his political philosophy.

3. Answer **any two** of the following questions in about 250 words each:

- (a) Discuss the proofs that Gandhi offers for the existence of God. 10
- (b) Explain the principles that underlined Gandhi's vision of 'religious harmony'. 10
- (c) Write a short essay about Gandhi's views on caste system and untouchability 10
- (d) Make a critical analysis of the Gandhian metaphysics. 10

4. Answer **any four** of the following in about 150 words each:

- (a) Describe Gandhi's critique of civilization. 5
- (b) Distinguish between 'religious tolerance' and 'religious harmony' 5
- (c) What was the Gandhi-Ambedkar controversy? 5
- (d) What was Gandhi's take on the existence of evil? 5
- (e) Name the eleven vows which form the basis of Ashram life of Gandhi. 5
- (f) Explain Swaraj as Self-Rule. 5

5. Write short notes on **any five** of the following in about 100 words each:

- (a) Passive resistance 4
- (b) Gandhi and caste 4
- (c) Brahmanirvana 4
- (d) Pacifism 4
- (e) Civil disobedience 4
- (f) Absolute Truth and Relative Truth 4
- (g) Non-cooperation 4
- (h) Jivanmukta 4

Assignment **MPYE – 016: Philosophy of Sri Aurobindo**

Notes:

- i) Answer all five questions
- ii) All questions carry equal marks
- iii) For every question, refer to the texts and write down the assignment-responses in your own words.
- iv) Answers to question no.1 and 2 should be in about 500 words each.

1. Make a detailed analysis of the understanding of human nature as explained by Aurobindo. 20

OR

Explain Aurobindo's responses to the stance of other Vedanta schools concerning the reality of nature.

2. Is *maya* the self's experience of its being? Explain Aurobindo's interpretation of the concept of *maya*. 20

OR

Analyze the synthetic approach to matter and spirit in Aurobindo's philosophy.

3. Answer **any two** of the following questions in about 200 words each:

- a) Explain Aurobindo's organic conception of reality. 10
- b) What is the 'inmost being' (the psychic) according to Aurobindo? 10
- c) What had Sri Aurobindo to say about the Upanishads? 10
- d) Discuss the nature of human being as proposed by Sri Aurobindo. 10

4. Answer **any four** of the following in about 150 words each:

- a) What do you understand by Supramentalisation? 5
- b) What is the nature of man according to Aurobindo? 5
- c) How does Aurobindo define *brahman*? 5
- d) Elaborate the notion of *upasana* in Aurobindo. 5
- e) Describe the seven types of ignorance according to Aurobindo. 5
- f) Briefly explain the relevance of integral world view today. 5

5. Write short notes on **any five** of the following in about 100 words each:

- a) Sachchidananda 4
- b) Jivataman 4
- c) Nescience 4
- d) Tat-Tvam-Asi 4
- e) Involution 4
- f) Superconscient 4
- g) Integral knowledge 4
- h) Nescience 4