Course Guide

PHIL10196: Indian Philosophies of Mind and Language 2021/22

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Department of Philosophy
School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences
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1. Course Aims and Objectives

The course begins with a general introduction to the Indian philosophical tradition, in order to supply students with some necessary background context. It then explores selected topics within this tradition, particularly issues in the Philosophy of Language and Philosophy of Mind. Related and contrasting views from the Western philosophical tradition will also be examined, in an attempt to provide mutual illumination and a wider global perspective on core philosophical themes.

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

On completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Understand basic concepts and presuppositions central to the Indian Philosophical Tradition;
2. Grasp and analyze key issues in Indian Philosophy of Language, particularly with respect to the context principle, linguistic reference, and non-denoting terms.
3. Grasp and analyze key issues in Indian Philosophy of Mind, particularly with respect to consciousness and the self, intentionality, and the mind-body problem.
4. Connect issues in the Indian tradition with related themes in Western Philosophy.
5. Improve core skills in philosophy, including the ability to interpret and engage with philosophical texts, evaluate arguments, and develop critical ideas in response.

3. Seminar Times and Locations

Thursday 16:10-18:00 Dugald Stewart Bldg room DSB 3.10/3.11

4. Seminar Content

- **Topic 1**: General introduction and overview of the Indian philosophical tradition.
- **Topic 2**: Issues in the Philosophy of Language from a comparative perspective, with particular focus on the Nyāya and Mīmāṃsā (Bhatta and Prābhākara branches) schools of Hinduism, and the Yogācāra-Sautrāntika school of Buddhism
  1. (i) Sentential Unity, Context Principle and Compositionality.
  2. (ii) Linguistic Reference and Non-denoting Terms
  3. (iii) Buddhist Apoha Semantics
- **Topic 3**: Issues in the Philosophy of Mind
  1. (i) Sankhya-Yoga Philosophy and the Mind/Body Problem
  2. (ii) Advaita Vedānta and the Philosophy of Consciousness without an Object
  3. (iii) Buddhist Analyses of the Self
5. **PPLS Undergraduate Student Handbook**
The PPLS Undergraduate Student Handbook has more information on Student Support and academic guidance; late coursework and plagiarism; illness and disability adjustments, and useful sources of advice.

The Handbook can be found here: [http://www.ppls.ed.ac.uk/students/undergraduate/documents/PPLS_Student_Handbook-Master_Copy.pdf](http://www.ppls.ed.ac.uk/students/undergraduate/documents/PPLS_Student_Handbook-Master_Copy.pdf)

6. **Readings**
All required readings will be available online via the University library, or will be available on Learn.

- **Week 1:**
  - ch. 3 (pp. 42-74) of King, R., *Indian Philosophy: An Introduction to Hindu and Buddhist Thought*, Edinburgh University Press, 1999.

- **Week 2:**
  - ch. 4 (pp. 75-104) of King, *Indian Philosophy*.
  - pp. 111-120 of Perrett, *An Introduction to Indian Philosophy*.

- **Week 3:**

- **Week 4:**
  - pp. 125-139 of Perrett, *An Introduction to Indian Philosophy*.

- **Week 5:**
  - ch. 4 (pp. 111-185) of Siderits, *Indian Philosophy of Language*.

- **Week 6:**
  - pp. 168-174 of Perrett, *An Introduction to Indian Philosophy*.

- **Week 7:**

- **Week 8:**

- **Week 9:**

- **Week 10:**
• **Week 11:**

Other potentially useful supplementary texts include:

- Potter, K, (general editor) *Encyclopedia of Indian Philosophies*, various volumes.

7. **Assessment Information**

**Midterm Essay** 1500 words (40%)
   Due Thursday 3 March by 12 noon.

**Final Essay** 2500 words (60%)
   Due Thursday 21 April by 12 noon.