

Philosophy of Language

Semester: I I

Title of the Course: Philosophy of Language.

Course Code: PCS 104

ECTS – 4

Credits – 2

Lecturer – Fr. Joy Panamthanam svd. M.A.[Uni. Pune, India] & M.A. (KU Leuven, Belgium) .

Class Room – 3

Consultation times: Wednesdays 8.00 to 10.00 hours

Course Description.

The significant role of language in philosophy is as ancient as philosophy itself, although as a method of philosophy its history is just about a century old. Leaving out the ancient we shall try to provide a birds eye view of last century's developments in thinking about language and philosophy. Needless to emphasize the importance of L. Wittgenstein and those who were inspired by him in the 1940s and later. We shall also endeavour to highlight the issues related to language raised by the traditions originating from F. Saussure, post-structuralism and their ilk. Thus the course aims to provide a bird's eye view on the relation between philosophy, truth, meaning, and language and related problems of current interest.

Objectives are to :

- Acquaint the students with an introduction to the problems of linguistics as well as how philosophy and language is intimately related.
- To get an over view of the issues that were in the forefront of philosophical discussions in the Anglo-American Scene in the 1940s and after.
- To provide an introduction to the views on language/literature tackled by structuralist and post- structuralist thinkers in general.

Learning outcomes.

At the end of the course the students:

- Are aware of the issues that dominated discussions on the questions of meaning in the light of analytical tradition in philosophy and the philosophy of language.
- Come to know the basics on the problems and topics tackled in linguistics.
- Are aware of the relation between language, meaning and how these issues are reflected upon in the context of the philosophy of deconstruction & postmodern trends.

Content:

Refer to the detailed course calendar below.

Teaching methodology

- Lectures - By means of power point presentation.

Course requirements and assessment method.

- Regular Attendance and active participation in class. – 10 percent
- One assignment for 30 % marks. Articles are assigned from the book *The Linguistic Turn*, Richard Rorty, [ed], The university of Chicago Press. 1967.
 - Assignment question:-
 - What is the main contention of the article? What are the arguments the author furnishes to justify his/her claims. Do you agree/disagree with the author? Why?
- Final examination - 60 % marks - written or oral to be decided later.

Course calendar and Distribution and details of the Content.

Week	Dates	Content
1	8 th – 12 th Jan 2018	<u>Introduction</u> , Overview of the course content and explanations thereof. Course requirements etc. Chapter one: Definition/s of language. [C. Hockett and E. Sapir]. Brief overview on Different Elements of language. Introduction on Existing languages and Language families. Writing systems.
2	15 th - 19 th Jan	<u>Elements of language conti.</u> : Syntax, and semantics, morphology, What is historical linguistics? Contributions of F. Saussure [<i>meaning/signification, reference, synchronic and diachronic studies etc</i>] and Noam Chomsky [<i>generational and transformational grammar</i>] to study of language.
3	22 nd – 26 th Jan	Chapter two: Philosophy and language in 20th century. Rise of Logical positivism/Vienna circle and its pioneers, relation of the above to Russell, Moore and Wittgenstein, A.J. Ayer's formulation of the verification principle, strong and weak verification principles.
4	29 th Jan- 2 nd Feb.	Chapter three: The impact of verification principle: on Metaphysics, on ethics, aesthetics, Language and fact/s; philosophical analysis, criticism/s of verification principles and its collapse.
5	5 th – 9 th Feb.	Chapter four: Study of Wittgenstein's philosophy: life, atomic facts, relation to Russell's theory of definite descriptions, propositions and elementary propositions, Truth functions, picture theory,
6	12 th – 16 th Feb.	Chapter four conti. consequences of Wittgenstein's theory in <i>Tractatus</i> , Nature and function of philosophy, Later Wittgenstein in <i>Investigations</i> , philosophy and wonder, sources of philosophical puzzles, Later Wittgenstein and use of words: game theory, the changed view of Wittgenstein. ...!!!!.

7	19 th – 23 rd Feb.	Chapter five: <u>Philosophy of Language continental style:</u> Derrida and Language: philosophy or literature..? Derrida life and writings, Concept of deconstruction. Indebtedness, as well as the critique of phenomenology, logocentrism & phoncentrism, structure and sign, nothing <i>outside the text</i> , writing as poison and cure, operation of <i>différance</i> .
8	26 th Feb – 2 nd Mar.	Chapter six: <u>A taste of philosophical analysis.</u> Study the text of G.E. Moore; <i>A defense of common sense</i> . [Soft copy of the text will be supplied to students.]
9	5 th -9 th Mar.	Chapter seven: study the text of G.E. Moore <i>Refutation of Idealism</i> . Soft copy of the text will be supplied to students
10	13 th -16 th Mar	Chapter eight: one of the articles by Russell – [1] <i>logical atomism</i> or [2] <i>on denoting</i> . [soft copy of the text will be supplied]
11	19 th – 23 rd Mar.	Articles By Mortiz Schlick : <i>Philosophy, metaphysics and meaning</i> . & Rudolf Carnap: <i>Elimination of metaphysics by logical analysis</i> . [1957] Ref. A. J. Ayer [ed] <i>Logical Positivism</i> [II edn. Free press New York, 1966]
12	9 th – 13 th April	Examinations
13	16 th – 20 th April	<i>Study for comprehensives</i>
14	23 rd – 27 th April	<i>Comprehensives.</i>

- In the event of lack of time due to unexpected holidays, textual study will be adjusted.

Recommended texts for reference.

Burton Strang & Rose Marie-Dechain <i>etal</i>	<i>Linguistics for dummies</i> , [John Wiley publishers, Canada, 2012.
Cruse. Alan D.	<i>Meaning in Language: An Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics</i> . [Oxford University press 2000]
Clark Elizabeth A.	<i>History, Theory, Text: Historians and the Linguistic Turn</i> , 2004
Devitt Michael & Richard Hanley,	<i>The Blackwell Guide to the Philosophy of Language</i> , [Blackwell Publishing Ltd 2006.]
Grayling A.C.	<i>Wittgenstein: A very short introduction</i> , [Oxford University press, 2001]
Lamarque Peter V. [ed]	Concise Encyclopaedia of Philosophy of Language, [Elsevier Science Ltd, U.K. 1997.]
Lycan, William G.	<i>Philosophy of Language: A contemporary introduction</i> . [Routledge, 2000].
Miller Alexander.	<i>Philosophy of Language</i> . [Routledge U.K. 1998 1st edn]
P. H. Matthews	<i>Linguistics: A Very Short Introduction</i> , [Oxford University Press, 2003]
Steven Davis & Brendan s. Gillon [ed],	<i>Semantics A Reader</i> , [Oxford university press, 2004]

Natural Theology II

Semester: I I

Title of the Course: Natural Theology – II

Course Code: PCT 113

ECTS – 4

Credits – 2

Lecturer — Fr. Joy Panamthanam svd. M.A.[Uni. Pune, India] & M.A. (KU Leuven, Belgium]

Class Room – 3

Consultation times: Fridays 11.00 – 12.00 noon.

Course Description.

Corollary to Natural theology I we follow in the same spirit to examine issues related to God that are of contemporary relevance. We shall examine I. Kant's criticism of the ontological argument of St. Anselm and subsequent developments of the same until the present formulation by Alvin Plantinga. We shall look at God' relation to Humans in two major dimensions: namely human destiny and moral autonomy. In trying to be relevant we shall look at how the concept of God and religion has been responded to under the heading God and Post-modernism. We shall try to look critically at the whole issue of religious consciousness and mystical experience/s. In our time again a burning issue is of fundamentalism. Hence we shall examine two related topics namely [1] religious fundamentalism, and [2] *which religion is true?*.

The objectives are:

- To examine the relevance of belief in God and practice of religion and their contemporary import especially in relation to human reality and the belief in after life.
- To examine the challenges of religious fundamentalism, its socio-political dimensions and suggest possible responses.

- To venture an answer as to the problem of veracity of the claims of religions in our present day context. There are a number of religions? How do we decide which one is true? Is there one true religion? Is one religion superior to another?
- To tease out, if any, the significance of belief in God in the context to post-modernism.

Learning outcomes.

By the end of the course the students must be able to:

- Make sense of different claims of different religions and religious sects and respond to them with a balanced and rational mind-set.
- Decipher the political statements, manipulations and the power struggle that goes on in the name of religion and religious truths by different actors in the international, religious, and socio-political scenario.
- Make a personal sense for themselves about the claims of immortality.

Content:

Refer to the detailed course calendar below.

Teaching methodology

- Lectures – [through power point presentation]

Course requirements and assessment method.

- Regular Attendance and active participation in class especially in the discussions. – 10 percent
- Assignment based on an article. Selected articles from: John Hick, [Ed], *Readings in Philosophy of Religion*; prentice Hall, New Jersey, [3rd edition, 1990.] & John Hick, *Philosophy of Religion*; prentice hall of India Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi 1991.
- Assignment question:
 - What is the main contention of the author in the article? What are the arguments presented by the Author to support his/her position/s? Do you – as a group/ individually – agree with it or do not agree with it. Give reasons for your opinion/s.
- Assignment total marks: 40 percent. [Two page personal write up – 30 %, - from each person from the group];
- Final examination – oral fifteen minutes. 50%. [*There will be a discussion also of the assignment write up for five minutes during the oral examination. – 10 %*]

Course calendar and Distribution and details of the Content.

Week	Dates	Content
1	8 th – 12 th Jan 2018	Introduction and explanations on course and syllabus & requirements..
2	15 th - 19 th Jan	<u>God and human destiny</u> : short review of the Christian view. Views from Zoroastrianism – the oldest religious sect; Hinduism/Buddhism – the karma theory
3	22 nd – 26 th Jan	<u>God and Human destiny – continued</u> : The theory of Karma <i>continued</i> , The view of person and religion in Yoruba culture -

		Nigeria – and drawing its implications for the understanding of human destiny in African cultures.
4	29 th Jan- 2 nd Feb.	Discussion on the view of human destiny from African as well as other perspectives in the class. – This will be part of internal assessment.
5	5 th – 9 th Feb.	<u>Moral autonomy and God</u> : Review of Christian view; Kant and Nietzsche in contrast;
6	12 th – 16 th Feb.	<u>Moral autonomy and God</u> : - <i>continued</i> - The Hindu view of voluntary actions; Atheistic stance; Post-modern postures- moral values akin to aesthetic values.
7	19 th – 23 rd Feb.	<u>God and post modernism</u> . The legacy of Nietzsche and nihilism, incredulity of metanarratives; Disappearance of a centre and replacement by art and consumerism.
8	26 th Feb – 2 nd Mar.	<u>God and post modernism</u> . – <i>continued</i> Growth of hyper-reality and plurivocity; from Logos to Mythos and mythos all the way through...
9	5 th -9 th Mar.	<u>Which Religion is true</u> – Exclusivism of all religions especially theistic ones; The postmodern realization: “ <i>Truth is one, sages call it in different names</i> ”. A response.
10	13 th -16 th Mar	<u>Religious fundamentalism, & socio-political ideologies</u> . - The role exclusive claims and fundamentalism/s; Geo-politics and rise of fundamentalism/s;
11	19 th – 23 rd Mar.	<u>Religious fundamentalism, & socio-political ideologies</u> . – <i>continued</i> : globalized economics and rise of fundamentalism/s; fundamentalism as assertion of specific identities.
12	9 th – 13 th April	Oral examination.
13	16 th – 20 th April	Study week for comprehensive examinations.
14	23 rd – 27 th April	Comprehensive examinations

Recommended Readings.

- DESMOND, William.,
EAGLETON Terry

God and the Between, [Blackwell Publishing U.K., 2008]
Reason, Religion and Revolution. Yale University Press, 2010
The Illusions of Postmodernism, Blackwell publishers, London, 2013.
- GELLNER, Ernest.
Post-modernism, Reason and Religion. Routledge publishers, London. 1992]
- HICK, John H.,

Classical and Contemporary Readings in Philosophy of Religion. [Prentice, Hall of India, New Delhi, 1991]
Philosophy of Religion, 4th Edn, Prentice, Hall of India New Delhi. 1991]
- POWELL Jim
Post-modernism for beginners, orient Longman, Hyderabad, India, 2009.
- SHARMA C.D.
A Critical History of Indian Philosophy; Motilal Banarasidas Publishers, Dew Delhi,
- TAYLOR, Charles
WARD, Graham. [Ed]
The secular Age, Harvard university press, Massachusetts 2007.
The Blackwell Companion to Postmodern Theology, Blackwell Publishing. 2001]
- WESTPHAL, M.
God, Guilt, and Death: An Existential Phenomenology of Religion, [Indiana University Press. Bloomington, 1984]
- WIREDU Kwasi [Ed]
Companion to African Philosophy, Blackwell publishing, Oxford, 2006.

Cosmology II

Semester: I I

Title of the Course: Cosmology – II

Course Code: PES 111

ECTS – 4

Credits – 2

Lecturer — Fr. Joy Panamthanam svd. M.A.[Uni. Pune, India] & M.A. (KU Leuven, Belgium)

Class Room – new class room

Consultation times: Mondays 8.00 hours – 10.00 hours

Course Description.

We will continue where we have left from cosmology –I. since the theory of relativity that is concerned about macro world, we shall look into the micro world in quantum theory. Thus both the *micro and macro* levels of our world is grasped so to say. We shall highlight also the effort/s of super string theories to offer one theory combining relativity and quantum theories. The rest of the hours will be dedicated to watching documentaries and discussions thereof. The details are given in the course content.

The Objectives of this course are: -

- Provide a basic grasp of the quantum theory and its problems in relation to the relativity theory and the philosophical issues surrounding the quantum theory.
- Bring to understanding of the students the wonder, beauty, harmony and delicacy of our universe –the wonder of the planets and galaxies and stars etc.
- Bring to awareness through the documentaries about the ecological challenges today, its causes, possible remedies etc. primarily from a Christian view point.
- To make students aware of the complexity of earth and life on this earth.

Learning outcomes.

At the end of the course the students are expected to:

1. Able to appreciate the wonder, complexity, beauty and harmony of the universe, especially of our earth as a source of vibrant life.
2. Able to imaginatively respond to this vibrancy of our experienced universe in a Christian way for our own good and the good of the future generations.

Content:

Refer to the detailed course calendar below

Teaching methodology

- Lectures through power points.

- Active participation and discussion in the class especially the ecological aspects
- Watching relevant documentaries and talk and discussions based on the same.

Course requirements and assessment method.

- Active Participation in the class and attendance assessed . – 10 percent
- Assignment on one's very own tribal cosmogony and its interpretation and significance. – 30 percent
- Written/oral Final examination. 60 per cent marks. – Objective type questions for examination in both the cases.
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Course calendar and Distribution and details of the Content.

Week	Dates	Content
1	8 th – 12 th Jan 2018	Introduction and explanations on course and syllabus & requirements.
2	15 th - 19 th Jan	<u>Quantum theory</u> – introduction- more radical than relativity, the three historical periods of the theory, the issue of black body radiation,
3	22 nd – 26 th Jan	<u>Quantum theory – conti</u> - Max Planck and Niels Bohr. Matter as energy relationships. Dispute of Einstein and Niels Bohr, de Broglie and Schrodinger's theoretical agreements as a boost, Heisenberg's indeterminacy principle and its philosophical consequences.
4	29 th Jan- 2 nd Feb.	<u>Quantum theory – conti</u> - Dirac's re-interpretation of Schrodinger, splitting of atoms and creation of bomb, structure of atoms, different neutrinos, the four major forces of nature,.
5	5 th – 9 th Feb.	<u>Quantum theory – conti</u> - lack of symmetry between relativity and quantum theory, protons and quarks, particle forest of mater, Are quarks the final particle? Suggestions of super string theory. Possible future of superstring theory.
6	12 th – 16 th Feb.	<i>Wonders of universe: The beginning of the Universe: BBC production by Prof. Brian Cox. 2007-8. All these are 50 minutes documentary and then second hour will be discussion of what was watched. Clarification of doubt, etc. this will be followed for all the documentaries given below.</i>
7	19 th – 23 rd Feb.	<i>Wonders of universe : Gravity</i>
8	26 th Feb – 2 nd Mar.	<i>Wonders of universe: Light</i>
9	5 th -9 th Mar.	<i>Wonders of the universe: sun</i>
10	13 th -16 th Mar	<i>Wonders of universe. Solar system</i>
11	19 th – 23 rd Mar.	<i>Wonders of universe- how earth is unique.</i>
12	9 th – 13 th April	<i>Wonders of universe: outer solar system</i>
13	16 th – 20 th April	<i>Revision and clarifications of doubts.</i>
14	23 rd – 27 th April	<i>Free in order to prepare for exams.</i>

Recommended books.

BERNSTEIN, JEREMY: *Einstein*, Fontana modern masters, 1973

BLUNDELL Katherine *Black holes*, oxford university press, 2015.

COLES, PETER. *A very short introduction to cosmology*, oxford university press, 2013.

CLOSE FRANK *particle physics*, oxford university press, 2012.

GIRIFALCO A LUIS, *Universal force*, Oxford University press 2008

GRIBBON John *galaxies*, Oxford University press, 2008.

HAWLEY JOHN F. & K. A. HOLCOMB. *Foundations of Modern Cosmology*, Oxford University press 2005

NEWTON SMITH W.H. *A companion to the philosophy of science*. Blackwell publishers, 2001

ROOS, MATTS. *Introduction to Cosmology*, John Wiley & Sons, Ltd, Sussex, 2003

SAGAN, CARL. *Cosmos*, Ballantine books 2013.

TIMOTHY Clifton, *Gravity*, oxford University press, 2017

