

**Phil 393I: Indian Philosophy
Spring 2008**

Class times: 11:15 AM - 12:05 PM, MWF

Location: Bartlett Hall, #206.

Instructor: Indrani Bhattacharjee

Course description:

This course will provide an intensive survey of several areas of classical Indian thought. The focus of the course will be selected metaphysical and epistemological doctrines of the six orthodox systems, Jainism and Buddhism, and the classic debates among these schools. In addition, we will study some interesting topics in Hindu aesthetics, and material from the Bhagavadgita and two principal Upanishads. Although source material to be used in the course is drawn almost exclusively from the dialectical tradition of darshana, or philosophy, students will also gain broad acquaintance with the ways in which darshana connects with, informs, and is nourished by the mystical and religious traditions of Hinduism. We will also study excerpts from such modern thinkers as Tagore, Gandhi, Aurobindo and Matilal in light of our study of the traditional questions. Students should have a firm background in philosophy and/or a willingness to work through chunks of unfamiliar and complex but very interesting material.

Instructor's contact information, office hours, etc:

My office is # 358 Bartlett Hall. I'm available on Mondays, between 2 and 3:30 PM, for meetings with students who want to discuss the material, grades, or other matters of major or minor significance. If you cannot make it to my office at these times, you can email me at indrani@philos.umass.edu to set up appointments outside office hours.

Required texts:

M. Hiriyanna, *Outlines of Indian Philosophy*, Motilal Banarasidass, New Delhi, 2000.

S. Radhakrishnan and A.C Moore eds., *A Source Book in Indian Philosophy*, Princeton University Press, 1957.

*E. Easwaran, *The Bhagavadgita*, some edition (I'm not sure what Amherst Books finally got for us).

* is listed as a required reading, simply because you might find the translation more accessible than the one contained in *Source Book*.

Additional readings are on the course website, which is

<http://people.umass.edu/indrani/courses/08s393.html>

The website contains more than just readings. Feel free to read anything that you find relevant to what we are talking about in class.

Course requirements:

I will assign three page-long response papers at points that seem appropriate. Aside from this, you will write a mid-term paper (4-5 pages) and a final paper (7-10 pages, depending upon your topic). The final grade will be determined thus:

Response papers – 25%

Mid-term – 25%

Final – 50%

Class policies:

Attendance is not mandatory, but since we will be moving at a fairly fast pace, if you don't come to

lecture, it is quite likely that you will fall behind. BUT, if you need to miss a class due to a religious observance or any other matter, you should let me know within the next 15 days.

I DO NOT accept late assignments.

A website for your reference: http://www.umass.edu/dean_students/code_conduct/acad_honest.htm

It is unlikely that you will find a lot of help on the Internet when writing your papers, but there is contemporary work in Indian Philosophy that is available online. By all means read them, but do not do anything nefarious with their help.

Schedule of Readings:

The schedule is incomplete... it will be updated as we go. *SB* stands for *A Source Book in Indian Philosophy*.

*We will rely heavily upon the textbook, Hiriyanna's *Outlines*. This is in general an excellent introduction to most topics that we will deal with. Sometimes you may find it necessary to read a few extra pages in order to fully grasp a view we are dealing with in class. I have written down some page numbers below (sometimes I have just indicated a chapter to read), but strictly speaking, you will be the one to decide how much reading is sufficient. You will read primary source material alongside the textbook. Notice also that I give you lots of suggested readings in the schedule below. You can look at these if you get especially interested in some topic. When necessary, I will email to you a glossary of terms associated with the week's source material readings.*

Week 1:

1/28/2008: Today. Get syllabus, books.

1/30/2008: History of Indian thought. No reading.

2/1/2008: Upaniṣads: introductory lecture. Read Hiriyanna, Chapter 2, Conversation of Yājñavalka and Maitreyī, *SB*, pp 80-82.

Week 2:

2/4/2008: *Īśā Upaniṣad*, the exchange between Death and Naciketas, and that between Āruṇi and Śvetaketu, *SB*, pp. 39-41, 45-50, and 68-80.

2/6/2008: No additional reading.

2/8/2008: Introduction to the Epic Age, and *Bhagavadgītā*. Read Chapters 1-6 (Easwaran) for this meeting and the next. Suggested reading: Hiriyanna, Chapter 4

Week 3:

2/11/2008: *Bhagavadgītā* continued.

2/13/2008: *Bhagavadgītā* continued. Reading: Perrett, "Saints and the Supramoral," online.

2/15/2008: Early Buddhism. Read Hiriyanna. pp. 133-154.

Week 4:

2/19/2008 (Monday class schedule): Buddhistic ethics. No further reading.

2/20/2008: Continued from previous class.

2/22/2008: Jain ethics, and introduction to *Syādvāda*. Read Hiriyanna, Chapter 6.

Week 5:

2/25/2007: Jainism concluded. **First response paper assigned.**

2/27/2008: Cāravāka materialism. Read Hiriyanna, Chapter 8. Suggested reading: *SB*, pp. 236-246.

2/29/2008: Vaiśeṣika: Categories, causation and atomism. Read Hiriyanna, pp. 225-244. Suggested

reading: *Vaiśeṣika Sūtra*, *SB*, pp. 387-396. **First response paper due.**

Week 6:

3/3/2008: The place of God in the Nyāya-Vaiśeṣika. Suggested reading: *SB*, *Nyāyakusumāñjali*, pp. 379-385.

3/5/2008: Nyāya: Sources of knowledge. Read Hirianna, pp. 246-261.

3/7/2008: Nyāya continued. Further readings for this segment: *SB*, pp. 358-361, 365-370; Matilal, “Introducing Indian Logic,” online. **Mid-term paper topics handed out.**

Week 7:

3/10/2008: Continued from previous class.

3/12/2008: Nyāya concluded.

3/14/2008: The New Nyāya school: selected topics. Reading: TBA.

Week 8:

3/24/2008: Naiyāyikas versus Buddhists. Suggested background reading: Hirianna, pp. 196-224; more stuff online. **Mid-term paper due. Second response paper assigned.**

3/26/2008: Sāṅkhya metaphysics. Start reading Hirianna, pp. 267-283. Suggested reading: *SB*, *Sāṅkhya Kārikā* pp. 426-445.

3/28/2008: Sāṅkhya continued. **Second response paper due.**

Week 9:

3/31/2008: Yoga. Read Hirianna, pp. 283-297; *Yoga Sūtra*, Book 1, *SB*, pp. 454-462.

4/2/2008: Sāṅkhya-Yoga concluded.

4/4/2008: Topics in Pūrva Mīmāṃsā : TBA. Read Hirianna, Chapter 12 (page numbers TBA); suggested reading: *SB*, pp. 498-505.

Week 10:

4/7/2008: Pūrva Mīmāṃsā concluded.

4/9/2008: Introduction to Advaita Vedānta. Read Hirianna, Chapter 13. Primary source reading TBA.¹

4/11/2008: Advaita continued.

Week 11:

4/14/2008: Advaita continued.

4/16/2008: Rāmānuja's Viśiṣṭādvaita. Read Hirianna, Chapter 14.

4/18/2008: Viśiṣṭādvaita continued.

Week 12:

4/23/2008: Vedānta concluded. **Third response paper assigned.**

4/25/2008: *Bhagavadgītā* continued. Read Chapters 7-15, and 18. Secondary reading TBA.

Week 13:

4/28/2008: *Bhagavadgītā*, and moral dilemmas generally. Reading: Matilal, “Moral Dilemmas and Religious Dogmas,” online. **Third response paper due.**

¹ I will give extra credit for writing about, or taking issue with material contained in *SB*, pp. 509-545 either in a response paper, or in your term paper. Reason: this is one of the most celebrated texts in the tradition, and would be great for you to engage with.

4/30/2008: *Bhagavadgītā* concluded. **Final paper assigned.**

5/2/2008: Aesthetics: The theory of Rasa. Readings: excerpt from Hiriyanna, *Art Experience*, Coomaraswamy, "Hindu View of Art: Theory of Beauty". Both readings online.

Week 14:

5/5/2008: Continued from previous class.

5/7/2008: Tagore: "The Meaning of Art," Aurobindo, TBA. Both readings online.

5/9/2008: Continued from previous class.

Week 15:

5/12/2008: Last class. Wind up.

Final paper will be due on Monday, May 19th, in my office in Bartlett 358.