

**Institute of English Studies
Faculty of Arts and Humanities
University of the Punjab, Lahore.
Course Outline**



Programme	BS English Literature	Course Code	AHPH-100	Credit Hours	2
Course Title	Fundamentals of Philosophy				
Course Introduction					
This course introduces students to foundational questions, methods, and traditions of philosophical inquiry. It explores the nature and scope of philosophy itself by asking <i>what</i> philosophy is, why it matters, and how it shapes human understanding of reality, knowledge, and values. Students will be introduced to key philosophical terms and distinctions, such as Epistemology, Empiricism, and Ethics, while engaging with central debates that have defined the discipline.					
Learning Outcomes					
By the end of this course, students will be able to: 1. Define key philosophical terms and concepts. 2. Differentiate between major philosophical approaches to knowledge and reality. 3. Explain and critically assess positions such as relativism, empiricism, rationalism, and skepticism. 4. Formulate clear, logical arguments in response to philosophical questions. 5. Recognize the relevance of philosophical thinking to broader intellectual and practical contexts.					
Course Content				Assignments/Readings	
Week 1	Unit I Introduction to Philosophy 1.1 What is Philosophy? 1.2 Why Philosophy Matters			Vaughn, L. (2022). Philosophy and You, <i>Philosophy: Here and Now</i> . New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press.	
Week 2	1.3 Philosophical Terrain 1.4 The Socratic Method				
Week 3	Unit II Epistemology: 2.1 Why Knowledge Matters 2.2 Knowledge and Belief			Rauhut, N. C. (2020). How Do We Know, <i>Ultimate Questions: Thinking about Philosophy</i> . 4 th ed.	
Week 4	Theories of Knowledge: 2.3 Skepticism 2.4 Empiricism				
Week 5	2.5 Rationalism 2.6 Reconciling Empiricism and Rationalism				
Week 6	Unit III Ethics: Moral Decision – Making 3.1 Moral Intuitions and Moral Principles 3.2 Moral Relativism			Rauhut, N. C. (2020). What Ought We to Do?, <i>Ultimate Questions: Thinking about Philosophy</i> . 4 th ed.	

Week 7	Moral Theories: 3.3 Divine Command Theory 3.4 Utilitarianism 3.5 Deontology 3.6 Virtue Ethics	
Week 8	MID TERM EXAMINATION	
Week 9	Unit IV Social and Political Philosophy: 4.1 The Nature of Society 4.2 Who Should Rule? The Question of Legitimacy	Solomon, R. C., & Higgins, K. M. (2017). Justice and Good Society, <i>The Big Questions: A Short Introduction to Philosophy</i> (10th ed.). Cengage Learning.
Week 10	4.3 Anarchism, the Free Market and the Need for Government 4.4 What is Justice? 4.5 Justice and Equality	
Week 11	4.6 The Origin of Justice and the Social Contract Rights and the Individual: 4.7 Libertarianism 4.8 Liberalism 4.9 Communitarianism	
Week 12	Unit V Philosophy of Art 5.1 What is Art 5.2 Theories of Art: Art as Representation	Castell, A., Donald M. Borchert, Arthur Zucker (Eds). (2001) What Shall I Call Art, <i>Introduction to Modern Philosophy: Examining the Human Condition</i> . 6 th ed. New York: Pearson.
Week 13	5.3 Arts as Expression of Emotions 5.4 Art as Communication of Emotions	
Week 14	Unit VI Philosophy of Science 6.1 What is Science? 6.2 What is Scientific Method? 6.3 The Problem of Induction	Pearson. Warburton, N. (2015). Science, <i>Philosophy: The Basics</i> . 5 th edition. Routledge.
Week 15	6.4 Karl Popper's Theory of Falsificationism 6.5 Thomas Kuhn's Theory of Scientific Revolutions	Wolff, R. P. (2014). Philosophy of Science, <i>About Philosophy</i> . Pearson Education Limited
Week 16	END TERM EXAMINATION	

Textbooks and Reading Material

1. Textbooks

- Vaughn, L. (2022). *Philosophy: Here and Now*. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Chaffee, J. 2012. *The Philosopher's Way*. 4th ed. New York: Pearson
- Rauhut, N. C. (2020). *Ultimate Questions: Thinking about Philosophy*. 4th ed.
- Pearson. Warburton, N. (2015). *Philosophy: The Basics*. 5th edition. Routledge.
- Wolff, R. P. (2014). *About Philosophy*. Pearson Education Limited
- Castell, A., Donald M. Borchert, Arthur Zucker (Eds). (2001). *Introduction to Modern Philosophy: Examining the Human Condition*. 6th ed. New York: Pearson.

2. Suggested Readings

- Solomon, R. C. & Higgins, K. M. (2017). *The Big Questions: A Short Introduction to Philosophy*. Cengage Learning.
- Christian, J. L. (2012). *Philosophy: An Introduction to the Art of Wondering*. 11th edition.
- Wadsworth. Miller, E. L. & Jensen, J. (2009). *Questions that Matter: An Invitation to Philosophy*. 6th edition

Teaching Learning Strategies

1. Interactive Teaching Method
2. Evaluating Daily Life Issues Philosophically
3. Study Cases with special reference to Unite # 3 (Moral Decision Making)
4. Quiz
5. Assignment

Assignments: Types and Number with Calendar

1. 1 Quiz Pre-Midterm Examination (4th week)
2. 1 Assignment Post-Midterm Examination (12th week)

Assessment

Sr. No.	Elements	Weightage	Details
1.	Midterm Assessment	25%	Written Assessment at the mid-point of the semester.
2.	Formative Assessment	15%	Continuous assessment includes: Classroom participation, assignments, presentations, viva voce, attitude and behavior, hands-on-activities, short tests, projects, practical, reflections, readings, quizzes etc.
3.	Final Assessment	60%	Written Examination at the end of the semester. It is mostly in the form of a test, but owing to the nature of the course the teacher may assess their students based on term paper, research proposal development, field work and report writing etc.