

PROFESSOR'S NAME	Dr. Sreekumar Nellickappilly	
DEPARTMENT	Department Of Humanities and Social Sciences	
INSTITUTE	Indian Institute Of Technology Madras	
COURSE OUTLINE	<p>This course attempts to give an overview of the major philosophical trends and approaches of the European civilization. It starts with a discussion of the Greek philosophy where we find the historical beginnings of Western thought. After a discussion of the major contributions of the Greek thinkers like the preSocratics, Sophists, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle, the course will have a brief examination of Medieval philosophy. A detail examination of the Modern Philosophy will follow where we discuss the Rationalism of thinkers like Descartes, Spinoza and Leibnitz, the Empiricism of John Locke, George Berkeley and David Hume, the critical philosophy of Kant, the absolute idealism of Hegel and the historical materialism of Karl Marx. This will be followed by an examination of Nietzsche's criticism of western philosophy. The remaining portion deal with twentieth century contributions to western philosophy, with an examination of the major traditions of Analytic philosophy and Continental thought. We will discuss thinkers like Russell and Wittgenstein and also the contributions of the Logical Positivist philosophers when we discuss Analytic philosophy and the discussion of Continental thought will begin with the Phenomenology of Edmund Husserl. This will be followed by a discussion of the philosophies of Heidegger and Sartre and some other Existential philosophers. The course will conclude with a brief survey of the Postmodern developments that take place in contemporary thought.</p>	
COURSE DETAILS		
S. No	Module ID/ Lecture ID	Lecture Title/Topic
1	M1L1	Greek Philosophy: Ionians, Pythagoras, Parmenides, Heraclitus and Democritus

2	M1L2	Sophists, Socrates; philosophy of man; relativism and subjectivism; the idea of good
3	M1L3	Platos idealism: theory of ideas
4	M1L4	Plato: theory of knowledge, method of dialectic; theory of soul
5	M1L5	Aristotles criticism of Platonic idealism and the concepts of Form and Matter
6	M1L6	Aristotles theory of causation; potentiality and actuality
7	M1L7	Medieval philosophy: St. Augustine and the Problem of evil; St. Thomas Aquinass concepts of faith and reason; proofs for the existence of God.
8	M1L8	Modern Philosophy: mail characteristic features; renaissance and scientific revolution; rationalism and empiricism: main features.
9	M1L9	Descartes: the method in philosophy; the concepts of doubt and indubitable knowledge.
10	M1L10	Descartes: the mind-body dualism; the concept of God and proofs for Gods existence
11	M1L11	Spinoza: the concepts of Substance, attributes and modes.
12	M1L12	Spinozas pantheism-God and nature
13	M1L13	Leibniz: Monadology; the mind-body problem revisited; concept of God; the concept of pre-established harmony
14	M1L14	The empiricism of John Locke: ideas and their classification; refutation of innate ideas
15	M1L15	John Locke: theory of knowledge; concept of substance; the primary and secondary qualities
16	M1L16	Berkeley: the refutation of the distinction between primary and secondary qualities, immaterialism
17	M1L17	Berkeleys critique of abstract ideas, esse est percipi, the problem of solipsism; God and self
18	M1L18	Hume : Impressions and ideas, knowledge concerning relations of ideas and knowledge concerning matters of fact, induction and causality.
19	M1L19	The external world and the self, personal

		identity, rejection of metaphysics, scepticism, reason and the passions.
20	M1L20	Critical Philosophy: characteristic features; kantd objectives: the classification of judgements, possibility of synthetic a priori judgements, the Copernican revolution
21	M1L21	Kant: forms of sensibility, categories of understanding; the process of knowledge acquisition; phenomenon and noumenon,
22	M1L22	The Ideas of Reason-soul, God and world as a whole; antinomies; rejection of speculative metaphysics.
23	M1L23	Kants ethics; freedom and immortality, problems with Kant.
24	M1L24	Hegel : The conception of Geist (spirit), the dialectical method, concepts of being, non-being and becoming,
25	M1L25	Absolute idealism; consciousness, self consciousness and reason.
26	M1L26	Karl Marx: historical materialism; the significance of the proletariat; the base structure-superstructure division.
27	M1L27	Nietzsche : Critique of western culture, religion and morality; will to power; the idea of superman.
28	M1L28	Linguistic turn in British philosophy: Russells logical atomism and the refutation of idealism.
29	M1L29	Wittgenstein : early Wittgensteins conception of language and reality; the picture theory of meaning
30	M1L30	Later Wittgensteins conception of language games and forms of life; meaning and use.
31	M1L31	Logical positivism; against metaphysics and a scientific conception of philosophy; the limitation of logical positivism
32	M1L32	Husserl : Phenomenology and the methods of reduction; the principle of intentionality.
33	M1L33	Phenomenological reduction, eidetic reduction and transcendental reduction; transcendental subjectivity; the pure subject.
34	M1L34	Heidegger : phenomenological hermeneutics; concept of Being; man as being-in-the-world;

		destruction of the western intellectual tradition.
35	M1L35	Authentic and inauthentic existence; Truth as disclosure
36	M1L36	Existentialism: main features; existence precedes essence; freedom and responsibility; finiteness and situatedness of human existence
37	M1L37	Sartres conception of human existence; man is condemned to be free; rejection of essentialism
38	M1L38	The concept of being-in-itself, being-for-itself and being-for-others
39	M1L39	Postmodernism: major trends and chief characteristic features; conceptions of human subject; different postmodern approaches
40	M1L40	Deconstruction, feminism, discourse theory etc.

References:

1. Ayer, A.J, Philosophy in the Twentieth Century, London: Weidenfeld, 1982.
2. Bhadra, Mrinal Kanti, Phenomenology and Existentialism, New Delhi: ICPR in association with Allied Publishers, 1990.
3. Brooker, Peter (Ed.) Modernism/Postmodernism (Longman Critical Readers), Essex: Longman Publishing Group, 1992.
4. Gorner, Paul, Twentieth Century German Philosophy, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.
5. Kenny, Anthony, A Brief History of Western Philosophy, Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 1981.
6. Moran, Dermot, Introduction to Phenomenology, London: Routledge, 2000.
7. Rogers, Arthur Kenyon, A Student's History of Philosophy, New York: The Macmillan Company, 3rd edition, 1971.
8. Russell, Bertrand, A History of Western Philosophy, London: Routledge, 2000.