

Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur

Proposal for a New Course

1. Course No: **PHI 4XY (TBA)**

2. Course Title: **Philosophy of Religion**

3. Per Week Lectures: **3**_(L), Tutorial: **0**_(T), Laboratory: **0**_(P), Additional Hours[0-2]:
0_(A), Credits (3*L+2*T+P+A): **5** Duration of Course: Full Semester / Modular

4. Proposing Department/IDP : **HSS**

Other Departments/IDPs which may be interested in the proposed course:

Other faculty members interested in teaching the proposed course:

5. Proposing Instructor(s): **Vineet Sahu**

6. Course Description:

A) Objectives:

This course aims to understand religion as a phenomenon and the human condition that coincides with it. The student is expected to explore and gain familiarity with several concepts in religion. Concepts and terms that have been heard of in one's lived experience would be given philosophical attention in light of the debates and discussions on it in extant philosophical literature. Thereafter the student is expected to choose a concept in religion for a detailed study. As with any philosophy course, the student has to be prepared for debating difficult and even contentious ideas without being disagreeable.

B) Contents (*preferably in the form of 5 to 10 broad titles*):

S. No	Broad Title	Topics	No. of Lectures
1.	Introduction	Introducing philosophy, religion and philosophy of religion. How is it connected with the human condition?	4
2.	Concepts	God, divinity, creation, reason and revelation, self. Religion and morality.	4
3.	God	Classical arguments for and against the existence of God - Ontological, cosmological, teleological and moral arguments; God of gaps; the problem of evil.	4
4.	Major religions of the world	A brief introduction to the major religions of the world.	9
5.	Indian	Indian theological monism and dualism.	9

	philosophy of religion	'The concepts of self and freedom in Buddhism.' 'Omniscience in Indian philosophy of religion.' 'On the idea of authorless revelation (<i>apauruṣeya</i>)'	
	Religion and science	Is modern science a challenge to religion? Perspectives on the relation between science and religion.	2
	Religious diversity	Religious pluralism and the problem of absolute truth.	2
		Presentations and class discussions	6

C) Pre-requisites, if any (examples: a- PSO201A, or b- PSO201A or equivalent): **NIL**

D) Short summary for including in the Courses of Study Booklet

Religion has been a part of human life for thousands of years. Any phenomenon that possesses such antiquity and continuity with the human lived experience merits a close examination both as an exploration and even self revelation. This course aims to look at religion from a philosophical lens. The philosophical lens is characterized by the approach to understand staying clear of preconceived notions and positions. The course will start with the general issues in philosophy of religion and go on to explore Indian philosophy of religion.

7. Recommended books:

Textbooks:

Peterson, Michael L. (Eds.), et al. *Philosophy of Religion: Selected Readings*. Oxford University Press, USA, 2014.

Perrett, R. W. (Ed.) *Indian Philosophy of Religion*. Springer Science & Business Media, 2012.

Reference Books:

Gandhi, Ramachandra. *The Seven Sages: Selected Essays*. Penguin UK, 2015.

Hick, John. *Philosophy of Religion*. Prentice Hall, 1990.

Jhingran, Saral. *Aspects of Hindu Morality*. Motilal Banarsidass Publ., 1989.

Matilal, Bimal Krishna. *Logical and Ethical Issues: An Essay on Indian Philosophy of Religion*. Orient Blackswan, 2004.

Pojman, Louis P., and Michael Rea. *Philosophy of Religion: An Anthology*. Cengage Learning, 2012.


Rabindranath Tagore. *The Religion of Man*. Ravenio Books, 2015.

Ramamurty, Aryasamayajula. *Indian Philosophy of Religion*. 2002.

Sharma, Arvind. *A Hindu Perspective on the Philosophy of Religion*. Springer, 1990.

Tiwari, Kedar Nath. *Comparative Religion*. Motilal Banarsidass, 2014.

8. Any other remarks: **NIL**

Dated: __17th April 2024__ Proposer:  Vineet Sahu__

Dated: __April 18, 2024__ DUGC/DPGC Convener:  Suchitra Mathur

The course is approved / not approved

Chairman, SUGC

Dated: _____