History of Western Philosophy

SEMESTER II

(AS PER CBCS AND NEP 2020)

PHILOSOPHY

SURYA KUMAR BHUYAN SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

KRISHNA KANTA HANDIQUI STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY

Subject Experts

1. **Prof. Sauravpran Goswami,** Dept. of Philosophy, Gauhati University
2. **Dr. Sabitri Devi,** Associate Professor, Dept. of Philosophy, Cotton University.
3. **Dr. Naba Prasad Nath,** Associate Professor, Dept. of Philosophy, Nowgong College, Autonomous

Course Coordinator: Dr. Tejasha Kalita, Assistant Professor, KKHSOU

SLM Preparation Team

UNITS	CONTRIBUTORS
1	**Dr. Jayashri Deka, University of Hyderabad**
2, 9 & 10, 11	**Dr. Tejasha Kalita, KKHSOU**
3	**Dr. Rupjyoti Dutta, Research Scholar, Gauhati University**
4,7 & 9	**Dr. Bhaskar Bhattacharyya, KKHSOU**
5, 6 & 8	**Dr. Manashi Bora,** Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardev University
12, 13, 14 & 15	**Dr. Arupjyoti Sarma, Tripura University**

Editorial Team

Content:	**Dr. Tejasha Kalita, Dr. Bhaskar Bhattacharyya**
Language :	**Dr. Tejasha Kalita, Dr. Bhaskar Bhattacharyya,**
Structure, Format & Graphics:	**Dr. Tejasha Kalita,** KKHSOU

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Headquarters : Patgaon, Rani Gate, Guwahati - 781017
Resham Nagar, Khanapara, Guwahati-781022; Web: www.kkhsou.in

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COURSE INTRODUCTION

The first course of Second Semester of M A in Philosophy of KKHSOU is "History of Western Philsophy". It is designed to help the learners to have a deep understanding of the theoretical knowledge of History of Philsophy. As a learner of Master Degree in Philosophy one must have proper and thorough understanding some important theories of western philsophy. This course will deal with some of the theories of some of the imporatnt thinkers of western philsophy. the thinkers whose theories will be mainly dealt with in this course are Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Spinoza, Hume and Kant. The theories about which this course will discuss will be about Knowledge, Ideas, Causation, Truth, God, Self, Space & Time, Categories etc. After studying this couse, learner of this course will have proper knowledge about the above mentioned theories.

This course consists of fifteen units in total.
First unit of this course is **'Plato: Concept of Knowledge'**. After going through this unit one will be able to know about Plato's Concept of Knowledge and its criticism.

The name of the second unit of this course is **'Plato's theory of formand idea'.** This unit is going to discuss about the concept of idea.The myth concerning ideas will also be discussed in this unit. After going through this unit, one will also know about the characteristics of ideas, the sytem of ideas and its criticism.

'Aristotle: Critique of Plato's theory of ideas, causation' is the third unit of this course. This unit introduces to you Aristotle's concept of ideas and causation. after going through this unit, one will also able to know about Aristotl's criticism of Plato's theory of ideas and causation.

The fourth unit of the course one is '**Descartes' Method'.** After going through this unit, one will able to know that method of Rene Descartes. By reading this paper, one will also know about the characteristics of Descartes Method. About the Descatres concept of Doubt and Psychological doubt will also be discussed in this unit.

The fifth unit of this course is **'Descartes' Concept of Cogito Ergo Sum.'** After going through this unit, one will be able to know about the meaning and characteristics of Cogito Ergo Sum. Critical Analysis of Cogito Ergo Sum will also be discussed in this unit.

The sixth unit of this course is **'Descartes Theory of Truth and God'.** This unit will discuss about the criterion of truth. After going through this unit, one will also know about the existence of God and the concept of God as described by Descartes. After going through this unit one will also know about Descartes' concept of Clearness and Distinctness.

The seventh unit is **'Descartes' Theory of Mind-body Relation'.** After going through this unit, one will be able to know about the meaning and definition of dualism. This unit will also elaborately discuss about Descartes' theory of mind-body dualism. The criticisms of Descatres theory of mind-body relation will also be discussed in this unit.

'Hume: Impresstion and Ideas' is the eighth unit of this course. This unit introduces to you the concept of Impression and ideas of David Hume. After going through thisnunit, one will know elaborately about Hume's concept of impression and ideas. After going through this unit one will also know about Humes's concept of simple ideas and complex ideas. The relation and diffrence between simple ideas and comples ideas will also be discussed in this unit.

The ninth unit is '**Hume's Concept of Induction and Causality'.** Afer going through ths unit, one will know about Hume's view on causality and how he denies about the necessary connection and his view on the impossibility of validating causality. Objections to Hume's view on causality, the problem of induction and the necessary-contingent dichotomy will also be discussed in this unit.

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The tenth unit of the course is, **Hume's View on Self'**. This unit introduces to you Hume's Concept of self. After going through this unit, one will know about the delailed explanation about Hume's view on self and the criticisms offrered by other thinkers.

The eleventh unit is, **'Scepticism of David Hume'.** After going through this unit, one will be able to know about what philosophical scepticism is. After going through this unit, one will also be able to know about how david Hume has given his opinion regarding scpeticism.

The twelfth unit of this course is **'Kant: Space and Time'.** After reading this unit one will be able to explain what is the meaning of space and time in philsophy. this unit will also discussed in detail about Kant's concept of space and time and criticisms offered by other thinkers in this regard.

The thirteenth unit of the course one is, **'Kant on Copernican Revolution'**. After going through this unit one will be able to know what copernican revolution is. After going through this unit, one will also know about Kant's view on Copernican Revolution. This unit will also deal with criticism about Kant's view on copernican revolution.

The fourteenth unit is **'Kantian Categories'.** This unit will discuss about Kantian categories in detail. After going through this unit onw will alo know about the meaning of Kantian Categies. A elaborative explanation regarding it vwill also be there in this unit. Critical comments on Kantian categories will also be duscussed in this unit.

The fifteenth unit of this course is **'Kantian Theory of Phenomena and Noumena'.** After going through this unit, one will know what phenoimena nd noumena is. In this unit a detail expolanation and discussion about Kant's concept of phenomena nd noumena will also be there. After going through this unit, one will know about the criticism of Kantian theory of phenomena nd noumena.

While going through this course you will come across some boxes which are put on the left side or right side of the text. These boxes will give us the meanings of some words and concepts within the text. Apart from this, there will be some broad and short questions included under Activity and Check Your Progress in every unit. Activities will increase our thinking capacity because questions put in Activity are not directly derived from the text. But answers to the short questions are put in the section Answers to Check Your Progress. Besides, there are some text-related questions which are put in Model Questions. These questions will help you in selecting and mastering probable topics for the examination so that you can prepare for the examination with confidence.