

University of Mumbai
Department of Philosophy

MPhil Degree
in

PHILOSOPHY
(Faculty of Arts)
w.e.f. 2017-18

1. The M. Phil. Degree programme in philosophy shall consist of **three** theory papers and **one** dissertation paper.
2. Eligibility for admission :
 - (a) A candidate for being eligible for admission to the degree of Master of Philosophy (M. Phil.) course must have passed the Master's degree examinations in philosophy, with at least a second class.
 - (b) No candidate will ordinarily be allowed to register the M. Phil. Degree in the subject / branch other than the one in which she/he holds his Master's degree. However, the M. Phil. Committee may consider for admission such cases, on merits of the individual case.
3. The duration of the course for the M. Phil. Degree will be three academic terms, commencing at the start of the second term of every academic year.
4. Every year, the M. Phil. Committee shall call for applications for admission to the M. Phil. Course in prescribed forms at the end of the first semester. The Committee shall finalise admissions and registration by the beginning of the second semester. All registration forms shall be submitted to the post-graduate section of the University within a month from the beginning or the second term.
5. A candidate, admitted to the M. Phil. Course, is required to pay tuition and other fees, if any, from the date of registration till the date of submission of the dissertation.
6. Candidates have to maintain an attendance of 75% as per University norms for all the theory papers.
7. Continuous evaluation through seminars, discussions, workshops, periodic tests, book reviews, film interpretation, projects etc., is an integral part of the M. Phil. Course programme. The teacher shall devise the method of implementation of such continuous evaluation. Hence, there will be internal evaluation for 25 marks for each of the theory papers.

8. Ordinarily the medium of answers for the M. Phil. Examination shall be English.
9. There will be a final examination of 75 marks for each theory paper.
10. To pass the theory examination, a candidate must obtain a minimum of 50 marks in each paper (continuous evaluation and final University examination taken together) and a minimum of at least 40% in the final University (examination). However, the candidate shall whether she/he has passed or failed be informed as the case may be, paper wise.
11. The candidate will be eligible to appear for the final examination in the theory papers on completion of two semesters. A candidate who has appeared and passed the theory examinations in all the papers at the end of the two semesters will be eligible to submit the dissertation at the end of the third semester.
12. No candidate will be permitted to submit the dissertation, unless she/he has passed all the three theory papers.
13. The candidate will be admitted to appear for the theory examination as a whole or paper wise on application in the prescribed form and payment of prescribed examination fee. Similarly, the candidate shall pay the prescribed fees while submitting the dissertation for evaluation.
14. The candidate will work on the dissertation under the guidance of a research supervisor approved by the MPhil Committee.
15. On completion, the candidate will submit the dissertation to the Department in triplicate, duly certified by candidate and guide as original research.
16. On the acceptance of the dissertation by an external examiner duly appointed by the University, the candidate will be declared to have passed the M. Phil. Degree examination. No class shall be awarded, but the candidate will be deemed to have passed the examination in second class.
17. A candidate who is enrolled for the M. Phil. Degree course but does not clear all the theory papers in the first attempt can be permitted for reexamination as per the advise of the MPhil Committee.
18. (i) A candidate is permitted to submit her/his dissertation for the M. Phil. Degree any time after keeping three semesters but not later than 7 semesters from the date of registration. The candidate should have completed all requirements for theory before submitting the dissertation. On failing to submit the dissertation within the stipulated time, the candidate shall be required to register afresh for the course, and the result of the theory papers already obtained shall be treated as null and void.

ii) A candidate can request for extension of one semester beyond 7 semesters. But this cannot be claimed as a matter of right, but would depend upon the progress of the candidate and the guide's satisfaction regarding the same. The M. Phil. Committee would review such applications and take into account the candidate's overall performance and guide's certification before recommending the candidate for extension of one additional semester, namely the eighth, for submission of the dissertation.

19. A candidate whose dissertation is returned for resubmission with revision will have to comply and resubmit as advised. If a dissertation is rejected by two subsequent external examiners, the candidate will be treated as failed at the M. Phil. Examination and will have to resubmit the dissertation. However, in both the above cases, the candidate shall be given the benefit of two additional terms (on paying prescribed tuition and other fees) for revision and/or resubmission of the dissertation.

The following papers will be offered at the MPhil programme in philosophy:

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| Paper I: | Research Methods & Techniques |
| Paper II: | Discipline Paper I
“Current Trends in Western Philosophy” |
| Paper III: | Discipline Paper II
“Study of One Indian Philosophical Text” |
| Paper IV: | Dissertation. |

Paper I

Research Methods and Techniques

UNIT I

1. Research Forms- Report, Article, Assignment, Dissertation, and Thesis, How to go about writing Dissertations and Theses.
2. What is data collection? Difference between science and philosophy; text as philosophy's data.

UNIT II

3. Natural Science and Social Science Research: Methodologies
4. Distinct features of Philosophical Research, its comparison with Science Research

UNIT III

5. Methods in Western Philosophy- Analytical, Phenomenological, Dialectical, Feminist
6. Methods in Indian Philosophy- Empiricist, Rationalist, Exegetical, Sceptical

UNIT IV

7. Avoiding Plagiarism in Research
8. Ethics of Research

Books

Balasubramanian, R. Research Methodology in Philosophy. Madras: RIASP, 1984.

Buchler, Justus 1961 The Concept of Method. London: Columbia University Press

Carnap, Rudolf 1966 "The Experimental Method" in *Philosophical Foundations of Physics: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Science*, New York: Basic Books.

Collingwood, R.G. 1933 *An Essay on Philosophical Method*, Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Cummins & Slade 1979 Writing the Research Paper- Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co

Dilthey, Wilhelm. 1996. *Hermeneutics and the Study of History: Selected Works*, Volume IV. Edited by R. A. Makkreel and F. Rodi. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Hempel, Carl. 1966 (1932) "The Function of General Laws in History" in 20th Century Philosophy: The Analytic Tradition ed. Morris Weitz, 254-68. New York: The Free Press

Kothari C.R. 1985 Research Methodology: Methods & Techniques. New Delhi: Wiley Eastern Ltd.

Parsons C.F 1973 Thesis and Project Work London: George Allen and Unwin.

Passmore, John 1961 Philosophical Reasoning. London: Gerald Duckworth.

Feinberg, Joel 2002 *Doing Philosophy: A Guide to the Writing of Philosophy Papers*

Wadsworth: Belmont
Martinich, A.P. 1995 *Philosophical Writing: An Introduction* Blackwell: Malden
Makkreel, Rudolf. 2009. "Hermeneutics" in A Companion to the Philosophy of History and Historiography ed. Aviezer Tucker, 529-539. Malden MA and Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.
MLA Handbook 8th Edition
Passmore, John 1961 Philosophical Reasoning. London: Gerald Duckworth
Sherratt, Yvonne. 2006. Continental Philosophy of Social Science: Hermeneutics, Genealogy and Critical Theory from Greece to the Twenty-First Century
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
Vaughn, Lewis *Writing Philosophy: A Student's Guide to Writing Philosophy Essays*
Wallerstein, Immanuel et al. 1996. Open the Social Sciences: Report of the Gulbenkian Commission on the Restructuring of the Social Sciences New Delhi: Vistaar Publications

Paper II (Discipline Paper I) **Current Trends in Western Philosophy**

Unit I

Post Positivist Responses and Challenges

- a. Problems of Induction and Critical Rationality (Karl Popper)
- b. The Two Dogmas of Empiricism (WVO Quine)
- c. Incommensurability (Thomas Kuhn)

Unit II

Interfaces in the Philosophy of Mind and Language

- a. Actions and Events (Donald Davidson)
- b. The problem of Intentions and Intentionality (John Searle)
- c. Mental Representation (J. Fodor)

Please Note: The above units will be discussed keeping in mind the background of debate within logical empiricism and Wittgensteinian perspectives on the relevant problems. The topics are merely representative and could include discussion of many more connected concepts.

Section II

Unit III:

Structuralist and poststructuralist perspectives on language:

- a) Ferdinand de Saussure: influence, sign-signifier, langue-parole, structure
- b) Michel Foucault- appropriation of Nietzsche, critique of modern human sciences; archaeological project; discourse on language

- c) Jacques Derrida: appropriation of Heidegger, critique of phonocentrism, *différance*
 d) Luce Irigaray: critique of “specula(riza)tion”, “Woman” as a placeholder for *différance*, writing the feminine, “mechanics’ of fluids”

Unit IV:

Beyond the symbolic order:

- a) Gilles Deleuze: appropriation of Bergson & renewal of metaphysics, from a “logic of sense” (language) to thinking (with Félix Guattari) on “bodies without organs” (nature)
 b) Rosi Briadotti: difference, gendered nomadism, *zōē*’s biological egalitarianism
 c) Alain Badiou: appropriation of Plato & Marx, ontology and mathematics, event.
 d) Slavoj Žižek: appropriation of German idealism & Marx, subject and ideology, the Real.

Reading List

Section I:

1. Popper Karl, *The Logic of Scientific Discovery*, Hutchinson, London, 1959
2. Quine WVO, “Two dogmas of Empiricism” in *Philosophical Review* (60) 1951.
3. WVO, Quine, “Epistemology Naturalized” in *Ontological Relativity and Other Essays*, Columbia University Press, New York, 1969.
4. Kuhn Thomas, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1962.
5. Searle John, *Intentionality: An Essay in the Philosophy of Mind*, Cambridge University Press, 1983.
6. Davidson Donald, *Actions and Events*, Oxford University Press, 1980
7. Jerry Fodor, *The Language of Thought*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge Massachusetts, 1975.

Section II:

Badiou, Alain 2003 *Infinite Thought: Truth and the Return to Philosophy* Continuum: London and New York

_____ 2005 *Being and Event* Continuum: London and New York

Briadotti, Rosi 1993 “Embodiment, Sexual Difference, and the Nomadic Subject” *Hypatia*, 8 (1), pp. 1-13

_____ 1994 “Toward a New Nomadism: Feminist Deleuzian Tracks; or, Metaphysics and Metabolism,” in Constantin Boundas & Dorothea Olkowski (eds.) *Gilles Deleuze and the Theatre of Philosophy* Routledge: New York

_____ 2002 *Metamorphoses: Towards a Materialist Theory of Becoming* Polity: Cambridge

_____ 2006 *Transpositions On Nomadic Ethics* Cambridge Malden: Polity Press

- _____ 2009 "Animals, Anomalies, and Inorganic Others" *PMLA*, 124 (2): 526-532
- Derrida, Jacques 1989/1978 *Edmund Husserl's Origin of Geometry: An Introduction* University of Nebraska Press: Nebraska
- _____ 1978 *Writing and Difference* University of Chicago Press: Chicago
- _____ 1982 *Margins of Philosophy*, tr., Alan Bass, University of Chicago Press: Chicago
- _____ 2002 "Geschlecht: Sexual Difference, Ontological Difference" in *Heidegger Reexamined* vol 1 ed. Hubert Dreyfus and Mark Wrathall Routledge: New York and London
- Deleuze, Gilles 1990 (1969) *The Logic of Sense* Columbia University Press: New York
- _____ & Félix Guattari 1987 (1980) *A Thousand Plateaus* University of Minnesota Press: Minneapolis
- _____ 1988 (1986) *Foucault* University of Minnesota Press: Minneapolis
- Foucault, Michel 1973 (1966) *The Order of Things* Vintage: New York
- _____ 1972 (1969) *The Archaeology of Knowledge* Harper and Row: New York
- _____ 2003 *Abnormal: Lectures at the Collège de France 1974-75* Verso: London
- Gatens, Moira 2000 Feminism as "Password": Re-Thinking the "Possible" with Spinoza and Deleuze" *Hypatia*, 15 (2): 59-75
- Glendinning, Simon 1999 *Edinburgh Encyclopedia of Continental Philosophy* Edinburgh University Press: Edinburgh (Relevant essays)
- Gutting, Gary, 1989 *Michel Foucault's Archaeology of Scientific Reason* Cambridge University Press: Cambridge
- Irigaray Luce 1985a *Speculum of the Other Woman*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press
- _____ 1985b *This Sex which is not One*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- _____ 2004 "Towards a Sharing of Speech" in her *Key Writings*, 77-94. London: Continuum.
- Saussure, Ferdinand de 2011 (1916) *Course in General Linguistics* Columbia University Press: New York
- Sturrock, John 1979 *Structuralism and Since* Oxford University Press : Oxford
- Žižek, Slavoj 2003 (1993) *Tarrying with the Negative: Kant, Hegel and the Critique of Ideology* Duke University Press: Durham
- Students can refer to *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*

Paper III (Discipline Paper II)

Study of One Indian Philosophical Text

In this paper a student is required to make a critical study of one Indian philosophical text with the help of a teacher. The text can be chosen from a list that is made available by the Department. The student should give in writing the text which he or she wishes to study and prepare a bibliography of the articles and books related to it. She or he will have to read the text critically, present the key arguments in the text and justify the appraisal given. The student is also expected to critically evaluate what others have said about the text.

Paper IV: Dissertation