

Certificate Course: Globalization and Essentiality of Ethics

2018-2019

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Is the concept of globalization a difficult and controversial concept? Is there any relevant ethical principles need to be discussed within a certain framework to get a better understanding of the concept 'globalization'? Following the questions, this course aims to discuss how the concept of globalization has been understood from the past to present, what are the relevant ethical issues related to it and what would be the possible proposed solution to establish a *one-world* theory.

The course would like to start with the discussion with the question: what is Globalization? For understanding, Globalization is defined as “the process of international integration arising from the interchange of world views, products, ideas and other aspects of culture. Advances in transportation and telecommunications infrastructure, including the rise of the telegraph and its posterity in the internet, are major factors in globalization, generating further interdependence of economic and cultural activities”.¹ In other words, globalization comprises in all those progressions by which the people of the world are combined into a sole world culture.

The term globalization has been increasingly used since the mid-1980s and especially since the mid-1990s. In 2000, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) identified four basic aspects of globalization: trade and transactions, capital and investment movements, migration and movement of people, and the dissemination of knowledge.² Further, environmental challenges such as climate change, cross boundary water and air pollution, and over-fishing of the ocean are linked with globalization.

Is globalization new? Why we are so much worried to establish a global world? Why is it so essential? To have a global world a global moral platform is essential. Is it possible at all? Global ethics is understood to emerge from arrangement of ethical principles among societies, corporations and other organizations so that the whole world can behave similarly in a given situation.

During last decade, knowledge about ethical responsibility has been developed. 1990 is called as the “ethics era” and institutions and business organizations became more responsible to society for meeting

consumption needs and ethical and spiritual expectations as well. The discussion of ethics in terms of social responsibility in a globalized world is indication the moral character of the individual which speaks about his virtuous character. Focusing this aspect, the course will discuss in detail about the idea of being virtuous following Aristotle's idea of golden mean, Classical and contemporary ideas on utilitarianism for a greatest good, Amartya Sen's idea on commitment and Peter Singers's idea of *One World: The Ethics of Globalization*.

Considering this, the course will offer the discussions on various aspects such as;

1. The Mutual Obligation, Integrity and Duty
2. Moral Commitment, Cooperation and Responsibility
3. social responsibility in the field of business
4. Virtue, Happiness and commitment
5. The ultimate aim of living a good Life

The course will be of minimum 30hours duration. Each section will have five hours of discussion followed by 2 hours of students' presentation relating to their ideas of understanding about the problems. After all sections of discussion 2 hours of group discussions and evaluation will be conducted on the basis of oral presentation made by students.

The outcome of this course is expected to have wider practicality in terms of understanding the moral responsibility of an individual in the society and in the world at large. Coming on a platform of morality the idea of being global may be determined which may help for living a happy and peaceful life.

Certificate Course: 2019-2020

Coordinators

Dr. Barada Laxmi Panda, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Presidency University
Dr. Manoj Kumar Panda, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Presidency University

About the Course

In our society science and technology play prominent roles in our daily lives and we are living in a techno-friendly society. When looking at the relationship between technology, science and social ethics, one of the first things we often hear about is conflict between these all. There's a reason for this. In many nations, that society's moral system was founded before scientific technology really became part of daily life. So, we're looking at a world where old systems of morality and new systems of living are coming together, and that can mean conflict.

Promotion of science along with the growth of moral values is necessary for human development. Ethics demands reporting authentic results rather than withholding relevant information. That is to say that scientists are expected to be honest. Another ethical requirement on the part of scientists is the proper treatment of living subjects, both humans and animals. This calls for checking and balancing mechanisms to ensure that the health and security of such subjects are endangered neither in research laboratories nor in their natural environment. Lusting after fame or recognition, egoism, greed, prejudice, snobbishness, racism, and political considerations have frequently resulted in immorality in the domain of science.

In the ethics of science nothing is expected to be believed with more conviction than the evidence warrants. Ethics itself deals with values relating to human conduct, with respect to the right and wrong of certain actions and to the good and bad of the motives and ends of such actions. Although rightness embraces correctness or accuracy and propriety or fitness, it also implies moral integrity that demands soundness of and adherence to moral principle and character. Similarly, goodness may be described as the state or quality of being good, kindly feeling, kindness, generosity, excellence of quality, virtue, and moral excellence.

The course is based on a National ICPR sponsored seminar conducted in the Department of Philosophy, Presidency University. The aim of the course is to extend the idea of critical understanding of the essentiality of ethics in the world of science and technology.

Writing a Philosophical Paper: 2021-22

Course Coordinators

Dr Barada Laxmi Panda, Assistant Professor and Head of the Department, Department of Philosophy, Presidency University

Bidyut Mondal, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Presidency University

Aim and objective of the Course:

Generally, at the graduation level, students do not get proper training for writing an article or paper across colleges or universities in India. Writing a publishable paper with all its requirements satisfied is not an easy task. It requires knowledge of how to formulate a philosophical problem, how to present the debate around any issue, how to present one's own stand, how even to do referencing properly etc. This course uniquely aims to introduce among the students the methodological aspects, framework and technical aspects of writing a philosophical paper. It aims to enable students to express their authentic ideas in the form of an academic paper. This will also help them understand how to articulate different concepts in academic writing. This course also seeks to motivate students to pursue research in their higher education. This course also gives them ample possibilities to enhance their knowledge by encouraging them in doing systematic research about any particular philosophical issue.

Module:

- 1 Introduction
2. Methodologies Western Perspectives
3. Methodologies Indian Perspectives
- 4 Formulation of a problem
5. Framework
6. Ethical aspects of writing
7. Notes, Reference and Bibliography
8. Presenting a Paper

Resource Person: Faculties mostly from within the department have been invited to deliver lectures on their respective field of specialization. In future, we aspire to collaborate/invite faculties from universities across India to make this course more vibrant.

PROGRAMME OF CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN PHILOSOPHY

Value Added Course (2021-2022)

Coordinators:

1. **Manoranjan Prasad Sing** (Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Presidency University, Kolkata-700073).
2. **Bidyut Mondal** ((Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Presidency University, Kolkata-700073).

Aims & Objectives:

- The programme's primary objective was to make the students aware of how they can crack several career opportunities in the field of philosophy. Apart from their mainstream reading, how will they be able to prepare for general knowledge and current affairs? The instructors also guided them with the literature they must follow for the preparation. The Lectures are held in blended mode (offline & online) once a week. In its initial stage, the programme primarily covers the syllabus of NET & SET examinations. Several lectures are arranged on the topics newly introduced in the examination syllabus. Apart from freshly introduced issues, instructors guided them through the method of organising the concept and how those can be easily remembered for the entire syllabus for philosophy. The methods of practicing different examples have been discussed for the general papers. The instructors also provided the guideline of what can be attempted first in the examination so that time management would become very easy. Pieces of literature are being circulated to all the participants.
- For SSC (school service commission), the kind of literature one should go through that has been discussed in one of the lectures. The process of writing descriptive answers has also been discussed. How to prepare for pedagogy, and what are the best available pieces of literature are there in the market that are communicated to them?
- The interview preparations are also discussed in a one-course module for WBCSC (West Bengal College Service Commission).
- One of the lectures was focused on the interested aspirants of WBPSA and UPSC examinations. Based on syllabus structures, the preparation methods are also being discussed.
- Above all, we have suggested varied ways to opt for a career in one's life depending on the capabilities and potential. We have also discussed how to concentrate on a selected career opportunity and what steps must be taken to realize the goal. Reasons are provided

by citing examples of various successful people to demonstrate how they managed to get to the top despite difficulties.

Course Modules:

1. NET & SET Syllabus of Philosophy.
2. NET & SET Syllabus of General Paper.
3. Lectures on Newly Introduced Topics of Philosophy for NET/SET Examination.
4. Mock Test for Subject and General Paper.
5. Preparation for the Interview of WBCSC (West Bengal College Service Commission).
6. WBSSC (School Service Commission) Syllabus of Philosophy.
7. Preparation for the Pedagogy and GK paper for WBSSC.
8. WBPSA Syllabus of Philosophy.
9. Outline of UPSC Examination Preparation.

Resource Person Experience:

After the course, we realised that the course is essential for future aspirants. We have shared short but distinct times with the students and tried to find the utmost solutions to the problem they conveyed. We are looking to run the course in the upcoming semester, also.

Student Feedback:

After the course, they feel confident about their desired career. They become highly motivated, knowing about various opportunities out there for their exploration.

Vocational Course: YOGIC ARTS AND MENTAL WELLNESS

2022:2023

Coordinator:

Mr. Dibyendu Mondal

(Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Presidency University, Kolkata-700073)

Mr. Manoranjan Prasad Sing

(Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Presidency University, Kolkata-700073)

Yogic Practice and its Importance in Managing Mental Health:

The Department of Philosophy, Presidency University is committed to creating an environment where students feel empowered, stable and confident. Considering the objective, we sometimes feel that only syllabus-oriented academic practice is insufficient for their behavioural development. Keeping that in mind, they are provided with vocational training that contributes to their capacity building and training them to understand their inner self, emotional management, peace and positive thinking. Yoga, in its various training, boosts students to understand their potential and work towards it.

Offering Vocational courses in Yoga are aimed at making them conscious of the importance of physical and mental well-being.

Programme Structure

The total duration of the course is 30 hours in 6 months. We have managed to take classes twice a week for this programme.

Aims and Objectives

1. We have provided all the information in its theoretical aspect, practical approaches and techniques for better concentration of mind.
2. The course is intended to promote further research, wherein the course's effectiveness is studied through students' post-training feedback and post-achievement tests.
3. To enhance students' capacities for physical and mental well-being through self-help.
4. To develop healthy habits for better health.
5. To learn how to cope with the various stressors connected to a student's academic development.

6. To enable students to establish a healthy learning environment at the workplace.
7. The course also verifies that the achievement test of the theory is administered to check the learning outcomes regarding knowledge and awareness about Yoga.

Course Modules:

1. Orientation programme based on the theme of the course. Introduction to the participants with the faculty members and how they will go through the course offered.
2. History, Fundamentals of Yoga.
3. Why Yoga? (theory and its practices).
4. What are the best practices available in Yoga?
5. Philosophical Importance of Different Methods of Meditation of Yoga.
6. Understanding the concept of the Eight Paths fold of Yoga (*Astañga Yoga*) and its importance in managing mental health are being discussed.
7. Philosophical Importance of *Prāṇāyāma* (*Prāṇa*).
8. Practical Importance of Control the Breathing Process.
9. The practices of mental modification (*cittavritti*) and mental purity (*cittasuddhi*) are being discussed.

Experience

Following the course, they have increased confidence in their self-development as they learn about the various best practices of Yoga and its management to have a healthy and happy life. It will also give them an avenue for exploring the journey of career opportunities and becoming good human being.

Feedback

The students' feedback has been taken to find the effectiveness of the programmes. We realised after the training that the course is crucial for future hopefuls. We have had brief but meaningful conversations with the participants, during which we have sought the best answers to their issues. Additionally, we intend to offer the course in the upcoming semester. We will also ensure to look at the feedback the participants gave and employ it the next time the course is offered again.

Value Added Course

Self, Body and Consciousness

2023-2024

Coordinator: Dr. Manoj Kumar Panda

Course Objective:

Understanding a subject and her experience has been one of the key concerns of various disciplines. The objective of this course is to engage deeply with the questions "Who am I?" and "Who are we?" from various philosophical and neuro-scientific perspectives. Self, Body and consciousness though appear to be notions different from each other, a complete account of one of these notions cannot be developed without taking into account the other notions. This course will introduce and critically engage with various philosophical and neurobiological theories of self in relation to consciousness and embodiment.

Modules:

Introducing fundamental questions concerning the relationship between self,

- body and consciousness
- Various theories of self: Transcendental, Egological, Phenomenological and Narrative Accounts
- Self as embodied subject, Theories of embodiment in relation to consciousness and self, Bodily self-awareness
- Neurobiological Accounts of self and consciousness, Virtual self

