

# Philosophy

**Western vs Indian**

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# Course Outcomes

After **going** through this course the learner will be able

- To define and categorize Philosophy,
- To identify the act of scientific misconduct
- To enlist ethics and misconduct related to publication
- To use the Journal indexing databases and identify the suitable journal for publication and publish manuscript ethically.

# Learning Outcomes

After going through this lecture you will be able

- To understand philosophy in view of Western Philosophers,
- To explain Indian Philosophy and its branches
- To differentiate Modern Philosophy with Indian Philosophy,

# Views of Philosophers

- **Socrates** : "Philosophy is a daily activity".
- **Plato** : "Philosophy is the acquisition of knowledge."
- **Aristotle** : "Philosophy is a science which discovers the real nature of supernatural elements".
- **Dr.Radhakrishnan** : "Philosophy is a view of life. It gives a direction to life, and offers a design for living."

- **Kant** - "the science and criticism of cognition."
- **Fichte** : "Philosophy is the science of knowledge."
- **Coleridge, Samuel Taylor** -"Science of science."
- **John Armstrong** : "Philosophy is the successful love of thinking."
- **Encyclopedia of Philosophy** defines philosophy as "Love of exercising one's curiosity and intelligence" rather than the love of wisdom.

# History of Western Philosophy

For convenience, it can be divided into three main eras:

1. Ancient 2. Medieval 3. Modern

**Ancient: (7<sup>th</sup> Century BC - 5<sup>th</sup> Century AD)**

Pre-Socratic (7<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Century BC)

Socratic (5<sup>th</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Century BC)

Hellenistic (3<sup>rd</sup> Century BC – 3<sup>th</sup> Century AD)

Roman (1<sup>st</sup> Century BC - 5<sup>th</sup> Century AD)

## **Medieval: (6<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> Century)**

Medieval (6<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> Century)

Renaissance (15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> Century)

## **Modern: (17<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> Century)**

Age of Reason (17<sup>th</sup> Century)

Age of Enlightenment (18<sup>th</sup> Century)

Modern (19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> Century)

# Socrates (Athens, 470-399 BCE)

- Father of Western Philosophy
- Plato, [Xenophon](#), [Antisthenes of Athens](#), [Aristippus of Cyrene](#)
- Socrates' main focus was on how to live a good and virtuous life.
- He inspired his followers to think for themselves instead of following the dictates of society and the accepted superstitions concerning the gods and how one should behave (Eusebia).
- Socrates' Trial- “Socrates is guilty, firstly, of denying the gods recognized by the state and introducing new divinities, and, secondly, of corrupting the young.”



# Plato (428/427 BCE- 348/347, Athens)

- He established an Academy, as a centre for philosophical and scientific study, and created the extensive and complex philosophical framework that came to be known as **Platonism**.
- Although his ideas are grounded in logic, epistemology, and metaphysics, their primary driving force is ethical.

# Aristotle (384 B.C.E.—322 B.C.E.)

- Aristotle was a prolific author, educator, and polymath who fundamentally changed the majority of the subjects he studied.
- Aristotle made broad, causal assertions by combining observation and reasoning.
- For instance, Aristotle employed the idea of species in his biology to support his factual assertions on the roles and characteristics of certain animals.

# Modern Philosophers

- **Francis Bacon (1561–1626)**, an English philosopher, scientist, and statesman, was a remarkable empiricism proponent in an era of philosophy that overlapped with the late Renaissance and early Modern periods.
- **Thomas Hobbes (1588–1679)** classified the content of philosophy: (1) physics, (2) moral philosophy, and (3) civil philosophy.
- **Descartes (1596–1650)** invented analytic geometry—and the author of many important physical and anatomical experiments.

# Philosophy in India

- Philosophy is called Darshan (दर्शन) in India; means 'to see'
- Philosophy arose in India as an enquiry into the mystery of life and existence.
- India's intellectual exploration of truth has come to be represented by various streams categorized in to 2 schools of philosophy.
  - **Orthodox Schools**
  - **Unorthodox Schools**

# Orthodox Schools of Indian Philosophy

- Samkhya - Kapil
  - Yoga - Patanjali
  - Nyaya - Goutam
  - Vaishesika - Kanaad
  - Purva Mimansa - Jaimini
  - Vedanta / Uttara Mimansa - Vyas
- These philosophies still guide scholarly discourse in the country.

# Samkhya (Kapil):

- Samkhya is the oldest of the orthodox philosophical systems, and it postulates that everything in reality stems from purusha (self, soul or mind) and prakriti (matter, creative agency, energy).
  - Purush cannot be modified or changed while prakriti brings change in all objects.
  - Sankya does not have a lot of original literature.
  - The philosophy believes in attaining self-knowledge through **concentration and meditation**, and it assumes that self-knowledge is the only way to achieve liberation.

# Yoga (Patanjali):

- Yoga literally means the union of two principal entities. Yogic techniques control body, mind & sense organs, thus considered as a means of achieving freedom or mukti.
  - This freedom could be attained by practising self-control (**yama**), observation of rules (**niyama**), fixed postures (**asana**), breath control (**pranayama**), choosing appropriate food from all perceived (**pratyahara**) and fixing the mind (**dharna**), concentrating on the chosen object (**dhyana**) and complete dissolution of self, merging the mind and the object (**Samadhi**).
  - Yoga admits the existence of God as a teacher and guide.

# Nyaya (Gautama Muni):

- It states that **nothing is acceptable unless it is in accordance with reason and experience** (scientific approach). Nyaya is considered as **a technique of logical thinking**.
  - Nyaya Sutras say that there are four means of attaining valid knowledge: **perception, inference, comparison, and verbal testimony**.
  - The primary essence of this philosophy is that anything that is not according to experience and reason cannot be accepted. There must be Pramana for true knowledge, and **Pratyaksha Pramana** is considered the main way of gathering knowledge.



# Vaisheshika (Kanaad):

- The basis of the school's philosophy is that **all objects in the physical universe are reducible to a finite number of atoms** and Brahm is regarded as the fundamental force that causes consciousness in these atoms.
  - Vaisheshika system is considered as the realistic and objective philosophy of universe.
  - The reality according to this philosophy has many bases or categories which are substance, attribute, action, genus, distinct quality and inherence.
  - Vaisheshika thinkers believe that all objects of the universe are composed of five elements– **earth, water, air, fire and ether**.
  - They believe that God is the guiding principle. The living beings were rewarded or punished according to the law of karma, based on actions of merit and demerit.
  - **The Vaisheshika and Nyaya schools eventually merged** because of their closely related metaphysical theories (Vaisheshika only accepted perception and inference as sources of valid knowledge).

# Purva Mimamsa (Jaimini):

- According to Mimamsa philosophy Vedas are eternal and possess all knowledge, and religion means the fulfilment of duties prescribed by the Vedas.
- It says that the essence of the Vedas is dharma. By the execution of dharma one earns merit which leads one to heaven after death.
- This orthodox school of Indian philosophy believes in Brahmanas of the Vedas. Mimamsa means understanding and analysing something thoroughly.
- It believes in performing rituals like Yagya to attain spiritual benefits and benefits related to the world.

# Vedanta/Uttara Mimamsa- Vyas:

- The Vedanta school concentrates on the philosophical teachings of the Upanishads (mystic or spiritual contemplations within the Vedas), rather than the Brahman (instructions for ritual and sacrifice). The school separated into six sub-school;
  - **Advaita (Adi Shankara):** It states that both the individual self (Atman) and Brahma are the same, and knowing this difference causes liberation.
  - **Visishtadvaita (Ramanuja):** It believes that all diversity is subsumed to a unified whole.
  - **Dvaita (Madhvacharya):** It considers Brahman and Atman as two different entities, and Bhakti as the route to eternal salvation.
  - **Dvaitadvaita (Nimbarka):** It states that the Brahman is the highest reality, the controller of all.
  - **Shuddhadvaita (Vallabhacharya):** It states that both God and the individual self are the same, and not different.
  - **Achintya Bheda Abheda (Chaitanya Mahaprabhu):** It emphasizes that the individual self (Jīvatman) is both different and not different from Brahman.

- **Charvaka /Lokayata Philosophy-the philosophy of masses:**

- Charvaka is a materialistic, sceptical and atheistic school of thought.
- No other world. Death is the end & pleasure is the ultimate object in life of humans.

- **Buddhist philosophy (Siddhartha Gautama):**

- not concerned with the existence or nonexistence of God.
- world is full of misery and a man's duty to seek liberation from this painful world.

- **Jain philosophy (Mahavira):**

- Basic principle is anekantavada,
- Only the Kevalins, have infinite knowledge, can know the true answer, and that all others would only know a part of the answer.

# Indian Political Philosophy:

- The *Arthashastra*, attributed to the Mauryan minister Chanakya in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century B.C., is one of the earliest Indian texts devoted to political philosophy, and it discusses ideas of statecraft and economic policy.
- During the Indian struggle for independence in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Mahatma Gandhi popularized the philosophies of ahimsa (non-violence) and satyagraha (non-violent resistance), which were influenced by the teachings of the Hindu *Bhagavad Gita*, as well as Jesus, Tolstoy, [Thoreau](#) and Ruskin.