

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM IN PHILOSOPHY

Paper No - 6: Metaphysics and Epistemology

Marks. 100

1. Introducing Metaphysics
“Metaphysics” by Peter Van Inwagen, in *Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy*.2007
2. Appearance and Reality
“Appearance and Reality”: Chapter 1 of Bertrand Russell’s *Problems of Philosophy*
3. Universals
“The World of Universals”: Chapter 9 of *Problems of Philosophy*
“On our Knowledge of Universals”: Chapter 10 of *Problems of Philosophy*
4. Idealism
“Idealism”: Chapter 4 in *Problems of Philosophy*
5. Dualism
Chapter II of Rene Descartes’ *Meditations* (In Haldane and Ross’s Translation or any other suitable translation)
6. Freedom and Determinism
“The Illusion of Free Will” Baron D’Holbach (1723-1789) (from his book *System of Nature*)
http://myweb.facstaff.wvu.edu/wasserr/114/the_illusion_of_free_will.pdf
“Freedom and Necessity” Chapter 12 of *Philosophical Essays*, A J Ayer.
http://www.informationphilosopher.com/solutions/philosophers/ayer/freedom_and_necessity.html
7. Skepticism
“The Problem of the External World”: Chapter 1 of Barry Stroud.*The Significance of Philosophical Skepticism*, Oxford Clarendon Press, 1984,
<http://uvmphil1219.files.wordpress.com/2008/09/stroud-ch1.pdf>
8. Varieties of Knowledge
Chapters 5, 7 and 8 of *Problems of Philosophy*
 - i “Knowledge by Acquaintance and Knowledge by Description”
 - ii “On Our Knowledge of General Principles”
 - iii “How A Priori Knowledge is Possible”.

Essential Reading:

1. Russell, Bertrand,*Problems of Philosophy*, Oxford University Press, Delhi.1924.

Further Readings:

1. Blackburn, Simon, *Think! A Compelling Introduction to Philosophy*, OUP.1998.
2. Van Inwagen, Peter,*Metaphysics*, Westview Press,2008.
3. Sosa, Ernest and Jaegwon Kim, *Epistemology: An Anthology*, Blackwell, 2000.