

UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS
B.A. DEGREE PROGRAMME IN PHILOSOPHY
 SYLLABUS WITH EFFECT FROM 2023-2024

Core Course – CC III
MODERN WESTERN PHILOSOPHY - I
(Descartes to Kant)

Subject Code	Subject Name	Category	L	T	P	S	Credits	Inst. Hours	Marks		
									CIA	External	Total
109C2A	Modern Western Philosophy - I (Descartes To Kant)	Core	Y	-	-	-	5	5	25	75	100
Pre - requisite	Having Knowledge of West										

Learning Objectives	
LO1	To know complex relations of philosophy to the development of modern science
LO2	Modern Philosophy is from Renaissance 15th to the 17th century, the period of enlightenment from Locke to Kant
LO3	Attention will be focused on the quality of the arguments presented by the philosophers
LO4	Prepare students for pursuing research or careers in any area of philosophy and allied fields.
LO5	Imbibe effective linguistic and critical communication in both oral and writing and ability to develop and defend a logical original position of an argument.

Units	Course Syllabus
	No. of Hours
Unit – 1	Descartes - Cogito ergo sum - Cartesian method – Mind-body Dualism - interactionism – Proofs for the existence of God
Unit – 2	Spinoza & Leibnitz - Parallelism – Substance and Attributes – Modes - Theory of Monads – Pre-established harmony – God.
Unit – 3	Locke - Nature of Knowledge - Primary and Secondary Qualities – Critique of innate ideas.
Unit – 4	Berkeley & Hume - Esse est percipi – Solipsism - Theory of Impressions and Ideas – Scepticism; (a) Denial of causality (b) Denial of Self (c) Denial of God
Unit – 5	Immanuel Kant - Synthesis of Rationalism and Empiricism - Synthetic a priori Judgement - Phenomena and Noumena

Course out Come:
1. This course is a continuation of the western philosophical ideas as pronounced from late fifteenth century after the advent of Jesus Christ.
2. This is a continuation of the study brought out in Greek and Medieval philosophy
3. Highlights the contribution of some philosophers who came in and after fifteenth century
4. Brings out the critical and the need for first-hand knowledge assimilation through independent thinking as envisaged first by Rene Descartes followed by Spinoza, Leibnitz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume and Kant.

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5. Study aims to give the best of the thought processes of three decades with emphasis on rationalism and empiricism culminating with a synthesis of both towards knowledge gain.

Books for Reading:

1. Frank Thilly, A History of Philosophy
2. B.A.G.Fuller, A History of Philosophy
3. N.T.Jones, History of Western Philosophy
4. Sammuell Enoch Stumpf, Philosophy, History and Problems
5. Y.Masih, A Critical History of Modern Philosoph

Reference Book:

1. Descartes to Kant: An Introduction to Modern Philosophy Paperback – by Garrett Thomson
2. The Rise of Modern Philosophy (Paperback) |By: Anthony Kenny (Author) , Anthony (University of Oxford) Kenny (Author) | Publisher: Oxford University Press, USA
3. Modern Philosophy: From Descartes to Kant Paperback – by Étienne Gilson (Author), Thomas Langan (Author)

Web Resources

1. <https://reasonandmeaning.com/2015/01/27/from-descartes-to-kant-in-two-pages/>
2. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Western-philosophy/The-rationalism-of-Descartes>
3. <https://www.thoughtco.com/early-modern-philosophy-2670496>

Mapping with Programme Outcomes:

	PO 1	PO 2	PO 3	PO 4	PO 5	PO 6	PO 7	PO 8	PO 9	PO 10
CO 1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1
CO 2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
CO 3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2
CO 4	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
CO 5	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2

Strong (3) Medium (2) Low (1)

Mapping with Programme Specific Outcomes:

	PO 1	PO 2	PO 3	PO 4	PO 5	PO6	PO7	PO8	PO9	PO10
CO 1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
CO 2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
CO 3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
CO 4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
CO 5	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Weightage	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Weighted percentage of course contribution to POS	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0

Strong (3) Medium (2) Low (1)