

24SS813 Structural and Philosophical Study of Sri Sankara's Bhashya on the Brhadaranyaka Upanishad

4-0-0-4

Course Outcomes:

CO1: Understanding the structural framework and interpretative style of Sri Sankara's commentary on the Brhadaranyaka Upanishad.

CO2: Learn about the key philosophical insights provided by Sri Sankara, particularly his interpretations on concepts like *Atman*, *Brahman*, and *Moksha*.

CO3: Acquiring the ability to analyze the use of logical and grammatical constructs in the Bhashya that clarify Upanishadic teachings.

CO4: Knowledge of Sri Sankara's Advaita Vedanta principles as elucidated in his commentary, connecting them to the broader Vedantic tradition.

CO5: Understanding the Bhashya's impact on Indian philosophical thought and its role in shaping classical interpretations of the Upanishads.

Unit I: Introduction to the Brhadaranyaka Upanishad and Sri Sankara's Bhashya

- Overview of the Brhadaranyaka Upanishad: Structure, significance, and main themes.
- Introduction to Sri Sankara: His life, contributions to Advaita Vedanta, and the purpose of his Bhashyas.
- Study of the methodological approach Sri Sankara employs in interpreting the Upanishadic verses.

Unit II: Key Philosophical Concepts in the Bhashya

- Analysis of core concepts: Atman, Brahman, and their non-duality (Advaita).
- Examination of Sri Sankara's interpretation of Maya and Avidya in the context of the Brhadaranyaka Upanishad.
- Exploration of the Jiva-Brahma relationship and the notion of Moksha as presented in the Bhashya.

Unit III: Grammatical and Logical Constructs in the Commentary

- Study of grammatical nuances and syntactic choices in Sri Sankara's explanations.
- Analysis of logical methodologies used to refute dualistic and other non-Advaitic perspectives.
- Examination of specific terms and linguistic choices that highlight the non-dualistic nature of Atman and Brahman.

Unit IV: Interpretative Techniques and Hermeneutics

- Study of hermeneutic principles employed in the Bhashya, such as Adhyasa (superimposition) and Neti-Neti (not this, not this).
- Techniques used to clarify abstract concepts and resolve apparent contradictions in Upanishadic teachings.
- Exploration of Sankara's approach to revealing the hidden unity between Atman and Brahman.

Unit V: Influence and Legacy of Sri Sankara's Bhashya

- Discussion on the impact of the Brhadaranyaka Upanishad Bhashya on later Advaitic philosophers.
- Overview of its role in the development of Indian philosophy, especially within the Vedantic tradition.
- Reflection on how the Bhashya's insights have shaped interpretations of the Upanishads in classical and modern contexts.

References:

1. Sri Sankara, Bhashya on the Brhadaranyaka Upanishad.
2. Radhakrishnan, S. (1953). The Principal Upanishads.
3. Gambhirananda, Swami. (2006). Eight Upanishads, Vol. I & II.
4. Dasgupta, S. (1922). A History of Indian Philosophy, Vol. I.
5. Sharma, C.D. (2000). A Critical Survey of Indian Philosophy.

Evaluation Pattern:

Category	Marks
Continuous Assessment	20
Mid-Term	30
End Semester	50
Total	100