

**Year of Introduction: 2022**

**Course Description:** The current course carries out a thorough perusal of majority of the principal Upaniṣad-s from an Advaita Vedāntic perspective. The course explores various topics like Consciousness, Self, Knowledge, Ignorance, Ethics and Morality from the perspective of conversations, debates and stories. The interpretation of Upaniṣad-s is achieved with the help of commentary of Śaṅkarācārya and various other sub commentaries.

**Learning Objectives:**

1. Explore tenets of Advaita Vedānta in Upaniṣad-s
2. Discuss topics like Consciousness, Self, Knowledge, Ignorance, Ethics and Morality
3. Explore the commentarial tradition of Advaita Vedānta
4. Study various esoteric knowledges

**Pedagogy:** Instructional Conversation

**Syllabus**

Unit I

Īśāvāsya - Universal wellbeing and Karma, essence of universe, transcending negative tendencies, vidyā and avidyā; Kena – Quintessence of epistemological function and action (4-5), yakṣopākhyāna: tapa, dama and karma

Unit II

Kāṭha - Nature of material world (1.1.20 - 29), śreya and preya (1.2.1-6), Knowledge on Ātman and right action (1.3.2-8); Muṇḍaka - Karma, śreya and avidyā (1.2.7-13), Jīvātmā : Phenomenal world and importance of truth, dispassion and inner strength

Unit III

Chāndogya - Udgītha upāsanā (1.1-3), Uṣastyupākhyāna (1.10-11), Three parts of Dharma (2.23.1), Jānaśrutyupākhyāna (4.1-4.3.4), Satyakāmopākhyāna (4.4.1- 4.9), Upakosalopākhyāna (4.5.1 - 4.16), Tattvamasi-vākya (6), Nārada-sanatkumāropākhyāna (7), Brahman and Satya (8.1.1 - 8.5), Indra-Virocanopākhyāna (8.7.1 - 8.12)

Unit IV

Bṛhadāranyaka - Devāsuropākhyāna (1.3.1 - 1.3.19), Bālāki-Ajātaśatru upākhyāna (2.1), Mūrta and amūrta brahma (2.3), Yājñavalkya - Maitreyī upākhyāna (2.4), Madhuvidyā (2.5), Questioning Yājñavalkya in the court of Janaka (3.1-3.9), Janaka-Yājñavalkya upākhyāna (4.1- 4.4)

**References**

1. Ten Principal Upaniṣad-s with Śāṅkarabhāṣya. (2000). New Delhi: MLBD.
2. Radhakrishnan, S. (1924). Philosophy Of the Upanisads.

**Course Outcome:**

CO1: Understand the application of various tenets of Advaita Vedānta

CO2: Comprehend the Advaita perspective of Consciousness, Self, Ignorance and Knowledge

CO3: Grasp application of Ethics and Morality

CO4: Understand the methodology of commentarial tradition

**Evaluation Pattern:**

**Continuous Evaluation: 50 %**

**End Semester Examination: 50 %**

**Employability:**

1. Ethics and Morality
2. Critical Thinking