

Spring 2022 COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT
ON
RLG 5911-U09: SCIENCE AND JAIN
PHILOSOPHY

Graduate students of all disciplines welcome

Thursday 1:00 to 3:40 PM. On-campus Seminar.

Florida International University, Maidique Campus

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Jainism is one of the oldest philosophies (*darśanas*), dating back to pre-historic times and deals with metaphysical, epistemological, logical, ethical, spiritual, and cosmological aspects. Tirthankara Mahavira, about 2600 years ago, had given a vision and propounded many concepts dealing with all aspects of life and matter, laws governing the universe and development of human consciousness etc. Jain philosophy is based on these concepts in sync with scientific rationality. Many of these theories have mathematical foundations and follow quantitative test methods. There are striking resemblances between many of the Jain practices and modern scientific principles.

In view of the wide scope and sound foundation of the Jain thoughts, it is desirable that scholars and researchers undertake a scientific study of Jain philosophical concepts and usual practices and re-evaluate them in the light of modern scientific framework to assess their relevance in the present era.

PROFESSORS

Samani Chaitanya Pragma is the Instructor of the course. She is the Visiting Professor of Florida International University, Miami, USA and Former Founding Director of BMIRC and Head of Deptt of Jainology and Comparative Religion and Philosophy of Jain Vishva Bharati Institute, Ladnun, India. Her research focuses on the scientific and philosophical studies of Jainism. Email: SJPStudies27@gmail.com. Web page: <http://religion.fiu.edu/faculty/full-time-faculty/samani-chaitanya-pragiya-pragya/>

Dr Narayan Lal Kachhara is the Co-instructor of the course and an Emeritus Professor of Jain Vishva Bharati Institute, Ladnun, India. He is the author of the required course book entitled “Scientific Exploration of Jain Doctrines”.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The class format will include online lecture videos, textbook, articles and student presentations. Apart from the Class-exams, students are supposed to submit one research paper on any one of the topics taught in the course in the light of the scientific studies and give one Class-presentation on the same research. All written work must be typed and double-spaced using a 1” margin all around, a 12-point font letter size and a word count listed at the top of the page. PLEASE NOTE: The instructor will take off points if the above writing assignment requirements

are not adhered to. All written work will need to be submitted through the course email. Please make sure to sign up or register to attend the course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The course is aimed to prepare the undergraduate students for the scientific study of Jainism. It is also aimed to bridge the gap between science and spirituality necessary for saving humanity and the planet. The course is designed for all who are interested in religion, philosophy, science, medicine, and international studies. Students in the social sciences and humanities would especially benefit from learning about philosophical insight and spiritual technology addressing the problems of life and the globe in a positive and inclusive manner.

What you should be able to do on completion of this course.

- 1. Teach** importance of "religion" and "philosophy" in the study and research of science.
- 2. Research** the spiritual and philosophical basis for current health issues, violence, social disparities, environmental and ecological problems.
- 3. Apply** spiritual technology and philosophical insights to individual, social, and global issues, and for peace and happiness in life.
- 4. Identify** the philosophical insights and spiritual practices for ethnic coherence.
- 5. Guide** people to know the importance of philosophical studies to live a virtues and purposeful life.
- 6. Enhance** success in developing an inter-disciplinary study in the field of science, religion, and philosophy.

COURSE MATERIAL

REQUIRED COURSE BOOK

• ***Scientific Exploration of Jain Philosophy***: Narayan Lal Kachhara. Delhi, India: Motilal Banarasidas (Paperback - 2000) – 1st Edition, Language: English.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

- 2005 ***Scientific Vision of Lord Mahavira: A Scientific and Philosophical Study of the Canon Bhagawati Sutra***. Ladnun: Jain Vishva Bharati. 175 pages.
<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08RDWP2R8>
- 2017 ***Scientific Perspectives of Jainism***. Narendra Bhandari and Narayana Lal Kachhara, Co-editors. Ladnun: Jain Vishva Bharati Institute. 657 pages.
<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08414PJ7G>
- 2018 ***Jain Philosophy: A Scientific Approach to Reality***. Narayana Lal Kachhara and Narendra Bhandari, Co-editors. Ladnun: Jain Vishva Bharati Institute. 657 pages.
<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B083Y5H9MZ>
- 2019 ***Jainism on Modern Issues***. Narayan Lal Kachhara, Co-editor, Ladnun: Jain Vishva Bharati. <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0847SZB69>
- 1996 ***Scientific Contents in Prakrita Canons***- Dr N.L. Jain. Varanasi, India: Parshvanath Vidyapeeth.
- Additional study material will be posted in the course material as per requirement.

COURSE POLICIES

I. PARTICIPATION in CLASS-DISCUSSION: It is key for all the learners to participate in the discussions to clear all the doubts and questions about the course contents. If a student arrives late or leaves early, it is BOTH disruptive to the lecturer and students alike.

II. PLAGIARISM: Plagiarism is defined as “literally theft,” and will NOT be tolerated. Plagiarism, in forms some students may not be aware of, may include: (1) A written work that is ENTIRELY stolen from another source, (2) Using quotations from some sources without proper citation, (3) Paraphrasing from a source without proper citation. Students are expected to UNDERSTAND the definition of plagiarism. To view the University Code of Academic Integrity please visit <http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/2codeofacainteg.htm>. When all else fails; ASK the instructor for help. If you are found guilty you could receive a failing grade for the course which in some cases leads to dismissal from the course and in severe cases from the university.

III. LATE PAPERS: Late papers will be downgraded at the discretion of the instructor and is therefore, highly discouraged! No late submissions will be accepted with the commencement of Exam Weeks.

DESCRIPTION OF CLASS-ASSIGNMENTS

I. Ten Quizzes: In this course, there will be ten quizzes in total, one in each week. The format will include 10 multiple choice questions.

II. Three Class-Exams: There will be three class exams format will include multiple choice questions, true and false, essay and short answer questions.

II. Term Paper and Class-Presentation: For the term paper, the student is supposed to choose any one of the doctrines of Jain philosophy taught in the course. The term paper will be a research analysis of the concept from the Jain and science perspective. Minimum three to five authentic and academic sources should be used in the paper. Do not refer to wiki. One can use either Chicago, APA or MLA style for the citation. The length of the paper must be in 8-10 pages with single space, 12 font and in A 4 size. The instructor will provide further detail as the semester continues.

At the end of the semester, one PowerPoint presentation based on the research paper will be given by each one of the students. The PowerPoint will have at least seven to ten slides apart from the title and reference slides.

If you miss the opportunity of presenting in class as per the schedule, pls contact right away to finalize the presentation date and time.

COURSE GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Participation in Class-Discussion- 20%

3 Exams - 45%

Term Paper - 20%

Power-point Presentation - 15 %

GRADING SCALE:

93-100 A
 90-92 A-
 87-89 B+
 83-86 B
 80-82 B-
 77-79 C+
 73-76 C
 70-72 C-
 65-69 D+
 60-64 D
 59 – 0 F

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week	Topics
	Jain Metaphysics/Ontology
Week 1	Lecture 1: Substance and its Properties Lecture 2: Six Substances Lecture 3: Soul in Jain Philosophy
Week 2	Lecture 4: Soul in other Systems of Philosophy Lecture 5: Space and Time in Jain Philosophy Lecture 6: Space and Time in Western Philosophy and Science
Week 3	Lecture 7: Matter in Jain Philosophy Class-Discussion and Video Exam #1
	Jain Biology
Week 4	Lecture 8: <i>Vargana</i> Class Matter and Matter in Science Lecture 9: Jain biology Lecture 10: Biology in science (Proposal of Term paper Due)
	Jain Cosmology
Week 5	Lecture 11: Jain cosmology Lecture 12: Modern cosmology and its comparison with Jain cosmology Lecture 00: Jain Cosmography
Week 6	Class-Discussion

	Video and Class Catch-up Midterm Exam
	Jain Logic and Quantum Physics
Week 7	Lecture 13: Philosophy of Multiple Aspects Lecture 14: Philosophy of Multiple Aspects, Modern Science, and Society Lecture 00: Philosophy of Perspectival Truth and Conditional Dialects
	Jain Psychology and Methmatics
Week 8	Lecture 15: Doctrine of Karma Lecture 16: Seven Fundamental Truths (Tattvas) Lecture 17: Nine Existences (Padarthas)
Week 9	Class-Discussion Video and Class Catch-up Midterm Essay Due
	Jain Epistemology
Week 10	Lecture 18: Epistemology- 1: Jain Philosophy Lecture 19: Epistemology- 2: Jain Philosophy and Western Philosophy Lecture 20: Philosophy of Mind and Psychology
	Jain Ethics
Week 11	Lecture 21: Jain Ethics: Partial Vows – I (Anuvrata) Lecture 22: Jain Ethics: Partial Vows – II (Anuvrata) Lecture 23: Jain Ethics: Partial Vows – III (Anuvrata)
Week 12	Lecture 24: Code of Conduct for Ascetics: Full Vows (Mahavrata) Lecture 25: Higher Virtues – I Lecture 26: Higher Virtues – II
Week 13	Class-Discussion Video Proposal of Power-point due

	Environment and Ecology
Week 14	Lecture 27: Environment and Ecology Lecture 28: Yoga and Meditation Lecture 00: Jain Lifestyle and Climate Change Power-point Due
	Spirituality
Week 15	Lecture 29: Path to Emancipation Lecture 30: Spiritual Development and Emancipation Class-Catch-up and Video (Term Paper Due)
	Video-Presentations
Week 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video PPT Presentation due • Final Exam