



thinking

A short-term certificate course

Course begins on 15th October 2018

Timings:
1730 hrs to 2000 hrs
(3 sessions every Monday)
30 sessions spread across 10 weeks

Registration Fees:
₹ 15,000/- plus GST* per person
(20% discount for Academics/Individuals/MSMEs)

Venue:
BIM Campus, Trichy

Our personal and professional lives today are being increasingly driven by technological rationality. It has seeped into our consciousness to mould us in its own original cast. Natural springs of humanity are drying up and their place is being taken by cold and calculated rationality in which every step is monitored and captured so as to render all future steps predictable. No space is being ceded to man for him to think on his own and has rendered 'thinking' the very essence of human existence, redundant.

This course spread over three months would elucidate our thinking patterns and enable us to question the rules and structures that govern our thoughts and behaviour. It will raise doubts on the certainties of common sense, break the stultifying habit of an unchanging worldview and allow our personality to rediscover its originality and spontaneity. It will achieve this by looking at thinking, the most fundamental process of being human, once again with eyes that see deeply and clearly, with minds that do not hesitate to venture in the unknown and with hearts that are thirsty for new joys.

The course will help us to make distinction between:

- existence and essence
- fact and potential
- appearance and reality

It will provide deeper insights into understanding of our professions and methodology of our thinking process to help us transcend their limitations.

Who should attend: Most useful to teachers across levels, professionals who wish to take a deeper look at their craft, research scholars whose duty is to cultivate a critical eye, true students of any age and anyone interested in leading the life of the mind.



*GST @ 18%

Faculty :

Dr Abhishek Kumar

Assistant Professor (Marketing), Bharathidasan Institute of Management Trichy, PhD (Pondicherry University), MBA (BIM) B.Sc (Economics) Calcutta University and Associate, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla

Dr Abhishek Kumar is an authority on brand personality and locates his studies and researches in the inter-disciplinary spaces between the disciplines of management, philosophy, psychology and sociology. His work in the field of phenomenological construction of product is of seminal nature. His paper titled 'Subject-object split, Cypher and Product' presented at the 24th world congress of philosophy at Peking university, in August 2018 argues that products are being converted into symbols to fill the enduring gap between subject and object. In another novel study he has cast the Foucauldian gaze on two popular literary characters of Bernard Shaw and Rabindranath Tagore, respectively to peel off layers in their personality.

His courses dissolve boundaries between disciplines and extend frontiers of creative and intellectual thought. His lectures illuminate the topic with the light of truth, his insights penetrate the veil of appearance and reach the core to reveal the ground on which it occurs.

His understanding is fashioned by a close reading of the works of Martin Heidegger, Karl Jaspers, Maurice Merleau-Ponty and Michel Foucault. His method includes dwelling upon the aesthetic content of the matter at hand and is a heady mixture of the sensuality of D H Lawrence, iconoclasm of Bernard Shaw, tragic appeal of Thomas Hardy and delightful rigor of Thomas Mann.

Unit 1 THINKING

A. Task of Thinking – Structure, Inclination, and Sign (3 sessions)

- Fact/potential, existence/essence, appearance/reality
- Inclination and interest in that which in itself is to be thought about
- Possibility and capability of thinking, conditions for thinking, learning to think
- Role of memory
- Thought as a gift given in thinking back
- Thinking as the progressive withdrawal of essence
- Essence in being a pointer and a sign

B. Distinguishing being and appearance (3 sessions)

- Coincidence of being and appearance
- Appearing world and appearing and disappearing creatures
- To be alive means to live in a world that preceded one's arrival and will survive one's departure
- Mystical nature of thinking and other invisible and soundless mental activities
- Supremacy of the ground that does not appear over the surface that does
- Something must exist that is not appearance as the world we choose as true world
- Pre-eminence of causality over what merely meets the eye
- Appearances never just reveal, they also conceal
- Being is not manifest since it does not appear; appearing is weak since it does not succeed in being

C. Thinking self and its relationship to reality (3 sessions)

- Ideas that are never given to experience and therefore unknowable like God, freedom and immortality as integral to the life of the mind
- Transcendent ground of appearances or being as the ground of experience
- Relation of me to myself in the thinking activity,
- Thoughts as representations of manifestations of an ego that itself forever remains concealed
- Thinking ego is Kant's "thing in itself" as thinking ego
- Appearance of self of self-awareness and thinking ego as it does not appear to itself, and yet it is "not nothing"
- Reality as "standing still and remaining" the same long enough to become an object for acknowledgement and recognition by a subject
- Intentionality



Unit 2 WILLING

A. Nature of will (3 sessions)

- Freedom and will in Aristotle
- Greek idea of will as the I-can and not the I-will
- Will as the power that we do not use and Nietzsche's will as falsification of psychology
- Will as illusion of consciousness, will as a ghostly thrust and will vs volition
- Will as a phenomenon of motivated action
- Will to power as ascendancy of will to theoretical reflection (Nietzsche)
- Hegel's solution – philosophy of history
- Will and the modern age's notion of progress as the ruling force
- Last stage of modern age that will began to be substituted for reason as man's highest faculty
- Embarrassment of speculative reason in dealing with the question of freedom of the will
- Opposition of will by truth and passion, Problem of the new
- Discovery of the inner man and faculty of choice, impotence and omnipotence of will

B. Will independent of space-time-causality (3 sessions)

- Will as a metaphysical reality which grounds all phenomena
- Objectification of will in bodily actions through structuring of time, space and causality
- Existence as myself or modifications of myself leading to suspension of spatiality and temporality in mental activities
- Constitution of an enduring present is habitual, normal and banal act of our intellect
- Activity of mind always creates for itself, "a gap between past and future"
- NOW as a whole – Hedonein Nicomachean ethics
- Will as the mental organ for future



Unit 3 JUDGING

A. Construction of viewpoint (2 sessions)

- A viewpoint to reflect upon human affairs
- Imagination, intellect, and spirit are united by taste to judge a beautiful art
- Idea of a spectator
- Impartiality
- See by the eyes of mind, to see the whole that gives meaning to particulars

B. Common sense (2 sessions)

- Judgment is based on taste of all five senses: sight, hearing, touch, smell and taste
- Taste and smell are most private of senses
- Overcoming of ego in taste, the basic other-directedness of judgment and taste
- Inter-subjectivity
- Taste as the basis for judgment
- Communicability of a sensation and common sense

C. Critique of Judgment (2 sessions)

- Judgment arises from a merely contemplative pleasure (taste) or inactive delight
- Enlargement of the mind by comparing our judgment with the possible rather than actual judgment
- Role of imagination
- Possibility of critical thinking
- Perception and judgment
- Judgment as the faculty of thinking in the particular combined with the general
- Purposiveness and exemplary validity to regulate reflective judgments

D. On beautiful and sublime (2 sessions)

- Observations on beautiful and sublime
- Attributes of the beautiful and sublime in man
- Distinction between beautiful and sublime in the interrelations of the two sexes



Unit 4 LANGUAGE

A. Language as a creative activity (3 sessions)

- Language as an inner human need, a persistent work of mind
- Mental power of individuals and nations that creates language cannot be fully explained scientifically
- Language as a gift to mankind by its inner destiny
- As indispensable for the development of mental powers since speech is a necessary condition for thinking
- Language as a creative activity as mental power to speak is free and autonomous
- Mental power that generates language consists of laws of procedures, directions and endeavours and determines the form of language or the original design of the language
- Form of language: external part as sound-form and internal part as the intellectual part
- Language's phonology, morphology and syntax
- Inner linguistic form and its inner conceptual form
- Universality and diversity of languages

B. Language as the articulated sound (2 sessions)

- Mutual inter-penetration of sound form and inner linguistic form
- Mind's externalization in sound
- Concept as the internal representation of a heard linguistic sound
- Language as necessary for the existence of concepts
- Articulation of sound as distinguished from animal cry and musical tone
- Language as speech and silence, the unspoken
- Classical construction harbours language as speech. Letters show sounds; sounds show affection in the soul; affections show the matters that impinge on us. (Aristotle)
- Sounds of vowel, consonant and of aspirates for purity of sound
- Translation consistently understands the semeia (that which shows), the symbola (that which holds) and the homoiomata (that which approximates) in terms of showing

C. Entwining of mind into language (2 sessions)

- Using language invests it with and also divests it of power
- Principle from which the structure of language develops and its true character emerges
- Movement from joyous astonishment at language to the use of it
- Felicitous expressions of particulars like prayers, songs, stories as foundation of literature
- Poets and teachers of people as its guardians whence springs its purity and power respectively
- Role of grammarians in perfecting the organism
- For language to remain popular and cultivated at once, the flow between the former and latter must continue
- As means to mutual understanding and to enlarge the difference by clarifying original cast of the mind
- Language and national uniformity
- Decoding that what is surplus to expression
- Problem of psychology: Problem of meaning when we use language with the intention of meaning something by it
- Problem of epistemology: relation between thoughts, words, or sentences, and that which they refer to or mean



BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Certificate will be awarded on successful submission of a dissertation of not less than 3000 words on a topic that explores applicability of insights opened during the course to the participant's area of work.



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