

Negotiating a Democratic Space: Philosophy, Religion and the State

Overview

All the major philosophers in the western tradition have taken both religion and political organization very seriously in their examination of themes such as moral and political authority, law, and related issues. This course of seven lectures will address certain of the relevant questions as they arise in the context of Friedrich Nietzsche's challenges to modernity, and will then examine a range of responses by noted modern thinkers who have been particularly influenced by Nietzsche or have drawn upon his work in pertinent ways. Where appropriate, implications for existing forms of authority will be outlined, through examples and discussion. The focus will be on the philosophic treatment of the relevant issues, and suitable readings will be set.

Participants will learn about the set topics through lectures, with time for discussion where possible.

Essential Advance Reading: Chapters 29-31 of Beiner, R.S. 2011. *Civil Religion: A Dialogue in the History of Political Philosophy*. Cambridge: CUP.

This book is in the IIT Madras Library.

Other recommended reading:

Friedrich Nietzsche, *Schopenhauer as Educator*

and

Max Weber, *The Vocation Lectures*

Lecture Schedule:

1. *The Challenge of Nietzsche*
2. *Salient texts*
3. *Nietzsche's Preoccupation (Obsession) with Nobility*
4. *Freud and Weber as Heirs of Nietzsche*
5. *"The Letter on Humanism" as a Nietzschean Text*
6. *The Being-towards-Death chapter of Being and Time as a Nietzschean Text*
7. *Civil Religion: A Window into Perennial Themes of Political Philosophy*

Dates	6 August to 12 August 2016.
Host Institute	IIT Madras
No. of Credits	1
Maximum No. of Participants	50

You can attend if:	You are a student or a member of faculty at IIT Madras, or at another GIAN-recognized institution.
Course Registration Fees	Student Participants: Rs.1000 Faculty Participants: Rs.3000

Course Faculty

Professor Ronald Beiner is one of Canada's most eminent political philosophers, and also has a name as a public intellectual. He is the author of several widely-acclaimed books, including *What's the Matter with Liberalism?* (University of California Press 1992) and *Civil Religion: a Dialogue in the History of Political Philosophy* (CUP 2010). He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Professor Arvind Sivaramakrishnan is a Visiting Professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras. His main areas are philosophy and political theory, and his main research concerns are in citizenship and public policy. His books include *Public-Interest Journalism* (Orient BlackSwan 2014), *Public Policy and Citizenship* (Sage 2012), and the edited volume *Short on Democracy: Issues Facing Indian Political Parties* (imprintOne 2007).

Professor V.R. Muraleedharan is a Professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras, and a former Head of that Department. His main research concerns are the economic aspects of public policy on healthcare, and he has published extensively in this area.

Course Coordinator

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