

**Indian Institute of Technology Mandi
School of Humanities and Social Sciences**

Course Outlines for Electives during Spring Semester 2011-12

Please read the information given here with care before filling up the Option Form!

C O U R S E S

1. **HS 151 – Advanced English:** The course offers a wide range of short stories and poems for study. The aim of the course is to expose the students to a variety of writing styles, genres and thoughts over a period of time from America, Britain, Europe, and India. Divided into four modules, the course also involves one play and one novel for self study.
2. **HS 152 – Introduction to Rhetoric:** Rhetoric proceeds from the premise that in most communication situations, listeners do not always agree with the speaker, that they offer active resistance to the contents of what is being said by the speaker. Rhetoric tries to overcome this resistance by effectively organizing speech and winning over the listeners to the speaker’s point of view. For this purpose, rhetoric focuses on logical thinking, on the discovery of argumentative strategies and on effective use of language and style.
3. **HS 153 – German II:** This course is essentially a continuation of German I and seeks to reinforce communication skills through greater emphasis on German grammar, principal syntactic features and acquisition of a minimum vocabulary. This is also realized by a comparative approach to the understanding of German culture today.
4. **HS 251 – Managerial Economics:** Managerial Economics is the integration of Economic principles with business practices. It is concerned with the application of economic principles and methodologies to managerial decision-making. It will help students to become more adept at developing and designing business strategies at the organization level. It will also sharpen their analytical skills in using economic models, identifying their relationships, and formulating them into a managerial model to which decision-making tools can be applied. It shall examine the following topics in detail: Business Organizations, decision-making, business forecasting, price determination in alternative market structures (product and factor), cost-benefit analysis, correlation and regression analysis, analysis of time series, macro economic analysis and decision-making under uncertainty.
5. **HS 252 – Introduction to Psychology:** People have always been curious about human behaviour. The word psychology itself is thousands of years old, coming from the ancient Greek roots psyche, which means “mind,” and logos, meaning “knowledge or study.” However, have you ever actually seen or touched a “mind”? Because the mind can’t be studied directly, psychology is now defined as, and works towards, the scientific study of behaviour and mental processes. Today psychology is applied to solve problems in mental health, education, business, sports, law, and medicine. In this course we will focus

on how psychological knowledge, as a subject, is created, what are the key ingredients that make psychology the subject it is and how as a student of psychology we could find some answers towards human behaviour.

6. **HS 253 – Introduction to Sociology:** This course focuses on basic concepts and theories involved in increasing the understanding of human behavior and human societies. With the help of sociological perspectives, the interrelations among human societies, individuals, organizations, and groups are analyzed. Topics of analysis include culture, social interaction, social institutions, social stratification, community, and various social change strategies.
7. **HS 254 – Introduction to European Philosophy:** The course offers a compact survey of the European tradition in philosophy from its beginnings to the present largely in the form of samplings. The course, however, should not be construed as a historical account of leading thinkers and their ideas. Rather, it is structured around key themes in European thought like the problem of knowledge and its organization, law, religion, society, science and technology. The course examines these issues in their traditional as well as contemporary reflexes and their import for the ideal of the ‘Good Life’. In addition, the course emphasizes the four main approaches to philosophic investigation, namely Idealism and Positivism, Rationalism and Empiricism.
8. **HS 255 – India since Independence:** This course offers an introduction to the history of India since independence. It begins with an overview of the struggle for independence and its immediate fallout. It then proceeds to examine the political and economic history of India in broad outline. The course shall also focus on various movements and uprisings witnessed in India in the six decades since independence, besides looking into the question of identity. Finally, the developments in science and technology, literature, entertainment and sports will also be taken up for discussion.
9. **HS 351 – Popular Fiction:** The focus of the course is to study a selection of popular fiction novels, that includes graphic novels as well. The aim of the course is to expose the students to new styles of writing, the increasingly popular medium of “cartoon” novels. The course envisages an analysis of four novels spread over one semester.
10. **HS 352 – India through its Epics:** This course offers an introduction to India as represented in its epics. While it aspires to cover a wide range of epics from different languages and periods, the focus in the present semester shall be largely on the *Ramayana*. The course intends to look afresh at the diverse traditions of India through the *Ramayana*, and to understand what indeed constitutes these traditions and in what ways they are relevant for life today. In other words, it seeks to comprehend the myths, legends, symbols, motifs and ideas from the *Ramayana* which inform Indian polity over the ages and constitute its self understanding.
11. **HS 353 – Science, Technology and Society:** Science and technology influence almost every aspect of human life. This course focuses on the increasing complexities of the interrelationship between science, technology and society. Social, political and cultural values affect scientific research and technological innovations, and in turn scientific

research affects society, politics and culture. This course deals with philosophical and sociological aspects of technological change in society. The central focus of this course is to highlight the active role of society, culture and politics in the field of science & technology.

12.HS 354– Social Psychology: What precisely is social psychology? Basically, it's the branch of psychology that studies all aspects of our social existence—everything from attraction, love, and helping on the one hand, to prejudice, exclusion, and violence on the other—plus everything in between. In addition, of course, social psychology also investigates how groups influence us, as well as the nature and role of social thought—how we think about other people, and how this affects every aspect of our relations with them. This course in Social psychology would investigate the entire span of social existence—a true rainbow of human social experience—but with the individual as the focus.

WORKSHOPS

The workshops have been designed to equip students of engineering disciplines with basic managerial skills, keeping in mind particularly the need to get prepared for placement interviews in the not-too-distant future. Leading experts in the field are being invited to conduct these intensive workshops. Registration as well as Option Forms for these courses will follow separately.

Students may obtain the Option Forms and submit them, duly filled, to the Office of the Dean (Academics) not later than 3 pm on 31.01.2012.

Prof. B. Subramanian