



JSAA ELECTIVE COURSE BLURB

SEMESTER & YEAR	SPRING 2026	ELECTIVE TYPE (DEPARTMENTAL / CROSS ELECTIVE)*	Cross elective
COURSE CODE	TBD	ELECTIVE MODE (SEMINAR / STUDIO / WORKSHOP)	Seminar with viva
NO. OF CREDITS	5	PREREQUISITE COURSE(S) (IF ANY)	Course(s) name here
COURSE NAME	Philosophical Investigations: Art, Architecture, Anthropology		
AFFILIATED PROGRAM(S) (select as applicable)	Architecture / Interiors / IDE		

* Departmental Electives are only open to JSAA students and Cross Electives are open to all JGU students.

Faculty Bio

Sarover Zaidi, Associate Prof. of Practice

Sarover Zaidi is a social anthropologist, teacher and writer. She works at the intersections of critical theory, anthropology, art, architecture and material culture studies. She has extensively worked on religious architecture, and urbanism in the city of Bombay and co-runs a site on writing the city called Chiragh Dilli (<https://chiraghdilli.wordpress.com>). Previously she has worked on rural development, with a focus on health, education, and women's rights across India. Her current research focuses on religious iconography and images in the contexts of Islam & and also politics of architecture and modernist architectural histories. Besides this she also curates an interdisciplinary forum on art, architecture and anthropology, 'Elementary forms' and has previously taught at the School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi. She volunteers at the Muslim Women's Forum for the past five years, and has recently been teaching at Sewagram, Wardha. She currently teaches at the Jindal School of Art and Architecture, Sonipat India

Course Descriptor

Philosophical Investigations: Art, Architecture, Anthropology

This course interrogates philosophical ideas of modernity and their manifestations in the fields of art, architecture, and society. Engaging with Surrealism and Dadaism as critical thought experiments—situated within both the social and artistic realms—we examine the questions modernity raises and the philosophical frameworks that shape its expressions.

In architecture, the course explores modernism, brutalism, and nature-based design through the conceptual lenses of utopia, dystopia, and 'return'. These explorations are framed within broader philosophical inquiries into the meanings and consequences of aesthetic, spatial and social production.

Central to the course are the philosophical concepts of **Truth**, **Beauty**, and **Power**, and their dynamic interfaces with art, architecture, and anthropology. Through these lenses, students will critically examine how these

disciplines influence and inform one another, uncovering the shared philosophical foundations that underlie both theory and practice in the contemporary world.

Key Learning Outcomes (Based on Blooms / Solo Taxonomy)

Upon completion of this course, the students will be able to:

LO1	Make connections between philosophical ideas and its relationship to art
LO2	Make connections between philosophical ideas and its relationship to architecture
LO3	Understand the debates on beauty, truth and power from a theoretical point of view and its manifestations in the contemporary world.

Assessment & Evaluation System

Class based assignment, and final viva

References/Citations (if any)