

THE ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES UNIVERSITY, HYDERABAD

Department of Aesthetics and Philosophy

Course title	<b>LITERARY TEXTS, PHILOSOPHICAL SUBTEXTS</b>
Category	a. Existing course with changes.
Course code	MAAPHE550
Semester	2
Number of credits	5
Maximum intake	30
Day/Time	Tuesday and Thursday/ 9 a.m to 11 p.m
Name of the teacher	Sreedharan. T.
Course description	<p>Literature and philosophy have long been intertwined, each enriching the other in profound ways. Both philosophy and literature share a concern for the great and small truths of human existence, the ways in which we <i>make</i> and <i>lose</i> meaning. Aristotle's memorable contention that poetry is closer to philosophy than to history, for "poetry tends to speak of universals," underscores such a perspective.</p> <p>The main intent of the course is to show how reading literary works with a desire to unravel the philosophical underpinnings can throw light on the complex, nuanced, fraught and textured social, psychological, cultural, political and existential domains. Such an engagement will compel us to consider the issues related to: language, emotions, ethics, and aesthetics; truth, freedom, and agency; subjectivity and identity; bondage and transcendence; commitment and responsibility; justice and judgement; repression, suppression, and expression; power and resistance; creativity, narcissism, totalitarianism, etc.</p> <p>With the aid of select literary texts, the course will attempt to explore the philosophical concerns and questions implicit in them.</p> <p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To comprehend literature's ability to bridge the gap between abstract philosophical thought and concrete human experience. To explain the relationship between the works discussed, the cultures in which they were created, and the human concerns they illuminate.</li><li>2. To understand how philosophy provides literature with a framework for exploring profound questions about existence, morality, reality, and knowledge. To examine the relation of literary discourse to that of politics, morality, myth, history, and science.</li><li>3. To develop an understanding of (i) human motivation, (ii) the mental processing of perceptions, (iii) how we frame our conceptions of reality (vi) how we enlarge or constrict our cognitive and affective register, acquire and reinforce beliefs.</li></ol>

	4. The ability to differentiate and analyse the following: (a) philosophy <b>on</b> literature: philosophical approaches to the understanding of literary texts (issues of truth, authorship, selfhood); (b) philosophy <b>in</b> literature: literary texts that explicitly invoke philosophical problems or approaches, particularly those belonging to the ethical domain; (c) philosophy <b>as</b> literature: problems raised by certain philosophical texts whose proper use requires careful attention to their form.
Course delivery	Lecture/Interactive learning
Evaluation scheme	Internal—40% End-semester – 60%
Reading list	P.C. Hogan. <i>Philosophical Approaches to the Study of Literature</i> . J.L. Bell. <i>Philosophy in Literature</i> . D.G. Marshall. <i>Literature As Philosophy: Philosophy As Literature</i> . <i>The Palgrave Handbook of Philosophy and Literature</i> .

# THE ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES UNIVERSITY, HYDERABAD

## Department of Aesthetics and Philosophy

Course title	<b>HISTORY OF IDEAS</b>
Category	b. Existing course with revision.
Course code	MAAPHE603
Semester	4
Number of credits	5
Maximum intake	5
Day/Time	Monday and Friday/ 9 a.m to 11 p.m
Name of the teacher	Sreedharan. T.
Course description	<p>'History of ideas' is considered to be a dynamic and expanding field of study, one that endeavours to unravel the links between concepts, their origin, development, and impact on the socio-political, cultural-historical, philosophical-literary domains. Starting from the foundational ideas of the Presocratic thinkers like Xenophanes and Heraclitus, moving through the classical views of Plato and Aristotle, and delving into the complex debates of mediaeval, rationalist, empiricist, and contemporary philosophers – the course will attempt to examine the history of ideas in the light of key thinkers and significant historical vicissitudes, in order to arrive at a more informed understanding of the 'lived reality' of ideas; to take a journey through major developments in the history of thought to understand the critical and the constructive role played by philosophy, and above all to see in what ways it has endeavoured to function in consonance with its original intent: that is to love and seek <i>sophia</i>, which is wisdom.</p> <p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b></p> <p>Comprehension of Historical Progression: To be able to trace the chronological development of Western philosophical thought, recognizing key shifts from the Presocratic era to contemporary philosophical movements.</p> <p>Analytical Skills: To develop the ability to critically analyse and evaluate the central arguments, concepts, and methodologies presented by major Western philosophers.</p> <p>Integration of Philosophical Traditions: To gain the proficiency to compare and contrast the ideas of different philosophical schools of thought, understanding their</p>

	<p>interrelations and divergences.</p> <p>Articulation of Complex Ideas: Through discussions, reflections, and written assignments, to hone one's skills in articulating complex philosophical ideas clearly and coherently, both in written and verbal formats.</p> <p>Application to Contemporary Issues: To apply the philosophical principles and theories studied to contemporary ethical, metaphysical, and epistemological questions, to underscore their relevance to modern-day challenges and debates.</p>
Course delivery	Lecture/Interactive learning
Evaluation scheme	Internal: 40% End-semester: 60%
Reading list	<p>S.E. Stumph, James Fieser. <i>Socrates to Sartre and Beyond</i>.</p> <p>William F. Lawhead, <i>The Philosophical Journey: An Interactive Approach</i>.</p> <p>M.C. Horowitz. <i>New Dictionary of the History of Ideas</i>.</p>