

BA Programme Philosophy Major

Year 4, Semester VII (To be effective from July 2025)

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Continental Philosophy DSC 13	4	3	1	Nil	None	None

Course Objectives

1. The main objective of this course is to make students familiar with the leading figures of 19th and 20th-century Continental philosophy.
2. Key thinkers like Hegel, Kierkegaard, Sartre, Simone De Beauvoir, Albert Camus, Heidegger and Foucault will be discussed
3. Key themes like method of dialectics, phenomenology, Sartre's Existentialism and Humanism,
4. Heidegger on technology and Foucault's main ideas will be analysed at length.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will understand the basics of Continental Philosophy and also be acquainted with major currents of thought in this tradition
2. Students will be able to defend their view as to whether any features are distinctive of the continental tradition
3. Students will learn to analyze the various ideas of the thinkers in the course, especially those of Hegel and Husserl's key contributions

4. Students will develop the ability to understand original writings of philosophers
5. Students will understand the general relevance of continental philosophy and its Contemporary reach and influence

Unit-I -Continental Philosophy and its Proponents (3 weeks, 9 Hours)

1. Introductory session: What is Continental philosophy?

Critchley, 2001, *Continental Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford

2. Hegel on Master-Slave Dialectics

Alexander Kojeve.1980. *Introduction to the Reading of Hegel: Lectures on the Phenomenology of Spirit*. PP-3-30. Ithaca & London. Cornell University Press

Unit-II- Existentialism (4 weeks, 12 Hours)

- a. Soren Kierkegaard

Charles E. Moore, (ed) 2007, *Spiritual Writings of Kierkegaard*, PA 15437, USA, Plough Publishing House Farmington, "Essay 6- against the Crowd", pp-23-24, "Essay 7-Suspending the Ethical", pp. 25-29 & "Essay 79-Inwardness and Subjectivity", pp. 320-323, Provocations:

- b. Existentialism: Jean-Paul Sartre

Sartre, Jean-Paul (2007). *Existentialism Is a Humanism*. New Haven: Yale University Press. ISBN 978-0-300-11546-8.

Unit-III-Existentialism, Feminism and Theory of Absurd (4 weeks, 12 Hours)

- a. Existentialism: Simone de Beauvoir

Simone de Beauvoir. 1949. *The Second Sex*: Volume 1, Introduction, PP.13-25,

- b. Existentialism: Albert Camus

Primary Text

Camus, Albert. *The Myth of Sisyphus*. Translated by Justin O'Brien. Vintage Books, 1991.

Suggested Readings

Aronson, Ronald. *Camus and Sartre: The Story of a Friendship and the Quarrel That Ended It*. University of Chicago Press, 2004.

Sprintzen, David. *Camus: A Critical Examination*. Temple University Press, 1988.

Foley, John. *Albert Camus: From the Absurd to Revolt*. Routledge, 2008.

Unit-IV- Perspectives: Foucault and Heidegger (4 weeks, 12 Hours)

a. Michel Foucault on Docile Body

Michel Foucault. 1984. *The Foucault Reader. Part-II-Docile Bodies*, pp.179-187, edited by Paul Rabinow. New York: Pantheon Books.

b. Martin Heidegger on Question Concerning Technology

Heidegger. Martin, 1977. *The Question Concerning Technology and Other Essays*, "Part I- The Question Concerning Technology", PP-3-35, Translated and with an Introduction by William Levitt, New York & London: Garland Publishing, INC.

Suggestive Readings

D. West, 'What is Continental Philosophy' in *Continental Philosophy: An Introduction* (Polity, 2010).

Judith Butler, 'Sex and Gender in Simone de Beauvoir's *Second Sex*' (14 pages)

McCall, 'Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex* and Jean-Paul Sartre' (14 pages)

Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy, 'Albert Camus', 'Suicide, Absurdity, and Happiness: The Myth of Sisyphus'

Cutrofello, Andrew. (2004). *Continental Philosophy: A Contemporary Introduction*. Routledge.

Kearney, Richard & Rainwater, Mara (Eds.) (1995). *The Continental Philosophy Reader*.

Routledge.

McNeill, William & Feldman, Karen S. (Eds.) (1998). *Continental Philosophy: An Anthology*. Wiley-Blackwell.