



Sub Committee for Philosophy
Curriculum Development for Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Name of Institute: Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts

Course Name: Phenomenology and Existentialism

(UG/PG): UG

Number of Credits: 4 (60 hours)

Level: 2

Course Description

Faced with the question of whether there is any preordained function that defines our existence, existentialism, an intellectual trend of 19th century Europe, posits that we are, in fact, free to give meaning to our individual lives— that our existence precedes our essence. Amidst a number of differing trends, the common thread running through all existentialist theories is the placing of the “I” front and centre. By tracing the historical roots of this movement through literature, the course will introduce students to one of the main methodologies used by existentialists viz. phenomenology. The course aims to acquaint students with the key concepts in existentialism, while exploring theistic and atheistic trends of existential thought. The students will also critically evaluate the characteristics of both, the Husserlian and Heideggerian phenomenological methods.